The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications recently held its annual Communications Day to honor the academic and extracurricular accomplishments of communications students. The keynote speaker for the banquet was Mike Keith, “The Voice of the Tennessee Titans.” James Buchanan (right) of Memphis (right) received the Faculty Preps Award. Dr. Arthur Hunt, assistant professor of communications, presented the award.

LOCAL STUDENT RECOGNIZED AT UT MARTIN COMMUNICATIONS DAY – The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications recently held its annual Communications Day to honor the academic and extracurricular accomplishments of communications students. The keynote speaker for the banquet was Mike Keith, “The Voice of the Tennessee Titans.” Kassi Abney, of Martin, received the Chairman’s Outstanding Senior Award for Visual-Communications. Dr. Robert Nannen, associate professor and chairman, presented the award.

AREA STUDENT HONORED AT UT MARTIN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES AWARDS BANQUET – Christine Tesla-Hayden, of Martin, received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award at the 21st Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet. The awards were presented by Dr. Lisa LeBleu, chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Whitney Cates, of Martin, received the Level III Triple C Award at the 21st Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Nancy Warren, chair of the Department of Nursing.
CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD - Five students chosen by the Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society took the National Chemistry Olympiad Examination, which included a 90-minute multiple choice and 105-minute essay test and a 90-minute laboratory practical at the University of Tennessee at Martin on April 25. This test will determine if these students qualify to become members of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad team that will compete in the 41st International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in Cambridge, England, July 27. Seated from from left to right are Connor Gilroy of the University School of Jackson, Sadie Hirschi of Marion High School in Illinois, Neel Patel of Martin from the University School of Jackson, and Timothy L. Bergman of Westview High School in Martin. Standing are teacher Megin Rice of Marion High School, UT Martin Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society laboratory preparators and proctors, Kayla Baker and Kayla Poindexter, and the Kentucky Lake Section's Chemistry Olympiad coordinator Dr. S.K. Airee of UT Martin.

AREA STUDENT HONORED AT UT MARTIN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES AWARDS BANQUET - Harlin Wilkin, of Martin, received the Outstanding Plant and Soil Science Student Award at the 21st Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Jerry Gresham, chair of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

AREA STUDENT HONORED AT UT MARTIN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES AWARDS BANQUET - Kelly Stewart, of Greenfield, received the Outstanding Interior Design Student Award at the 21st Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Lisa LeBleu, chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.
Bradford High announces
Academic Top Ten

Bradford High School recently announced the Top Ten students in the Class of 2009.
Kelsey Matheny and Jeffrey Connell top the list at valedictorian and salutatorian.

Salutatorian- Jeffrey Connell- son of Michael and Michaela Connell. 96.24 GPA
Activities: BETA Club, FCCLA, Mu Alpha Theta
Future Plans: pursue a career in anesthesiology at UT Martin

No. 3 Ross Smith- son of Lori Smith. 94.42 GPA
Activities: BETA Club, Yearbook Staff, Mu Alpha Theta
Future Plans: begin his college career at UT Martin and then transfer to UCLA; plans to major in a foreign language and become a translator.

No. 8 Donna Lynn Counts-daughter of Steven and Dorothy Counts. 92.64 GPA
Activities: 2008 Youth Leadership Delegate, President of BETA Club, SGA President,
President of Science Club, Student Council Representative, Charter member of Mu Alpha Theta, Vice President of Chorus, 2008-09 BHS Presidential Award Winner, FCCLA, FCA, 2007-08 Prom Committee, Paper Drive, Adopt a Grandparent, BHS softball team for three years, member of Temple Baptist Church
Future Plans: attend University of Tennessee at Martin to double major in Biology and Medicine and finishing with a career in Medical Research

LOCAL STUDENT RECOGNIZED AT UT MARTIN COMMUNICATIONS DAY
The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications recently held its annual Communications Day to honor the academic and extracurricular accomplishments of communications students. The keynote speaker for the banquet was Mike Keith, "The Voice of the Tennessee Titans." Matt Cook, of Martin, received the Chairman’s Outstanding Senior Award for News-Editorial. Dr. Robert Nanney, associate professor and chairman, presented the award.
MILAN STUDENT HONORED at UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet – Ashley Niven (right), of Milan, received the Pre-Professional and Graduate Student Group American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Outstanding Member Award at the 21st Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Lisa LeBlue, chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

UT MARTIN RECOGNIZES LOCAL ENGINEERING STUDENT’S SUCCESS – Jessica Erickson (left) of Medina, received the Outstanding Engineering Sophomore Student Award at a Department of Engineering luncheon recently held in honor of the award recipients at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Ed Wheeler, interim chair of the Department of Engineering, presented the awards. The Outstanding Engineering Sophomore Student Award is presented to a sophomore student in the Department of Engineering who exemplifies outstanding academic and leadership achievements.
ART EXHIBITED — Pat Wade of Union City has an exhibition of her artwork on display in the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin through May 26. Her artwork includes woodcarvings and oil paintings and is located in several areas of the library. She recently discussed her artwork with UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes. For more information about the exhibit, call library director Mary Carpenter at (731) 881-7071.

STUDENT RECOGNIZED — Ed Laster of Union City recently received the Outstanding University Studies Student Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

STUDENT LAUDED — Alison Page of Union City recently received the Outstanding Modern Foreign Languages Student Award at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award was presented during the 45th annual Honors Day.

EARNED HONOR — Thomas E. Gossett II of Union City recently received the Outstanding Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business Student Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
SENIOR WALK — The University of Tennessee at Martin recently celebrated the accomplishments of its graduates at the Grand Finale Celebration and Senior Walk, hosted in the Quad on campus. More than 520 graduates took the opportunity to say goodbye to classmates, faculty and staff.

Kelsey Sigman (left) of Union City, who will graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration, and Hannah Regen of Dickson, who will graduate with a bachelor's degree in nursing, joined classmates at the event. They visited with UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes.

HONOREE — Benjamin D. Hager of Union City recently received the Greek Male of the Year Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This award is presented to either a junior or senior male who maintains a grade point average above the all-fraternity GPA, is strong in his commitment to the ideals of Greek life and is involved in the total educational experience of the university.

UC STUDENT HONORED — Julianne Lawson (right) of Union City recently received the Latimer Scholarship for 2009-10 at the 21st Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Nancy Warren, chair of the Department of Nursing.
OC students recognized at Honors Day program

Several Obion County students were among those recognized at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Honors Day.

The honorees included:
- Andrew H. Moore of South Fulton, who received the Norman and Ruby Campbell Scholarship Award and the Harry Neal Memorial Award.
- Tharon S. Snuggs of Troy, who received the Marvin L. Downing Lower Division History Scholarship Award.
- The History Lower Division Scholarship Award of $200 is given to an outstanding sophomore who has completed three semesters of lower division history. It may be used for travel or non-travel study courses.
- Joshua E. Gatlin of Troy, who received the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity Award.

The award of $300 is given to an outstanding male music major. The award is based on scholastic ability, participation in music activities and leadership. Fraternity members and the faculty advisor choose the recipient.

KENDALL HONORED — Brad Kendall (left) of Obion was recently recognized and awarded the Financial Executives International Academic Achievement Award at the Crescent Center in Memphis. The award was presented by newly-inducted president Tad Feeney and academic affairs officer Tony Catalano (not pictured). Kendall was nominated by several faculty members in the College of Business and Public Affairs at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he is currently attending. Students from colleges and universities across West Tennessee were nominated and only six students were selected to receive the award based on their academic success and community leadership. Kendall will graduate magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, majoring in finance, from UTM in May. He is the son of Barry and Julie Kendall and Jeff and Sabrina Alexander, all of Obion. He is the grandson of Jim and Margie Kendall of Troy, Brenda Kirkendol and the late William S. Kirkendol of Jackson and Vernon and Virginia Alexander of Union City.

Sun publisher to speak at UTM

The Jackson Sun

The University of Tennessee Martin, Jackson State Community College and Bethel College will hold their Spring commencement ceremonies on Saturday.

The University of Tennessee Martin

Roy Heatherly, The Jackson Sun president and publisher, will deliver the commencement address at the University of Tennessee Martin graduation ceremony, which will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Almost 689 students are scheduled to receive diplomas.

Heatherly, formerly the advertising director of The News-Star in Monroe, La., became Sun publisher on Jan. 7, 2008. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas.

Upcoming ceremonies

- Sunday — Lambuth University
- May 16 — Freed-Hardeman University
- May 23 — Union University

with a bachelor of science degree in journalism.

He serves on several boards including the Jackson Madison County Chamber of Commerce, The Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation, United Way of West Tennessee, Jackson Downtown Development Corporation and The Star Center.

His wife, the former Beth Garland, is a native of Jackson. They have three children.

Each graduate will receive up to five complimentary tickets. Overflow seating with a video and audio feed of the ceremony will be provided in the field house. Tickets for graduating students will remain available in the Office of Academic Records until 5 p.m., Friday.
Classes set for the history of Native Americans in Gibson County

Native Americans used the Mississippi River as a major migration route for thousands of years, and Gibson County and West Tennessee were inhabited by several Indian nations. As early as 12,000 years ago, Native Americans were using the Obion and Forked Deer river systems, and populations were dense along the tributaries. These early inhabitants are often portrayed as backwards and nomadic tribes that followed herds from hunting ground to hunting ground. In actuality, permanent villages were established at least 5,000 years ago, and by 800 A.D., Gibson County had numerous villages that lined the Obion River and Forked Deer River systems.

Contrary to popular beliefs, Gibson County was well populated and by an advanced civilization of highly skilled astronomers and farmers. They came to this area from South America in a mass migration, and the Dhegiha Dakota, temple mound builders, settled in West Tennessee. Their villages were fortified and laid out according to the lunar and solar cycles. From 800 A.D., the Ofo or Offagoula occupied most of West Tennessee. Offagoula is a Choctaw word defined as “Dog People.” Their own name was Taneksanya or First People, though early explorers often called them Monsoupuela. Like most Indian nations, there are a variety of names used to describe the people. The Choctaw were allies with the Offagoula and French, so these two groups introduced the names to the new colonists.

In 1682, Robert de LaSalle explored the entire length of the Mississippi River and stopped in Lauderdale County. He found five Chickasaw Indians who told him that the Offagoula had vacated the area in 1650 and had moved into Mississippi near their close relatives, the Biloxi. The Offagoula and Biloxi are both called Sioux nations by the general public, but are actually Dhegiha Dakota. They left West Tennessee and Gibson County for various reasons.

After Columbus arrived in 1492, Indian nations were attempting to stop western expansion and to save their land. Columbus brought with him “Guns, Germs and Steel.” It is estimated that more than 70 million Native Americans died from disease and warfare with Europeans from 1492 through today. The Offagoula lost over half its people to smallpox, and constant warfare forced their retreat into Mississippi. The remnant of this great nation was down to one Ofo Indian in 1915, and after her death, the original people of Gibson County were extinct. Forever gone, there are no Ofo Indians to teach their culture, language and spirituality. Fortunately, there are relatives like the HoChunk and Dakota still alive today. Their cousins, the Eastern Sioux, still occupy parts of South Carolina and Virginia; there you will find the Catawba and Monacan nations. Like so many other great nations they melted like snowballs before the sun,” as stated by Dragging Canoe, the Cherokee warrior.

If you would like to learn more about the Native Americans of Gibson County, a Native American History class is being offered at the Humboldt Higher Education Center in Humboldt. The class is offered through the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education. It will be held on Thursdays from 6:45 p.m., this fall (CRN 41155, Section B1). A descendant of the Catawba and Cherokee nations, who serves as a West Tennessee Commissioner of the Tennessee Historical Commission, will teach the class. For more information, contact Brent Cox at 731-881-7539 or at bcox@utm.edu. All students are welcome, and there are no prerequisites. Come learn about the First Nations of Tennessee.

Morris named outstanding student
Stephanie Morris of Trenton received the Outstanding Nursing Student Award at the 21st Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Nancy Warren, chair of the Department of Nursing.
UTM graduation is May 9

The University of Tennessee at Martin commencement will be May 9 with Roy Heatherly, Jackson Sun president and publisher, delivering the commencement address. Set for 11 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, 689 graduates are slated to receive diplomas.

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simik, University of Tennessee acting president, will confer degrees. Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the proclerical marshals will be Dr. Kathy Evans, faculty senate president; Jenna Wright, faculty senate vice president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement. Delana Easley, UT Martin accompanist, will perform the proclerical and recessional music. Immediately following commencement, a reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Each graduate will receive up to five complimentary tickets to admit his or her guests. Overflow seating with a video and audio feed of the ceremony will be provided in the fieldhouse for all guests without tickets. Tickets for graduating students will remain available in the Office of Academic Records until 5 p.m., May 8.

A limited number of additional complimentary tickets will be available to graduates and to faculty and staff and the general public (up to two per person), on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last, beginning at 7 a.m., April 30, in the Office of Academic Records on the first floor of the Administration Building. Any tickets not claimed by 5 p.m., May 8, will be distributed to the general public at a designated area outside the Elam Center beginning at 9 a.m. prior to the spring commencement ceremony, May 9.

Petty honored

Megan Petty of Trenton received the Latimer Scholarship for 2009-2010 at the 21st Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Nancy Warren, chair of the Department of Nursing.
Business Consultant at REED Center, May 14

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center offers 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., May 14.

"Slightly more than six million small businesses or 99.7 percent of all employer firms are considered, by SBA (Small Business Administration) definitions, to be small businesses. Small firms provide 50.4 percent of private sector jobs, and they generate more than half of the U.S. private non-farm gross domestic product," said Hollie Holt, REED Center coordinator.

"They are also the nation’s most reliable job creation engine. Between 2004 and 2005, small businesses created 78.9 percent of the nation's new jobs. In every state, almost all firms are small, and they provide roughly half the jobs and in some rural states, small firms provide as many as two-thirds of the private-sector jobs."

The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise. The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell Street, Martin. For additional services offered by the REED Center, go to www.utm.edu/reed.

Browning honored

George "Trey" Browning, of Dresden, received the Outstanding Agronomy Student Award at the 21st Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Jerry Gresham, chair of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
ECCE to offer Extreme! Fiber Studio Course

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a course called Extreme! Fiber Studio from 9 a.m.-noon, noon-3 p.m. or 3-6 p.m., June 2, 9, 16 and 23 or June 6, 13, 20 and 27. Students can choose to learn weaving on looms, tapestry weaving, punch needle hand tufting or knitting. Grace Eckert, fiber artist, will serve as the instructor.

Students are encouraged to bring sack lunches. Fees are: $35 for one, three-hour session; $65 for two sessions on the same day; and $90 for all three sessions on the same day. Materials and tools are available for purchase from Eckert, or students can bring their own. Estimated cost of supplies is $25. If you have a group of four to eight people and the June dates do not fit your schedule, please contact Eckert at 731-332-9192.

To register, contact ECCE at 731-881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.

Stewart honored

Kelly Stewart, of Greenfield, received the Outstanding Interior Design Student Award at the 21st Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Lisa LeBlanc, chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Union City artist on display at UTM

WADE ART EXHIBITED AT UT MARTIN PAUL MEEK LIBRARY - Pat Wade of Union City has an exhibition of her artwork for display in the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin through May 26. Her artwork includes woodcarvings and oil paintings and is located in several locations in the library. She is pictured with Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. For more information, call Mary Carpenter, library director, at 731-881-7071.
UT Martin Kid College celebrates 25 years

For 25 years, Kid College at the University of Tennessee at Martin has "inspired the desire to inquire" by providing children with an opportunity to have a fun, learning experience each summer.

This year, several new classes have been added to perennial favorites such as Space Camp; How to Be a Pet Pro; Grossology; Creepy Crawlies; Painting on Glass; and Beginning Guitar.

Marking the anniversary at the June 18 open house beginning at 6 p.m., a time capsule will be buried and all past Kid College children, teachers, volunteers and others are invited to attend. Also, previous participants have been asked to submit their favorite Kid College story — a special experience they had at Kid College.

The nine-day program for children who will attend kindergarten in 2009 through the fifth grade is slated for June 8-18. Parents may review the course descriptions and select the course(s) for their children based on their interest and the appropriate grade level. Children may register for one to five courses.

Grades kindergarten through second grade may choose from Karate for Kids; Painting on Glass; Knights, Princesses and Castles; ABCs of Sign Language; Baking with Miss Baker; Abra cadabra; Creepy Crawlies and Spooky Spiders; Grossology; Jr. Space Camp; Cheerleading Princesses; Party With Playdough; Music, Movement and More!; How to be a Pet Pro; Fabric Dying from Around the World; Sun- catchers and Stained Glass Painting; Lights, Camera, Action!; Scrapbook Fun; Stellar Storybooks and many more.

Children in grades 3-5 may choose from Science Central; Pioneer Life; Cheerleading Queens; Karate for Kids; Scrapbook Fun; Hocus Pocus or Hocus Focus?; Beginning Guitar; Painting on Glass; Let's Make Some Music!; Jr. Space Camp; Advanced Explorers of Ancient Egypt; Lights, Camera, Action!; Crafty Kids; Grossology and many more.

Everyone is invited to attend the open house from 4:30-6 p.m. June 18. All parents, family and friends are invited to drop by and meet the teachers, view displays and watch demonstrations. Refreshments will be served.

Registration fee is $40 per class and Kid College T-shirts are available for an additional $10. Advance registration is required and space is limited. To register, call ECCE at (731) 881-7082 or 881-7081 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/ kidcollege.php.

Guest joins Rountree Business Equipment staff

Rountree Business Equipment has recently added a product and marketing specialist to its staff.

Carol Guest, a University of Tennessee at Martin graduate who lives in Martin, will make recommendations to help customers select the right equipment based on their needs and also will train users on the machines they purchase.

Guest has five years of marketing experience and is a former field operations manager for NASCAR, where she specialized in customer service with companies like Kingsford, Clorox and Little Debbie.

Rountree Business Equipment is an authorized Canon, Sharp and Samsung dealer located at 212 N. Poplar St. in Paris. The store also has a location in Martin.

Call 642-8370 to contact the Paris store, 588-0383 for the store in Martin, or visit its Web site, www.rountreebusinessequipment.com.

Fiber class to be offered in June at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering a course called Extreme! Fiber Studio.

The course will be offered from 9 a.m.—noon, noon-3 p.m. or 3-6 p.m. June 2, 9, 16 and 23 or June 6, 13, 20 and 27.

Students can choose to learn weaving on looms, tapestry weaving, punch needle hand tufting or knitting. Grace Eckert, fiber artist, will serve as the instructor.

Students are encouraged to bring sack lunches. Fees are $35 for one three-hour session; $65 for two sessions on the same day; and $90 for all three sessions on the same day. Materials and tools are available for purchase from Ms. Eckert or students can bring their own. The estimated cost of supplies is $25.

Anyone who has a group of four to eight people and whose schedules will not work with the June dates may contact Ms. Eckert at (731) 332-9192 to make arrangements.

To register, contact ECCE at (731) 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.
On May 8, 2009, Rossview High School Financial Planning students—Andrew Garrett, Ranita Horn, and Tristen Horton—competed in the Federal Reserve Personal Finance Challenge in Nashville, TN. After securing 2nd place in the online competition against 150 TN high schools, the Rossview Team took 1st place against 7 teams in the in-person challenge in Nashville.

The students are enrolled in a college credit Financial Planning course at Rossview taught by Biba S. Kavass. They receive 1 high school credit and 3 college credits at UT-Martin. The course covers personal finance and then moves to a more advanced level to cover in-depth the stock market, mutual funds, bonds, investment taxes, and estate planning.

The Federal Reserve challenge was an excellent opportunity for the students to show themselves how much they learned this year and to also reiterate the importance of understanding personal finance as they move forward in life.
JSCC, UTM, Bethel hold their spring commencement ceremonies Saturday

By TYRONE TONY REED JR.
ttreed@jacksonsun.com

Dashanna Fason gave a sigh of relief as she stood in line to receive her diploma during the Jackson State Community College graduation Saturday at Oman Arena.

"It feels wonderful," said Fason, 30, of Jackson. "I'm the first one on my mother's side of the family to get a degree."

Fason said it had been 10 years since she had been in school and said she wanted to show her 10-year-old daughter that it's never too late to accomplish your goals.

"It was really hard working 40 hours a week and going to school," said Fason, who received her associate degree in business Saturday. "My daughter is an honor student, and I was helping her with her homework while I was doing my own."

Fason added, "But this is wonderful. I'm relieved and I'm stress-free, for now. I'm attending Union University in the fall to get my bachelor's degree in business."

Fason was one of more than 500 JSCC students who received their diplomas during the college's 41st commencement ceremony Saturday.

There were also other college graduations in West Tennessee Saturday.

About 689 University of Tennessee Martin students received their diplomas Saturday. Roy Heatherly, The Jackson Sun's president and publisher, delivered the commencement address at the graduation ceremony, which was held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Robert S. Wood, associate dean and director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Memphis Theological Seminary, was the speaker at Bethel's spring 2009 commencement Saturday night. Approximately 275 students received their diplomas during commencement exercises Saturday in Martin.

Please see GRADUATE, 4B

Graduate

Continued from cover

receive their diplomas during the ceremony.

State Rep. Jimmy Eldridge, R-Jackson, delivered the keynote address during the JSCC graduation Saturday. Eldridge encouraged the graduates to continue to improve themselves and reach their goals.

"We must continue to reach for the stars," Eldridge said. "We also need these four qualities: scholarship, leadership, community service and character."

Eldridge added, "Take each day one day at a time. Do not squash the dreams of others and have respect for your fellow man. You're truly the best of the best."

Larry Mitchell, 26, of Milan, said he majored in computer information systems and was relieved to be graduating Saturday.

"It's been a long time coming," he said. "It took me 3½ years to finish. Switching majors didn't help, either."

Mitchell said it was rough at times, working a full-time job, having a wife and three kids and a home to take care of while attending college.

"But it paid off," Mitchell said. "I'm going to start my own business."

Timothy White, 22, of Fayette County, said it took him four years to complete his major in industrial technology.

"It feels good to be done," White said. "It was hard work, and I had to stay focused. I was working a full-time job, and now I'm going to find a job in my major."

Leah Ann Ivy, 51, of Jackson, received her associate of applied science degree in respiratory therapy Saturday.

"I started college late," Ivy said. "I had two kids who graduated high school and then college. I said, 'Now it's my turn.'"

Ivy said she had a wonderful time attending college for four years and learning about her field.

"Of course, I was older than my teachers," Ivy said. "But I had a good time."

Ivy said she is glad to have graduated and said she has her future career already planned out.

"I got my job, and I'm ready to go," Ivy said. "I will be working at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital as a respiratory therapist."

Visit jacksonsun.com and share your thoughts.

— Tyrone Tony Reed Jr., 425-9758
ECCE health care training programs planned at Martin, Ripley, Jackson

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education is offering a variety of non-degree health care professional training programs. Although the U.S. economy remains sluggish and the overall job market has not improved, the demand for health care staff and professionals is growing at a staggering rate.

These factors have created enormous job opportunities for individuals trained in leading health care professions. Available to both working adults interested in a new career and current health care professionals, these exciting programs will help students prepare for the numerous jobs available to health care staff and professionals.

UT Martin will offer Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, Surgical Technician, and EKG Technician beginning in June at Martin, Ripley and Jackson.

• EKG Technician Certification Program
  Scheduled for 6-9:30 p.m., June 15 – Aug. 3, 6-9:30 p.m., on Mondays and Wednesdays, this course will be offered at Jackson State Community College.
  This comprehensive 50-hour EKG Technician Certification Program prepares students to function as EKG Technicians and to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technician (ASPT)-Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technician exam and other national certification exams. The course will include important practice and background information on anatomy of the heart and physiology, medical disease processes, medical terminology, medical ethics, legal aspects of patient contact, laboratory assisting, electrocardiography and echocardiography.

• Pharmacy Technician Program
  Scheduled for 6-9:30 p.m., June 16 – Aug. 4, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, this course will be offered on the campus of UT Martin, at the UT Martin Ripley Center and at Jackson State Community College.
  This comprehensive 50-hour course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board’s exam. Technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings - working under the supervision of a registered pharmacist.

• Surgical Technician Program
  Scheduled from 6-9:30 p.m., June 16 – Aug. 4, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, this course will be held at Jackson State Community College.
  This 50-hour course will cover the surgical technician’s role beginning from pre-op preparation, during the operative procedure and finish with postoperative room break down.

Before an operation, surgical technicians help prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment, sterile drapes and sterile solutions. They assemble both sterile and non-sterile equipment, as well as adjust and check to ensure all equipment is working properly. During surgery, surgical technicians prep and drape patients and assist where necessary.

Post surgery, techs prepare and transport the patient to recovery as well as break down the surgical suite and prepare it for the next scheduled operation.

This course covers the following key areas: the history of surgery and the role of the surgical technician; introduction to the operating room; the legal aspects of surgery and the surgical technician; policies and guidelines, introduction to patient preparation or back table set up; surgical asepsis and sterilization techniques; surgical pharmacology and anesthesia; and general surgery concepts.

It is important to note that the objectives of this class do not include a state or national certification that generally requires at least two years of formal education. The fee for this course is $999. Textbooks are included.
Information packets may be picked up at the following locations: Martin - Room 110 Gooch Hall, UT Martin; Ripley - UT Martin Ripley Center, Ripley; Jackson - Room 210 McWherter Center, JSCC, Jackson. To request an information packet, call UT Martin at 731-881-7081.

To register, contact ECCE at 731-881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.

RECEIVES AWARD
Ashley Niven receives an award for her three TT years of service with the Rotaract at UTM, as president of the club. Rotaract is a branch of Rotary on the college level.

LATIMER NURSING SCHOLARSHIP – 2009-2010 recipients of the Latimer Nursing Scholarship were awarded at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Award Reception. Each student will receive $10,000 based on their academic achievements within UT Martin’s nursing program. Dr. Robert G. Latimer (also known as Doc) and Elizabeth (Tootsie) Morris Latimer centered their lives around the medical profession. Dr. Latimer’s mother and father were both practicing physicians. In the early 1940s, Dr. Latimer became a doctor, married Elizabeth Morris, and practiced in Union City until the time of his death. Mrs. Latimer became gravely ill 28 years before her death. Without the constant care of friends and the nursing profession, she would not have survived. She established this premier scholarship for deserving student nurses from the eight counties in northwest Tennessee. She hoped that the top nursing students would be rewarded with the best available scholarship and would remain in northwest Tennessee to practice. This was her way of saying, "Thank you." Pictured from left to right, the students are: Megan Petty, Trenton; Ashley Henry, Camden; Julianne Lawson, Union City; Timothy Bond, Huntingdon; and Laken Comer, McKenzie.
LIBBY RECEIVES CARL SEALE STUDENT TEACHER AWARD - The recipient of the University of Tennessee at Martin Carl Seale Student Teacher Award for spring semester 2009 is Kaitlin Libby of Gallatin. The Carl Seale Student Teacher Award is given in memory of Dr. Carl Seale, who served the university from 1971 to 1992 in numerous capacities. The recipients are chosen by the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Scholarship Selection Committee from students with a major in education/teacher licensure, who have been nominated for exhibiting exceptional classroom instruction, excellence in classroom management, professionalism and potential for leadership in the teaching profession. The presentation of the award was made at the recent student teacher recognition reception held at the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus. Pictured from left to right are: Libby, Carl Seale Student Teaching Award recipient, and Dr. Lisa LeBleu, UT Martin university supervisor.

GRADUATE LUNCHEON - John Britton, of Martin, is congratulated by Dr. Jim Clark, Department of Computer Science and Information Systems chair, on his graduation from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Britton received the award as the outstanding computer science and information systems student at the spring graduate luncheon sponsored by the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems.

GRADUATE LUNCHEON - Andrey Yesipov, of Russia, is congratulated by Dr. Jim Clark, Department of Computer Science and Information Systems chair, on his graduation from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Yesipov was honored as the outstanding graduating senior in information systems at the spring graduate luncheon sponsored by the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems.
LOCAL STUDENT RECOGNIZED AT UT MARTIN HONORS DAY -

- Stuart N. Shaw, of Martin, recently received the Information Systems Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Information Systems Award is given to a student in information systems chosen by the faculty of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. The recipient is selected as the outstanding senior in information systems.

LOCAL STUDENT RECOGNIZED AT UT MARTIN HONORS DAY -

- Raymond J. Howard, of Martin, recently received the Norman and Ruby Campbell Scholarship Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This is an award of $550 that is given annually to returning students majoring in chemistry. The scholarship was established by the family of Dr. Norman Campbell, previous head of the physical sciences division, dean of instruction, and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, to honor Campbell and his wife, Ruby.
- Rebecca K. Hinds, of Martin, recently received the Greek Woman of the Year Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This award is presented to either a junior or senior woman who maintains a GPA above the all sorority GPA average, is strong in her commitment to the ideals of Greek life, and is involved in the total educational experience of the University.
- Misty L. Dunlap, of Martin, recently received the Robert G. Cowser Literary Award in Poetry during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award is for the best selection of poems submitted in a campus competition.

SENIOR WALK - The University of Tennessee at Martin recently celebrated the accomplishments of its graduates at the Grand Finale Celebration and Senior Walk, hosted in the Quad on campus. More than 520 graduates took the opportunity to say goodbye to classmates, faculty and staff. A candle of service ceremony preceded the walk. The ceremony is symbolic of the experience one has gained while at UT Martin, and also serves as a symbol of the spirit of this university. Participants included, from left, Trevor Hunt, of Nashville; Johnny Richwine, of Martin; Kelsey Sigman, of Union City; Jessi Shipley and Julie Brockwell, both of Murfreesboro.
HYDE GLOBAL SCHOLARS ALUMNI DINNER - The Tom and Yukari Hyde Global Scholars Alumni Dinner was recently hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Tom and Yukari Hyde Global Scholars programs provides scholarship assistance to students traveling and studying in Asian countries with a focus on Japan. To date, more than 26 UT Martin students have benefited from this scholarship program. Among students who have received the scholarship are, second from left, front; Kaitlin Blackburn, Centerville; Elizabeth Harvey, Whiteville; Mary Beth Mealer, Waverly; Megan Hollis, Martin; and Ryan Blake, Chapel Hill; back, James Esterhold, Martin; James Buchanan, Memphis; Charles Caldwell, Hickman, Ky.; and Joshua White, Manchester, Tenn. The Hydes, of Murfreesboro, are pictured with them.

UT Martin bass anglers team places 4th in South Carolina tournament

The UT Martin bass anglers team of Jordan Birch and Kevin Shorey finished in 4th place among 40 teams at the National Guard FLW College Fishing Tournament, May 2, at Santee Cooper's John C. Land III Landing in Manning, S.C.

Birch is a sophomore business management major from Drummonds, and Shorey is a junior agriculture major from Thompsons Station.

A second UT Martin team of Jonathan Garrison and Jordan Mercer finished in 27th place. Garrison and Mercer are both natural resources management majors. Garrison is from Henning, and Mercer is from Hohenwald.

The top-five finish for Birch and Shorey qualifies UT Martin to compete in the Southeastern Region Championship in November at Monroe Harbour in Sanford, Fla.

Winners of the five regional championships will earn the right to compete for the college fishing national championship, April 10-12, 2010, at Ft. Loudon-Tellico lakes east of Lenoir City near Knoxville.

Birch and Shorey weighed in with a four-fish total of 8 lbs., 10 oz. The 4th place finish earned the team a $1,500 college scholarship and a $1,500 club sponsorship.

"The lake we were on this time of year should have taken 20 pounds to win," said Shorey. "Our day didn't turn around until about two hours to go (in the tournament)."

Other Tennessee universities competing at Santee Cooper included UT-Chattanooga, Freed-Hardeman University, Middle Tennessee State University and Tennessee Tech.

UT Martin's team is in its third year of competition. More information about National Guard College Fishing is available at www.collegefishing.com.
Casey Curlin (right) of Fulton, Ky., recently won the Bryant and Julia Williams scholarship at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Bill Williams (left), publisher emeritus of The Post-Intelligencer, presented the award. The UTM Department of Communications conducts an annual Communications Day to honor the academic and extracurricular accomplishments of communications students. The keynote speaker for the banquet was Mike Keith, radio play-by-play announcer for the Tennessee Titans.

Receives geography award

— Jesse N. Winchester, of Medina, recently received the Geography Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This is an award of up to $300 to an outstanding geography or travel/tourism student. Eligible students must have sophomore standing, be declared a geoscience major with a concentration in geography and submit an essay explaining why the applicant has chosen geography as a career. Funding for this award comes from faculty and alumni donations.

BURNS RECEIVES HONORS

— Byron B. Burns, of Milan, recently received the William H. Baker Scholarship Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This award is given to one or more full-time students in the College of Business and Public Affairs who have completed 60 hours of college credit, demonstrated scholarship and leadership ability, participated in extracurricular activities and shown promise of professional achievement.
Local students recognized at UT Martin honors day

Jessica L. Erickson, of Medina, recently received the Outstanding Sophomore Engineering Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This award is presented to a sophomore engineering student with at least 45 semester hours who has demonstrated scholarship and leadership ability, participated in extracurricular activities and shown professional achievement. Elyse B. Cole, of Medina, recently received the UT Martin STEA Leadership Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award of $150 is given to a student enrolled in the Teacher Education and Behavioral Sciences who has demonstrated professional dedication, professionalism and leadership in the field of education while serving STEA.

Jackson honored at UTM College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet

Sunni Jackson, of Dresden, received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award and the Outstanding Family and Consumer Sciences Education Student Award at the 21st Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Awards Banquet. The awards were presented by Dr. Lisa LeBleu, chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Local students participate in Math Contest

The 53rd annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association High School Mathematics Contest recently was conducted at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Approximately 6,000 of the state's top mathematics students competed at 23 different testing centers located across the state. Examinations were given in six areas: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre Calculus, Statistics and Calculus. Students from Greenfield High School who participated in the contest at the UT Martin testing site were in the first row from left to right: Meagan Porter, Mallory Robinson, Misty Dixon, Laura Croom, Linda Farmer (sponsor); second row: Ashley Cantrell, Brittany Morgan, Melissa McCartney, Katie McCall, Wes Clark, Kaitlyn Simmons, Jaceelyn Bates; third row: Abbey McDaniel, Patrick King, Dalton Potts, Dakota Betts, Christopher Lane and Hunter Martin. Dakota Betts, a student of Ashley Cantrell, received the first place trophy in the Algebra II competition. Katelin McCall, a student of Linda Farmer, received the second place trophy in the Algebra II competition.
SFMS student wins in UTM math contest

The 2009 Middle School/Junior High School Mathematics Contest was held on April 30, on the University of Tennessee campus. The event was sponsored by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and drew more than 475 people representing 24 different public and private schools in Northwest Tennessee. A total of 400 students sat for the exams, and more than 75 teachers, sponsors and parents participated in the contest. Milan Middle School won the Sixth Grade Team Award and the University School of Jackson won the Sixth and Seventh Grade Team Awards.

Curtis Cathey, an eighth grader from South Fulton, placed third in the eighth grade division. He was presented his award by Dr. Richard Helgeson.

Graduation day approaching for high school seniors

Stephenie Veatch
and Amy Garmon
staff writers

Fulton High School is William Brandt Sisson, son of Mike and Tammy Sisson of South Fulton.

Sisson was involved in the Beta Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Challenge Program, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Who's Who. He was also part of the yearbook staff and school newspaper staff, and a member of the Pep Club, Obion County Leadership, and Chamber Youth Community Service.

He was also an honor student, class officer for four years of high school, in the Top 10 of his class, part of the SFHS football team, was Tennessee Scholar of the Month, a member of the Twin Cities' Youth Leadership, and performed mission work.

Sisson plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, to major in Biology for Pre-Med. He plans to eventually attend medical school at Vanderbilt University to become an orthopedic surgeon.
Consultant available at REED Center May 14

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center offers entrepreneurs and existing business owners one-on-one consulting each month. The center also offers approximately 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., May 14.

The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise. The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell St., Martin, Tenn. For additional services offered by the REED Center, go to www.utm.edu/reed.

Moore awarded at UTM Honors Day

Andrew H. Moore, of South Fulton, recently received the Harry Neal Memorial Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Harry Neal Memorial Award is given to recognize an outstanding piano major in the UT Martin Department of Music.

The recipient is chosen by the piano faculty and the department chair on the basis of performance growth and grades received during the year.

He also recently received the Norman and Ruby Campbell Scholarship Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This is an award of $550 that is given annually to returning students majoring in chemistry.

The scholarship was established by the family of Dr. Norman Campbell, previous head of the physical sciences division, dean of instruction, and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, to honor Campbell and his wife, Ruby.

Recognized

Stuart N. Shaw of Martin recently received the Information Systems Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Information Systems Award is given to a student in information systems chosen by the faculty of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. The recipient is selected as the outstanding senior in information systems.

Honored

Jennifer A. Reeves of Trenton recently received the Harriet Fulton Sigma Alpha Iota Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This award is given by the Epsilon Iota Chapter to recognize outstanding musical performance ability by a member of Sigma Alpha Iota. The recipient is selected at the Spring Competition by a panel of judges in consultation with Dr. Elaine Harriss.
Family's academic honors tradition continues

To say Samuel and Freda Blackwell, residents of 65 Newt Blackwell Road in the Fruitland community, are proud of their children's educational accomplishments is a gross understatement.

Their four children, Maranda, Nicole, Adam and Seth, have the unique distinction of being either valedictorian or salutatorian of their graduating classes at Peabody High School.

The unprecedented high honor will occur when their youngest child, Seth, graduates May 29 as valedictorian of the Class of 2009. The Blackwell children's parents started the academic tradition when Samuel (known by most as Sam) graduated from PHS in 1970, ranking ninth in his class. He went on to receive an Associates degree from Freed-Hardeman College in 1972. He is Community Bank President of First State Bank in Humboldt.

Freda Johnston Blackwell is a 1974 graduate of Hickman County High School, ranking fourth in her class. She is a homemaker.

The first sibling to start the honorary process was Maranda Blackwell Milton, ranked second in the class of 1993 with an average of 98.675. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Freed-Hardeman University in December 1997, graduating summa cum laude. She is married to Mark Milton, a commercial beef farmer from Houston County. The couple has three daughters, Olivia, Rebecca and Elizabeth, and resides in Erin. Maranda taught middle school English for seven years before deciding to become a homemaker and raise their children, while assisting with the family's large-scale farm operation.

Sister, Nicole Blackwell Williams, followed, graduating valedictorian of the PHS Class of 1997. She received a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Nutrition and Food Science from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2001, graduating magna cum laude. She worked as an Extension agent for UT, teaching in the area of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Adam Heath Blackwell graduated from Peabody High School in 2002 as salutatorian of his class with an overall average of 97.95 and a 3.0 cumulative GPA. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin in May of 2006, graduating summa cum laude. He currently resides in Humboldt and is employed with Ceco Door Products.

Seth Blackwell is ranked first in the class of 2009 with an overall average of 98.82 and a 4.0 cumulative GPA. In recent years he served as a member of the Beta Club, Science Club and Peabody Band of Gold. He has received numerous scholastic honors for academic achievement. He plans to attend Freed-Hardeman University this fall, majoring in business.

Nicole comments, "I have always been motivated to succeed in my endeavors. I attribute a great deal of my success in life to a strong educational background and lifelong learning," which is also the feeling of the other three siblings. Their parents have seen to it that they received this educational background.

Their mother attributes their successes to the teaching and training the children received attending Trenton Special School District schools especially Peabody High School.

Judy Nunley, the school's guidance counselor, said, "Several times I have made a statement in regards to the Blackwell family. If I had Sam and Freda's patience on raising children, I would be rich. Each has a mind of their own, yet they have much in common. Academically, they are superior. They have impeccable character and great personalities. Whatever they do they make a positive contribution in the lives of others."

Graduation ceremonies will be even more special to the Blackwell couple as their last child delivers the valedictory address and receives the PHS diploma, applicably ready to begin his secondary education.

Family’s academic...

(Continued from page 1)
Unique distinction
Sam and Freda Blackwell (seated, center in front of the Peabody Bell on the campus at Peabody High School) have the unique distinction of having their four children having graduated either valedictorian or salutatorian of their graduating class at PHS, when youngest child, Seth graduates May 29. Siblings who have attained these unprecedented honors are (l to r) Seth, Nicole, Maranda and Adam.
Top 10 students named at Bradford High School

The Top 10 students in the Class of 2009 at Bradford High School have been announced. They include:

Jeffrey Connell, son of Michael and Michaela Connell, is ranked second in his class with an average of 96.2387. Jeffrey is an active member in Beta, FCCLA, and Mu Alpha Theta.

Jeffery plans to attend UT Martin in order to pursue a career in anesthesiology.

Ross Smith, son of Lori Smith, is ranked third in his class with an average of 94.4235. He has been in the top five of his class for the past four years. Ross is an active member of the Beta Club, the yearbook staff, and Mu Alpha Theta.

Ross plans to attend UTM for a few years and then transfer to a college far off. If possible, he would like to attend UCLA. Ross plans to major in a foreign language and become a translator. His minor will be related to music.

Donna Lynn Counts, daughter of Steven and Dorothy Counts, is ranked eighth in her class with an average of 92.6397.

Donna finished number five for her senior year, 2008 Youth Leadership delegate, president of Beta, SGA president, president of the Science Club, Senior Class Student Council representative, Charter member of Mu Alpha Theta, vice-president of Chorus, 2008-2009 Bradford High School Presidential Award Winner, member of FCCLA, FCA, 2007-2008 prom committee, paper drive, Adopt a Grandparent, and played softball for three years. She is a member of Temple Baptist Church.

Donna plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall. There she plans to double major in Biology and Medicine finishing with a career in Medical Research.

Jeffrey Connell
Ross Smith
Donna Lynn Counts
UT Martin names local students to spring semester dean's list

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

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

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

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

- Dresden
  Keely E. Adams, High Honors; Zachary O. Baker, Highest Honors; Debra J. Barker, Highest Honors; Amy M. Bell, High Honors; George N. Browning, Highest Honors; Alexander J. Bynum, Honors; Albyan D. Cianfarani, High Honors; Kristin N. Copeland, Highest Honors; Alex V. Crowell, Honors; Betheny N. Dane, High Honors; Lacey M. Darden, Honors; Stacey L. Darden, Honors; Ryan L. Delaney, High Honors; Christina P. Dilday, High Honors; Erica B. Dilday, Honors; Brittany E. Duggin, Honors; Boyd J. Erwin, Highest Honors; Mancel C. Fincher, High Honors; Carolyn E. Hagen, High Honors; Derrick E. Hansen, Honors; Justin B. Hatler, Highest Honors; Sunni C. Jackson, Highest Honors; Lacie C. Kelley, Honors; Leah R. Kerassides, Honors; James C. Levister, Highest Honors; Christopher D. Mason, Highest Honors; Sarah A. McAlpin, Highest Honors; Kristi A. Mendez, High Honors; Emily S. Moon, Highest Honors; Jeremy M. Moss, Highest Honors; Jessica M. Neisler, Highest Honors; Charles R. Nichols, High Honors; Shonna R. Parker, Honors; Allison L. Paschall, Highest Honors; Katie E. Pinkston, Honors; Meagan H. Pittman, Honors; Scarlett L. Reynolds, High Honors; Brandi L. Sanford, High Honors; Abbey B. Stoker, Honors; Krista S. Suddath, Honors; Matthew A. Thomas, Highest Honors; Evan M. Trevathan, High Honors; Andrea F. Wade, High Honors; Brandon K. Williams, High Honors; Meera Yogesh, Highest Honors.

- Dukedom
  Charles V. Bailey, Honors; Heather N. Yarbrough, Highest Honors.

- Gleason
  Heather L. Allen, High Honors; Lacy D. Arnold, Highest Honors; Jordan A. Billingsley, Highest Honors; Justin B. Bowles, Highest Honors; Albert G. Collins, Highest Honors; Sadie M. Cook, High Honors; Megan R. Crider, High Honors; Andrew R. Francisco, Highest Honors; Christine E. Herndon, Honors; Jill A. Mitchell, High Honors; Graham J. Oliver, Honors; Kody T. Owen, Honors; Maylon G. Price, High Honors; Kristyn D. Roberts, High Honors.

- Greenfield
  Clint A. Aye, Highest Honors; Jennifer M. Bethel, Honors; Brooke A. Bettie, Highest Honors; Barbara A. Bridgewater, Highest Honors; Christina R. Brock, High Honors; Jonathan W. Cavender, Honors; Cassie R. Chapel, Highest Honors; James L. Croom, Honors; Justin N. Davidson, Honors; David A. Dilday, Honors; Chelsey P. Engler, Highest Honors; Lisa K. Franklin, Honors; Tiffany B. Frazier, Honors; Devera K. Galey, High Honors; Jenah B. Goodlow, Honors; Taren P. Hatcher, Highest Honors; Kristan D. Jennings, Highest Honors; Morgan B. Jones, Honors; Jamie M. Knott, Highest Honors; Angie J. Land, Honors; Nici R. McAlister, Highest Honors; Robert L. McCall, Highest Honors; Clint A. Mealor, Honors; Emily L. Medling, Highest Honors; James H. Moore, Honors; Alyse A. Page, High Honors; Jacob W. Pentecost, Honors; Kelsey L. Potts, Highest Honors; Kelly A. Stewart, Honors; Anna M. Usery, Honors.

- Martin
  Kassi L. Abney, Highest Honors; Melissa J. Adams, High Honors; Abdullah Alhelal, Honors; Abdullah Alibrahim, Highest Honors; Mustafa Alibrahim, Honors; Justin D. Allen, High Honors; Ali Almutawa, High Honors; Joseph S. Anderson, Honors; Sloan A. Baker, Honors; Jessica N. Greer, Honors; Tara A. Bea, High Honors; Emily A. Belote, Highest Honors; Lindsey A. Blankenship, Honors; Alyssa B. Bondurant, High Honors; Darla A. Bondurant, Highest Honors; Jessica K. Breeden, Highest Honors; Delil N. Brewer, High Honors; John S. Britton, High Honors; Jennifer L. Brooks, Highest Honors; Kyle H. Brooks, Highest Honors; Alyssa B. Brown, Highest Honors; Hannah S. Burcham, Honors; Kevin E. Burdette, High Honors; Justin D. Burlison, High Honors; Lauren N. Burress, High Honors; Ashley M. Byrd, Honors; Christopher E. Capua, Honors; Leslie A. Cannon, High Honors; Charles R. Cavin, High Honors; Kayla A. Cazenave, High Honors; Matthew R. Cook, Highest Honors; Steven W. Dalton, High Honors; Cory S. Davis, Honors; Jennifer L. DeYeso, Honors; Candace M. Dean, Highest Honors; Michael L. Dobson, Highest Honors; Jordan P. Dortch, Honors; Jeanette B. Doupis, Highest Honors; Misty L. Dunlap, Highest Honors; David P. Dunn, Honors; James C. Esterhold, Honors; Lee A. Elliott, High Honors; Jason A. Evans, Honors; Sierra J. Ezell, Highest Honors; Bryant J. Fisher, Honors; Lauren E. Fleenor, High Honors; Kirk A. Foley, Honors; Christopher T. Fowler, Highest Honors; Victor O. Fulton, Honors; Jordan R. Gardner, Honors; Ryan C. Gurner, Honors; Kesley J. Gibson, High Honors; Victor S. Gosser, Honors; Dahlia M. Haddad, Honors; Amy V. Hall, Highest Honors; Nathan L. Hammond, High Honors; Grant R. Harper, High Honors; Martha N. Harrell, High Honors; Angela K. Harris, High Honors; Walter R. Harris, Honors; Jennifer R. Havener, Highest Honors; Thomas H. Hester, Honors; Heather L. Higgs, High Honors; Rebecca K. Hinds, Highest Honors; Stephanie C. Holmes, Honors; Heather M. Howard, Highest Honors; Lacey M. Howard, Honors; Raymond J. Howard, Honors; Cameron M. Huff, Honors; Lenetta R. Humphrey, High Honors; Justin C. Hunt, High Honors; James D. Hutchins, High Honors; Chandra M. Jacobs, High Honors; Seong Yeop Jeong, Highest Honors; Austin L. Kendall, Honors; Theresa L. Kinney, High Honors.
Harrison to be guest speaker Friday

Col. Chuck Harrison, inspector general for the Tennessee National Guard, will be the guest speaker at the ninth annual Memorial Day Commemoration at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event is set for 9 a.m. May 22 at the Hall-Moody Administration Building entrance on campus.

Harrison served in and was commissioned as an armor officer in the Tennessee National Guard while attending UT Martin, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in history. He earned a master’s degree in national security affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

He also completed Command and General College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and, in 2004, received the U.S. Army Senior Service College Fellowship, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, in Cambridge, Mass.

He has received the Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, among others.

In 2005, he was inducted into the UT Martin ROTC Hall of Fame.

Area veterans who plan to attend the program at UT Martin are asked to call Janice Sims at (731) 881-7150 to confirm attendance so they can be recognized during the event.

Capt. Jeff Crawford, assistant professor of military science and recruiting operations officer, will serve as master of ceremonies.
TEACHERS RECEIVE MASTER'S DEGREE — Missy Estes of Sharon and Whitney Hopper of Dresden graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 9. They both received a master's degree in education. Estes (right) teaches at Sharon Middle School and Hopper (left) teaches at Dresden Elementary School.

SPECIAL FLAG PRESENTATION — University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes recently accepted a flag sent to the university by Lt. Col. Janet Kirkton, former UT Martin professor of military science, who is stationed in Baghdad. It contained this inscription, “This U.S. Flag which was flown over Baghdad, Iraq, on Sept. 11, 2008, is presented on behalf of a grateful nation to Chancellor Tom Rakes on October 20, 2008.” Making the presentation were, from left, Lt. Col. Angela Odom, professor of military science; Capt. William J. Crawford, assistant professor of military science and recruiting operations officer and Sgt. 1st Class, Joshua Spaulding, instructor of military science and training non-commissioned officer.

DHS FFA AG MECHANICS TEAM NAMED STATE CHAMP

The Dyersburg FFA Agriculture Mechanics Team was recently named State Champion Team in the State Agriculture Mechanics Contest at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Team members were required to use mathematical, mechanical and engineering skills learned in their agriculture classes to complete various tasks within a certain amount of time. This fall, the team will go on to compete in the National FFA Agriculture Mechanics Contest at the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Team members, from left, Chelsey King, Reed Daniels, Kyle Rogers, Brandtly Mealer, Bryan Farrow, Todd Baker, Nick Fancher and advisor Will Bird.
STUDENTS RECEIVE LEADERSHIP AWARDS FROM UT MARTIN - Two Paul and Martha Meek Awards were presented at the recent commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs, announced the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement exercises. All other awards are presented during honors day. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Pictured with Toston, center, are: Johnny Richwine, of Martin, and Whitney Maxey, of Hutto, Texas. Richwine is a agricultural business major. Richwine is a student ambassador, served as president of the Undergraduate Alumni Council and is treasurer of the National Agri-Marketing Association. He has been on the dean’s list every semester, received a University Service Award two years, and was named Mr. Greek in 2008. While in college, he has assisted with blood drives, Hunters for the Hungry, We Care Ministries and the Carl Perkins Center. He is a member of Alpha Gamma Rho social fraternity. Maxey is a dietetics major. She is a UT Martin basketball player, served as a Student Government Association Senator, Campus Observation Committee chair and student ambassador, Youth Villages mentoring program participant, Tennessee Intensive English Program Conversation partner for international students and basketball camp volunteer. She has led campus tours, was on the yearbook staff, volunteered at a homeless shelter and served as a dietary aide and admissions student worker.

LOCAL STUDENT RECOGNIZED AT UT MARTIN HONORS DAY - Matthew R. Cook, of Martin, recently received the Outstanding Communications Student Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Cook also received the Geography Award and the Pacer Award.

The Geography Award goes to an outstanding geography or travel/tourism student. Funding for this award comes from faculty and alumni donations. The Pacer, the student newspaper of The University of Tennessee at Martin, presents the Pacer Award annually to the student who, in his/her time as a student journalist, has made the most significant contribution to The Pacer. The purpose of the award is to recognize and promote excellence in student journalism.

University Scholar

MARTIN - Carol R. Perritt of McKenzie was honored as a University Scholar before spring commencement exercises, May 9, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Among the requirements for University Scholars, students complete the honors core curriculum of courses, additional small group courses with other University Scholars and a faculty mentored, two-year research project. Dr. Dan McDonough (right), professor of history and director of Honors Programs, presented each student with a medallion and a certificate.
Ferry Morse Seed awards $1,000 scholarships

Ferry Morse Seed Company in Fulton recently awarded several $1,000 scholarships to area students.

Holly Rene McClanahan, a South Fulton High School senior, is graduating as a Tennessee State Scholar and finishing in the top five of her class with high honors. She was captain of the varsity cheerleading squad, a yearbook staff member, a class officer and Beta Club officer. She was chosen as Senior Class Favorite and is in the Senior Who’s Who. She is active in several clubs and is a member of South Fulton Baptist Church.

Her future plans are to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall to major in nursing and specialize in pediatric nursing.

She is the daughter of Mike and Barbara McClanahan and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Parker and Mr. and Mrs. Cloe McClanahan, all of South Fulton.

Victoria Belle Abbott, the daughter of Alan and Tracy Abbott of Rutherford, is graduating from Gibson County High school. She has been active in Future Teachers of America, serving as president this year, and in the Beta Club and as a member of the Gibson County Marching Pioneers, where she served as band captain this year.

After graduation, she plans to attend UTM and major in mathematics. She aspires to teach high school mathematics.

Local students among honorees for Dean’s List at UT Martin

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

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

Students can make the Dean’s List with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

The honorees, listed by hometown, include:

- Hornbeck — Dru R. Barnes, high honors; Laura L. Beasley, highest honors; Alyssa J. Crews, high honors; Laura L. Hopper, highest honors; Holly L. Hopper, highest honors; Heather M. Morton, honors; Brandon W. Orr, honors; and Justin M. Stroud, high honors.

- Kenton — Julie R. Baker, high honors; Curtis W. Cochran, honors; Jessica D. Dowden, honors; Jacob L. Eddleman, high honors; Candace M. Elgin, high honors; Jessica J. Francis, highest honors; David C. Hollimon, highest honors; Ryan S. McMackin, honors; Brittany C. Parker, highest honors; and Laura M. Silva, high honors.

- Ohion — Darin A. Coleman, high honors; and Jon B. Kendall, high honors.

- Rives — Madeline L. Harris, high honors; Dustin L. Hickerson, highest honors; Jessica G. McBride, high honors; Julie S. Phillips, high honors; Allison M. Thordorf, highest honors; and Zachary T. Ward, high honors.

- Samburg — Walter S. Hayes, high honors.

- South Fulton — Joshua L. Potts, high honors; Kimberly L. Buett, high honors; Chasity N. Conner, high honors; Kelly R. Crawford, honors; Jaymee D. Dave, honors; Tanika L. Dickerson, highest honors; Charles S. Ellegood, high honors; James W. Faulkner, honors; Kyle D. Greer, high honors; Megan E. Grubbs, highest honors; Tanita V. Harris, highest honors; David Hurley, honors; Margaret A. Hickman, high honors; Kasie L. Hughes, high honors; Allison T. Jones, highest honors; Tammy G. Maloney, highest honors; Deanna J. McDaniel, highest honors; Andrew H. Moore, highest honors; Robbie A. Peoples, high honors; Nikka L. Perdue, honors; Derrick W. Rachels, highest honors; Jonathan W. Smith, honors; Jacqueline D. Tuck, honors; and Laura A. Williams, high honors.

- Troy — John K. Dobbs, highest honors; Joseph E. Gallin, honors; Heather E. Goss, highest honors; Ashdon D. Kendall, honors; Reuben W. Kendall, highest honors; Molly N. Ledbetter, honors; Ashley M. Moore, honors; James L. Morris, honors; Justin D. Perrett, high honors; Abigail T. Reedy, honors; and Theron S. Snipes, highest honors.

- Union City — Elizabeth A. Barnes, honors; Denise N. Bell, high honors; Jeremy J. Bell, high honors; Megan E. Bing, high honors; Slone M. Braberry, high honors; Alyssa A. Brooks, highest honors; Brandon D. Burke, high honors; Jonathan L. Byrd, highest honors; Jacob J. Cat, high honors; Madilyn E. Carrington, highest honors; James F. Crock, honors; April M. Counsell, honors; Dustin S. Crowell, honors; James B. Crace, highest honors; Matthew L. Davis, highest honors; Kylee E. Dotson, honors; Lisa A. Downey, high honors; Bethany D. Elam, high honors; Felicia C. Elam, honors; Thomas L. Elam, high honors; Dana M. Elliott, highest honors; Lucas J. Flood, high honors; Jennifer E. Fuchs, highest honors; Adam M. Gammons, highest honors; Ian E. Garrigan, honors; Brand L. Grisham, highest honors; Joseph S. Gilliam, honors; Porter L. Glidewell, honors; Cody L. Glover, honors; Thomas E. Gossett, highest honors; Cameron P. Grisham, honors; Benjamin D. Hager, honors; Jon T. Hamil, high honors; Emmeline R. Harrison, highest honors; Bradley T. Henderson, highest honors; Lindsey B. Hughes, high honors; Kaylee T. Jones, highest honors; Andrew S. Keathley, highest honors; Katie M. Keathley, highest honors; Tracy E. Kenton, honors; Tristen J. King, high honors; Kimberly J. Luster, highest honors; Julienne M. Lawson, honors; Robin J. Long, highest honors; Joaquin Lopez, honors; Molly J. Napier, high honors; Jeffrey H. Nichols, honors; Andrew B. Nipp, high honors; Adrienne N. Ogden, honors; Melissa A. Pollock, highest honors; Mark J. Porter, high honors; Sarah A. Powell, highest honors; Brett E. Prather, honors; Matthew G. Raines, honors; James L. Rambe, high honors; Kathryn T. Ramsey, highest honors; Jonathan E. Reyna, honors; Kristy D. Rider, honors; Tyler M. Sherwood, high honors; Kelsey C. Sigman, highest honors; Graham S. Smith, honors; Terry S. Smyth, high honors; James W. Stewart, high honors; Chelsea J. Thomas, highest honors; Stacy W. Thompson, highest honors; Rachel E. Tripplet, high honors; Megan N. Tucker, high honors; Adam D. Vallee, honors; Lauren A. Williamson, honors; Ben M. Woods, highest honors; Nathan K. Woods, honors; Hailey L. Woodward, honors; Sarah E. Wright, highest honors; and Timothy D. York, highest honors.

- Woodland Mills — Rachel L. McCollum, high honors.

Fulton — Keiyonna K. Atkins, high honors; Anna B. Cox, honors; Casey A. Curfey, honors; Darriel F. Jones, honors; Thomas D. Lucey, highest honors; Heath T. Pfeiffer, high honors; Natalie L. Rushing, highest honors; and Rachel J. Wynn, high honors.
Local Residents Receive Degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
* Atwood - Jackie Ruth Halford, Mary Nichole Wadley.
* Cedar Grove - Jennifer Megan Tidwell.
* Clarksburg - Lauren Faye Weatherford; Andrew T. Weatherford.
* Hollow Rock - Krystal Fawn Bobbe; Mildred DeAnn Bean.
* Huntington - Jill Suzanne Foster; William David White; Amanda Elaine Clark; Mary Ryan Roberts; Kelley Amanda Carter; Laura Ashley Bunn; Cayce Elizabeth Dempsey; Kara V. Salyers.
* McKenzie - Julie Catherine Bennett; Thomas Victor Clark; Kelly Danielle Simmons; Christy Renee Lowe; Carol R. Perritt; Brigitte N. Eubank; Douglas Clay Rich; Sherry L. Moore; Amanda Michele Allen.
* McLeMoresville - Chassidy Oniecee Bell.
* Yuma - Kerrie Blinn Foster.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
* McKenzie - Lisa Renee Powell; Angela Dawn Cook; Ashley Marie Ruth.

Roy Heatherly, Jackson Sun president and publisher, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee acting president, conferred degrees.

Local Graduate

MARTIN - Doug Rich of McKenzie, Jessica Watson of Lawrenceburg, and Adam Vallee of Union City were among graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony Saturday May 9. Each of them received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in history. Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee acting president, conferred degrees.

UT Martin Cadet Commissioned as Second Lieutenant

MARTIN - Amanda Michele Allen of McKenzie was recently commissioned into the United States Army as second lieutenant at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She was a spring graduate. Pinning her lieutenant bars were her father, Lance Allen, and her mother, Marcy Allen.

The Commercial Appeal

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Molly DePriest (left) of Memphis has completed a graduate level dietetic internship through the University of Tennessee at Martin. She completed the majority of her rotations at Methodist University Hospital in Memphis and is now eligible to take the Examination for Registered Dietitians. Presenting the dietetic internship completion certificate is Lori Littleton, director of the dietetic internship program at UT Martin.

The Paris Post-Intelligencer, Paris, Tenn., Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Neumair honored by sorority

Henry Countian Amanda Neumair, who is attending the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently was honored by sorority Alpha Omicron Pi.

Neumair was chosen the chapter's best new member for 2008-09 at UTM. She also was named Freshman of the Year by the chapter.

She will be representing the sorority at the National Convention in Tampa, Fla., in June.
Many college graduates expect to “clean up” once they earn their degrees. Things were different for Boyd Joseph (B.J.) and Tiphanie Erwin of Dresden, who cleaned up on the way to receiving their diplomas. Both worked as student custodians at the University of Tennessee at Martin while completing degree requirements. B.J. received his degree in secondary history May 9, one year after his wife, Tiphanie, earned a degree in human learning pre-K-3. Both are training in their custodial positions to become schoolteachers.

B.J. and Tiphanie are Weakley County residents and Dresden High School graduates. The couple met at church and married in 2004, the same year Tiphanie graduated from high school. Tiphanie started working for the university’s physical plant the day after her classes ended. As a part-time employee, she knew that she could schedule work around her class schedule.

B.J. began working at the E.W. James & Sons grocery store in Dresden in 1991 as a high school sophomore, where he remains a part-time employee. He came to UT Martin in fall 1993 but ended up on academic probation “because I really didn’t want to be in college.” He dropped out shortly after the 1994 spring semester began.

Time passed, “And I guess I had to grow up and decided... that I wanted to do something else with my life, ...” he said. B.J. had long dreamed of becoming a teacher, so he joined Tiphanie in spring 2005 as a UT Martin student.

Family finances required that he work, and noticing how the physical plant scheduled Tiphanie’s hours around her class schedule, B.J. applied for a student worker’s position on the custodial staff. He was hired and worked up to 20 hours weekly for the university (a policy for student workers) while also keeping his part-time job at the grocery store. His work hours usually totaled 30 hours in addition to his classes and homework, so time was precious.

Tiphanie began working at the Paul Meek Library and then transferred about a year later to Gooch Hall. Her days usually started at 5 or 6 a.m., and she worked until her first class began. Depending on her accumulated hours, she sometimes returned to start the next class. During the summers, she worked from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. cleaning restrooms, dusting, sweeping and mopping floors, changing light bulbs and washing windows - whatever was needed. “I also worked weekend crew,” she said. “The semester I student-taught... I worked the weekend crew.”

B.J. also worked mostly in Gooch Hall, which involved cleaning restrooms, floors and desks, emptying garbage and other duties. “Basically, you have to make sure the building is ready for classes,” he said, adding, “One thing it did do, and I think it was good working custodian work, was do both want to be teachers, and we’re doing custodian work in a classroom and in a school building. You see what the janitor does. If it wasn’t for the custodian crew, the buildings wouldn’t be in any shape,” he said.

Meshing work and academics was challenging. “You’d go to your classes and go to work, and you’d go home, and you’d have all that homework to do,” Tiphanie said. Then she was up at 4 a.m. to start the next day. Once her work was done, she would sometimes sit in the janitor’s closet to study. “I hated night classes,” B.J. remembered as Tiphanie laughed in agreement, “Because you’d go home at 9 o’clock at night.” He added, though, “Anything worthwhile is not going to be easy. You’re going to have to work.”

Despite the long hours, they were never discouraged to the point of quitting their jobs or school. While 15- to 17-hour days weren’t unusual, they saw the experience as preparation for the teaching world. “Teachers don’t have 8 to 3 jobs really,” B.J. said, well aware that teachers work much more beyond the regular school day with class preparation, grading papers and evening activities.

As part-time workers, B.J. and Tiphanie weren’t issued the standard work clothes worn by physical plant employees, so they dressed appropriately for the work they performed. Both would often wear their work clothes to class, and sometimes were treated differently. “I mean, that happens everywhere you go,” he said. “But by and large, most of the people... were really supportive. They were really good.” And, when people learned that Tiphanie and he were students, they became even more supportive of what the couple was trying to accomplish.

On a personal level, the jobs eliminated their biases about people who do similar work. “It’s legitimate work. It’s necessary work, ...” he said. “They teach you in the education classes over here to make friends out of the school secretary and the janitor, because they’re two of the most important people in the school. And after you’ve walked in the janitor’s shoes and (have) seen what the janitor does, you realize that they’re right. You realize that they are very important to the school - anywhere really.

Both like to meet new people, and their custodial work offered the side benefit of working with international students employed by the physical plant. “That was a new experience for me,” Tiphanie said. Besides exposure to the different cultures, she said the couple provided assistance to international students by checking their class assignments and even explaining how to order food at the local McDonald’s.

And, the custodial work did have its memorable moments. They recalled arriving early one morning and were waiting in the Gooch Hall lobby to clock in when they saw something run across the hall floor. A skunk has entered an open door and proceeded to find a hiding place. “We searched for that thing for most of the day and we could not find it,” B.J. said. Fortunately, nobody was sprayed, and a staff member eventually saw it and, from a safe distance, ran the intruding skunk out a door.

Remarkably, B.J. earned his degree in four-and-a-half years, while Tiphanie graduated in only four. Education classes, in particular, require a significant time commitment outside of class; so to complete degrees amid busy work schedules is a significant accomplishment. Each has also excelled with the tests required for teacher licensing. Tiphanie is fully licensed, and B.J. was recognized for a high score on the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) test. He’s also passed the history certification test and is waiting on scores from the geography and government tests. Teachers must be “highly qualified” through passing these tests to become licensed to teach.
The Erwins continue to live in Dresden and would like to stay in the region, so they're busy applying for teaching positions. Tiphanie is substituting for a teacher on maternity leave at a McKenzie pre-school and also substituted in Weakley County Schools. "The problem education, I think, is facing that everybody else has seen is that a lot of the older teachers aren't retiring," B.J. said, who remains employed by the university until the end of the summer. Dennis Kosta, the university's custodial manager, is pleased to have B.J. return following graduation. He offers high praise for the Erwins and their work in the physical plant.

"Both B.J. and Tiphanie have worked for me for several years and have done an outstanding job," Kosta said. "We have been blessed to have student workers like them over the years, and I do rely on them to keep our campus as good as it can be."

Beyond achieving their personal goals to land teaching positions, regular employment is a financial necessity. As part-time workers, neither qualified for employee educational benefits. Tiphanie earned the Hope Lottery Scholarship, but they both had to take out loans along the way. "But that makes you work harder," B.J. said. "You know, when it's your own dime instead of your parents' money or the government's money, you work harder."

The Erwins' experiences have left them in a good position to offer others advice on achieving success. "Keep your eye on the goal," Tiphanie said, while B.J. carried that thought a step further. "... Sometimes people have to grow up," he said, noting that he speaks from experience. "I've seen people that get out of school, do like I did and work in the workforce, and then come back to college later on and do well. I've seen other people leave school and go in the military and learn discipline and then come back to college later on and do really well." Other students he sees "just need to get their priorities straight."

Keeping priorities straight isn't a problem for B.J. and Tiphanie Erwin. No job was ever too big, too dirty or started too early in the morning as they worked in and out of the classroom to earn degrees. And, nobody appreciates clean classrooms more than the Erwins who are about to realize their dream of becoming teachers.

UT Martin hosts Memorial Day Observance
May 22; Area veterans to be recognized

call Janice Sims, at 731-881-7150, to confirm attendance so they can be recognized during the event.

Capt. Jeff Crawford, assistant professor of military science and recruiting operations officer, will serve as master of ceremonies. Dr. Robert Mancusi, assistant professor of music, will perform the national anthem, and Col. Bob Smith, retired UT Martin Physical Plant employee, will offer the invocation. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, will welcome guests, and Gerry Gallimore, UT Martin building and grounds staff member and U.S. Army veteran will give the benediction. The Tennessee National Guard will present the colors before the ceremony.

The UT Martin Department of Public Safety and members of the Martin Police Department will honor area veterans with a gun salute.

The event is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the Hardy M. Graham Stadium parking lot directly across from the Hall-Moody Administration Building. Eastbound and westbound traffic on University Street, in front of the administration building, will be stopped briefly as the flag ceremony begins and during the gun salute. In case of rain, the event will be moved to the Glenn Gallien Auditorium in Gooch Hall on the UT Martin campus.

Col. Chuck Harrison

Col. Chuck Harrison, inspector general for the Tennessee National Guard, will be the guest speaker at the ninth annual Memorial Day Commemoration at UT Martin. The event is scheduled for 9 a.m., Friday, May 22, at the Hall-Moody Administration Building entrance.

Col. Chuck Harrison served in and was commissioned as an armor officer in the Tennessee National Guard while attending UT Martin where he earned a bachelor's degree in history. He earned a master's degree in national security affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. He also completed Command and General State College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and, in 2004, received the U.S. Army Senior Service College Fellowship, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

He has received the Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, among others. In 2005, he was inducted into the UT Martin ROTC Hall of Fame.

University Scholars honored at UTM

(Left to right): Eric Wilson, Matt Cook, and Whitney and Christopher Cates, all of Martin, were honored as University Scholars before spring commencement exercises, May 9, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Among the requirements for University Scholars, students complete the honors core curriculum of courses, additional small group courses with other University Scholars and a faculty-mentored, two-year research project. Dr. Dan McDonough, professor of history and director of Honors Programs, presented each student with a medallion and a certificate.
Wright receives Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award

The Spring 2009 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award recently was presented to Carrington Wright, a UT Martin Department of Geology, Geography and Physics employee. Wright is a geoscience major and has been employed for three years.

Among his many tasks, Wright assists with rearrangement of material and laboratories. He is responsible for minor equipment repair and minor carpentry. He assists with the set up and tear down of laboratory experiments and is responsible for general office duties.

According to his supervisor, "working with a multi-disciplinary department with geology, physics and geography demands that Carrington make decisions regarding which job gets done first and take initiative to develop a schedule of events, even in a content area he is not a part of. Several of his tasks require that he make personal decisions as to the disposition of important documents and resources so that they are available to others upon demand."

Among examples of Wright's contributions to the department include almost single-handedly reorganizing the department's extensive map library, cataloging an extensive Vanderbilt Fossil Collection (a total of 260,000 individual specimens), volunteering for department functions and special events and maintaining department hallway displays. Wright also assists other departments and offices including the Office of University Relations appearing in videos, recruiting marketing pieces and as a Web site featured student.

This award, given every fall and spring semester, is a memorial for Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who during her years of service, was a strong advocate for student employment. Maloan had a vision that more positions would be developed on campus that would challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university's mission. Recipients of this award exemplify a strong work ethic and commitment to the university, and they receive a $1,000 cash award, an engraved plaque and a nameplate on the perpetual plaque in a place of honor in the Boling University Center.

Contributions to this scholarship award may be made through payroll deduction by employees of UT Martin or by sending a contribution to the Office of Development at UT Martin.

Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
* Dresden - Zachary O'Neal Baker; Sunni Christine Jackson; George Nathan Browning III; Albany Deshawn Cianfarani;
* Andrea Faythe Wade; Kristin Nicole Copeland; Boyd Joseph Erwin; Kaleena Ann Muzzell; Jessica Marie Neisler; Heather Lanee Cheatham; James Chad Leviston; Joseph Summers Winstead;
* Greenfield - Clint A. Ary;
* Pamela Beth Mitchell; Jacob Wade Pentecost; Chelsey Patrice Engler; Robert Lynn McCall II; Jenny Elizabeth Kelley; Rickey Lynn Mask;
* Martin - Sarah Lynn Baringer; Jonathan Daniel Richwine; Courtney Nicole Vallee; Laura Jayne Leahy; Orton Terrill; Nathaniel Thomas Reinhardt; John Stanley Britton; Jennifer Lea Brooks; Jessica Kiley Breeden; Alyssa Blair Brown; Amy Virginia Hall; Colin Matthew Lester; Holly Cheree Michael; Amber Nicole Starks Lamb; Kimberly Jo Laster; Christopher Michael Cates; Matthew Russell Cook; Rebecca Keaton Hinds; Eric Christopher Wilson; Eric William Seavers; Kimberly Sarah Kraft; Cara Marguerite Thomas; Michael Lee Dobson;
* Palermosville - Rachel Ann Reynolds;
* Sharon - Rachel E. Cooper;

Jessica Dru Dallosta; Samantha Marin Porter; Christopher Ryan Johnson.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
* Dresden - Whitney Jean Hopper;
* Martin - Katie Dane;
* Sharon - Melissa Leeann Estes.

Roy Heatherly, Jackson Sun president and publisher, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee acting president, conferred degrees.
Community residents and elected officials joined University of Tennessee leadership and others to officially celebrate the new UT Martin Parsons Center. The ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house drew a large crowd to the 19,000 sq. ft. technologically advanced facility that culminated several years of work.

"It is a locally based initiative through which UT Martin partners with area businesses and community leaders, but it's all part of a much greater university picture," said UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes. "Your children, neighbors, friends and maybe even some of you may want to take part in the college experience through UT Martin. You're joining a top-tier master's southern institution, one of the best in the Southeast, right here at home.

"The primary service area is right around us," he added. "It includes not only Decatur, but also surrounding counties. There will be some students from other areas, as well, so this really is a regional effort."

Rakes thanked local officials who initiated the meetings that came to fruition with classes beginning early 2007 at Decatur County Riverside High School and the Parsons Municipal Building to establish the student base. He also commended Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, for his work toward developing the project that gained approval of the UT board of trustees and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Rakes pointed to community businesses, donors and partners he said were critical to the center's foundation and continued success.

"Congratulations for having the foresight and vision to invest in educating your citizenry," said Dr. Katie High, University of Tennessee chief of staff. "It will produce a return in human capital that will be incalculable." High commended Jim Ayers for his "remarkable" scholarship program designed to increase the level of educational attainment of local citizens and passion to provide opportunities for those in and around Decatur County.

The Ayers Foundation Scholars Program began in 2000 by providing financial assistance for students to attend any college, university or technical school in Tennessee. Since summer 2007, the Ayers Foundation has provided more than $367,500 in scholarship assistance to students attending the UT Martin Parsons Center.

"The completion of this center is the fulfillment of many people's dreams. When you look at how the community has worked together it should make us all proud to be citizens of Parsons and Decatur County," said Ayers.

"For the past five years that we have been working on this education initiative, I have been amazed at the way our community has pulled together to support this new facility," said Parsons Mayor Tim David Boaz. "With the outpouring of financial support, as well as the moral support from the community, it makes me proud to be a part of it. This facility will have a very positive effect on our community to help keep our best and brightest at home. This facility will better prepare our workforce for the jobs of the 21st century."

Decatur County Mayor Jason Scott added, "We are excited about the opening of the college, and very grateful for all the hard work that has gone into making this a reality. UT Martin's presence will greatly benefit Decatur County for many years to come."

UT Martin has helped raise more than $1.3 million for the Parsons Center from community stakeholders in the area. In addition to Jim Ayers' support and leadership, there were also major investments from the city of Parsons and Decatur County.

"We're not only proud of the wonderful grassroots support for this center, but also delighted to have a UT Martin alumnus and hometown talent, Jason Rushing, as the director. He has helped to raise private support, recruited and advised students and hired a tremendously talented group of faculty to teach at the center," said Len Solomon, UT Martin vice chancellor for university advancement.

Those attending were invited to tour the facility, which includes general classroom space, nursing lab, conference room, computer lab, student lounge, bookstore, science lab, administrative offices, library, and distance-learning classroom.

"We're excited and honored to welcome our faculty, staff and students as well as members of the community to the new UT Martin Parsons Center," said Rushing. "This project would not have been possible without the vision and support of both local and university leaders who have given generously to fund the structure, as well as the Ayers Foundation which has provided scholarships for our students."

He added, "We're grateful to everyone who has been involved and supportive and look forward to serving our area for many years to come."

For more information about the Parsons Center and the courses offered, contact Rushing at jrushing@utm.edu or call 731-847-3880.

Pictured at the ribbon-cutting and open house, from left, are Dennis Henderson, TLM and Associates, Inc., Jackson, president; Parsons Mayor Tim David Boaz; Dr. Katie High, University of Tennessee chief of staff; UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes; Jason Rushing, center director; and building committee members, Jon Ayers, representing the Ayers Foundation; Tom Leitch, representing the City of Parsons; and Melvin Taylor, representing Decatur County.
Students receive Leadership Awards from UT Martin

Two Paul and Martha Meck Awards were presented at the recent commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs, announced the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement exercises. All other awards are presented during honors day. The Meck Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Pictured with Toston, center, are: Johnny Richwine, of Martin, and Whitney Maxey, of Hutto, Texas. Richwine is a agricultural business major. Richwine is a student ambassador, served as president of the Undergraduate Alumni Council and is treasurer of the National Agri-Marketing Association. He has been on the dean’s list every semester, received a University Service Award two years, and was named Mr. Greek in 2008. While in college, he has assisted with blood drives, Hunters for the Hungry, We Care Ministries and the Carl Perkins Center. He is a member of Alpha Gamma Rho social fraternity. Maxey is a dietetics major. She is a UT Martin basketball player, served as a Student Government Association Senator, Campus Observation Committee chair and student ambassador, Youth Villages mentoring program participant, Tennessee Intensive English Program Conversation partner for international students and basketball camp volunteer. She has led campus tours, was on the yearbook staff, volunteered at a homeless shelter and served as a dietary aide and admissions student worker.

Recognized at UTM Honors Day

Brandon Whaley, of Dresden, recently received the Allison Nelson Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award is given to the most improved piano major for the academic year. The recipient is selected upon recommendation by the UT Martin piano faculty, with the department chair’s approval.

Brandon Whaley

SAACS Recycles - Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin Chapter of Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society assisted UTM Recycles! at UT Martin four times during the year. In the picture SAACS president Kayla Pindexter presents a $100 check to project coordinators, Dennis Kosta, right, UT Martin director of custodial services, and Dr. Mike McCullough, second from right, UT Martin American Democracy Project coordinator, for a mural that Martin artist, Les MacDermid, and UT Martin students will paint at the Recycling Center. Others present in the picture are: SAACS faculty adviser Dr. S.K. Airee and members, Kayla Baker, Casey Unger, Ashish Patel, Robert Mitchell, and Punam Patel, who are displaying the SAACS poster, “Chemists Celebrate the Earth Day,” to highlight their sustainability and green chemistry projects.
Heatherly: be flexible, passionate, take time to laugh

Roy Heatherly, Jackson Sun president and publisher, told University of Tennessee at Martin graduates Saturday that his presence at commencement speaker was "proof to all of you that anything and everything is possible." His commencement remarks were made to a standing-room-only crowd in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

"You see, I'm just like you. I am a college graduate who was sitting where you are sitting, and I've had a tremendous ride. The only difference between us is I'm 30 years ahead of you in my adventure," Heatherly told graduates that they live in one of the most challenging, yet greatest, times in history. "And here's the good news—the world has just extended to you an invitation to come join the party. The world is out there waiting for you to conquer it."

Heatherly prefaced the remainder of his remarks saying that his adventure included a couple of "humbling professional" experiences before he asked for God's help.

"And from that point forward, I've had a joyous journey. I very quickly landed a job at The Jackson Sun. I met the girl of my dreams who later became my wife. We've had three beautiful children. I've had a wonderful professional and private life." He added, "After 28 years, with the Gannett Company, I finally landed the job I always wanted—the one I have today. I've had a great run. I've had ups and downs, and bumps and bruises, detours and smooth riding. I wouldn't have changed one second of it. But you know what? In hindsight, as fun as my job is today, the job isn't nearly as fun as the ride I took to get here."

As graduates prepare for the future, Heatherly offered several pieces of advice. "Follow your heart. Find something you love to do and do it well," he said. "Don't be afraid to fail. Fear of failure is one of the great cripplers of our society. Where is it written, and when did we adopt the idea, that you have to be perfect? That is absolutely nonsense and absolutely false. Fear of failure will rob you of chasing your dreams." He then advised graduates to be flexible, and said, "I'm in an industry, the media industry, where being flexible is a way of life. Actually, being flexible and willing to change is how we are surviving."

Heatherly urged graduates to maintain their character so that, at the end of the day when they go home, they make sure they like and respect the person in the mirror. He also encouraged them to do whatever they do with passion. And, as a person living his dream job, he advised them to set personal and professional goals. "Goals give you something to reach for and something to measure yourself against." Finally, he added, "Laugh, live, be thankful for the opportunities you get, and enjoy your ride."

He closed, "So, UTM's class of 2009, I challenge each of you to pursue your dreams with a passion. I challenge you not to be afraid to fail, and I challenge you to use your God-given talents to make a difference in this world. I, for one, can't wait to see all the wonderful things you do and all the wonderful things you accomplish."

The spring graduating class represented 54 Tennessee counties, 15 states and seven countries. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee acting president, conferred degrees.

CADET COMMISSIONED AS SECOND LIEUTENANT:

Christopher Wade Winchester, of Dyersburg, was recently commissioned into the United States Army as second lieutenant at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He was a spring graduate. Pinning his lieutenant bars were his mother, Beth Sanders, and his father, Bobby Winchester.
Local Students Receive Degrees From UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Adamsville - Robyn Honor Daniel, Holly Renee Spencer, Tiffany Ann Greene
- Bethel Springs - Lucie Dawn Hill, Marsha Parsons
- Guys - Kayce Janeen Howard
- Michie - Pamela A. Horner, Adam Daniel Ledlow, Wendy K. Pittman
- Ramer - Joyce Kirk Strickland
- Selmer - Joshua R. Steele, Brandi Marie Adams, Jenny Lynn Drumright, Melissa Wakefield Carroll, Donald Kirk Linam, Kirby Lynne Redmon, Brooks Lee Weatherford, Christopher Blake Carroll

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Guys - Daniel Eric Holcombe
- Selmer - Robert Rhodes Platt
ECCE health care training programs planned at Martin, Ripley, Jackson

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education is offering a variety of non-degree health care professional training programs.

• EKG Technician Certification Program: Scheduled for 6-9:30 p.m., June 1-5, 11-August 3, 6-9:30 p.m., on Mondays and Wednesdays, this course will be offered at Jackson State Community College. This comprehensive 50-hour EKG Technician Certification Program prepares students to function as EKG Technicians and to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians (ASPT) EKG Technician exam and other national certification exams. This course will include important national and background information on anatomy of the heart and physiology, medical disease processes, medical terminology, medical ethics, legal aspects of patient contact, laboratory assisting, electrocardiography and echocardiography. EKG technicians also analyze printed readings of EKG tests, measuring various “cardiac intervals and complexes” and determining normal vs. abnormal EKG. The EKG Technician Certification Program includes a graded final exam to help prepare students for the ASPT-EKG Technician Exam. The fee for this course is $999. Textbooks are included.

• Surgical Technician Program: Scheduled from 6-9:30 p.m., June 16-August 4, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, this course will be held at Jackson State Community College. This 50-hour course will cover the surgical technician’s role beginning from pre-op preparation, during the operative procedure and finish with postoperative room break down. Before an operation, surgical technicians help prepare the operating room by setting up surgical instruments and equipment, sterile drapes and sterile solutions. They assemble both sterile and non-sterile equipment, as well as adjust and check to ensure all equipment is working properly. During surgery, surgical technicians prep and drape patients and assist where necessary. Post surgery, techs prepare and transport the patient to recovery as well as break down the surgical suite and prepare it for the next scheduled operation. This course covers the following key areas: the history of surgery and the role of the surgical technician; introduction to the operating room; the legal aspects of surgery and the surgical technician; policies and guidelines, introduction to patient preparation or back table set ups; surgical asepsis and sterilization techniques; surgical pharmacology and anesthesia; and general surgery concepts. It is important to note that the objectives of this class do not include a state or national certification that generally requires at least two years of formal education. The fee for this course is $999. Textbooks are included.

Information packets may be picked up at the following locations: Martin - Room 110 Gooch Hall, UT Martin; Ripley-UT Martin Ripley Center, Ripley - Jackson Room 210 McWherter Center, JSCC, Jackson.

To request an information packet, call UT Martin at 731-881-7082. To register, contact ECCE at 731-881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.

UTM will host two Governor’s Schools

High school students attending the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities and Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin will have the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit during the summer programs.

Students in the humanities program will arrive on campus May 31 and will depart June 27, while the agricultural sciences students arrive on May 23 and depart on June 19.

The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities, located on the UT Martin campus since 1985, will host 82 students, and the fifth Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences—one of four in the nation—has 34 students. The schools are staffed by faculty from UT Martin with guest presenters from throughout the United States.

UT Martin will help introduce high school students to a myriad of agricultural careers at the school for the agricultural sciences. High school students from across the state will be involved in research, living laboratories and study opportunities. The students will 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 will be exposed to the manufacturing process for biofuels to include biodiesel and ethanol. Scholars will be able to manufacture the fuel in the biofuels laboratory from selected biomass materials and actually utilize the fuels in laboratory engine.

Participants in the Governor’s School for Agricultural Sciences will again receive laptop computers to use while on campus. The computers, which have been loaded with special software to help students organize their work, will make all learning environments a laboratory.

The humanities immersion program includes high school juniors and seniors from across the state who have been selected to participate based on academic achievements, writing skills, school and community service and the recommendations of high school principals, counselors and teachers. As part of the program, students explore subjects as diverse as philosophy, music and literature, develop their writing skills and participate in afternoon seminars specially designed to challenge some of the “best and the brightest” students in Tennessee.
Riley graduates from UTM, recovers from dislocation

Nancy Riley was, as were many others in the area, dislocated from Wilson Sporting Goods when the company permanently closed its doors.

Riley took advantage of the funding opportunities afforded her and began pursuing a degree at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Riley was granted Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) funds and awarded a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Needs-Based Scholarship through the Tennessee Career Center at Humboldt.

"Nancy was dislocated due to a mass layoff and wanted to improve her skills sets to become more attractive to employers in other fields," said Maria Waiters, Career Center Case Manager.

Riley graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in August 2008 earning a Bachelor’s in University Studies. She has since enrolled in the Master of Social Work program through the University of Tennessee system. In March 2009, Riley accepted a case manager position with Carey Counseling in Trenton.

"Nancy loves her job," said Maria Waiters. "I am so proud of her. She is utilizing her education and helping others."

Riley resides in Trenton and is the mother of Brandon and Amy Middleton. She is also a member of Fruitland Baptist.

The Tennessee Career Center is Where People and Jobs Connect. Jobseekers can qualify for federally funded training programs. For more information contact Maria Waiters at the Tennessee Career Center at Humboldt 784-3552 or waiters@nwtinworks.org.

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Settle elected president of UTM Alumni Council

CHARLEY DEAL • READER SUBMITTED • MAY 21, 2009

MARTIN — Jimmy Settle, business news editor for The Leaf-Chronicle, has been elected president of the Alumni Council for the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The UTM Alumni Council represents the interests of some 35,000 living graduates of UTM. The mission of the Alumni Council is to serve as the primary vehicle for those who attended UT Martin and desire to maintain an affiliation with the university.

Settle, a Dover native, is a 1988 graduate of UTM where he majored in print journalism and communications. He also sits on the advisory board for the UT-Martin Communications Department.

He is a past president of the Montgomery County chapter of the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association serving campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis, plus the UT Space Institute in Tullahoma.

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Local Residents Receive UTM Degrees

MARTIN, Tenn. — Several Henry County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent spring commencement held in Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT-Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

Comer - Michelle Lee Roberts;

Henry - Rachel Ann AuBuchon;

Mansfield - Angela Star Ray;

Paris - Nicole M. Parker; Rachel Renee Shoultis; Zachary Kyle Shoultis; Andrew Grey Whiffield; Robin Ann Hunt; Megan Marie Blackwell; Whitney L. Glass; Charlotte Elaine Loines; Jacob Hunter Johnson; John Charles Perry; Justin Nicholas Muller;

Springville - Desiree K. Cole.

Roy Heathery, Jackson Sun president and publisher, was the commencement speaker; UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rosis presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simsek, University of Tennessee acting president, conferred degrees.
Health care training programs offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education is offering a variety of non-degree health care professional training programs.

**EKG Technician Certification Program**

Scheduled for June 15 through Aug. 3 from 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, this course will be offered at Jackson State Community College.

This comprehensive 50-hour EKG Technician Certification Program prepares students to function as EKG Technicians and to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians (ASPT)-Electrocardiographic (EKG) Technician exam and other national certification exams. It course will include important practice and background information on anatomy of the heart and physiology, medical disease processes, medical terminology, medical ethics, legal aspects of patient contact, laboratory assisting, electrocardiography and echocardiography.

The EKG Technician Certification Program includes a graded final exam to help prepare students for the ASPT-EKG Technician Exam. The fee for this course is $999. Textbooks are included.

**Pharmacy Technician Program**

This course, scheduled for June 16 through Aug. 4 from 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, will be offered on the campus of UT Martin, at the UT Martin Ripley Center and at Jackson State Community College.

This comprehensive 50-hour course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's exam. Technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings, working under the supervision of a registered pharmacist.

The Pharmacy Technician Certification Program includes a graded final exam to help prepare students for the PTCB exam. The fee for this course is $999. Textbooks are included.

**Phlebotomy Technician Program**

This course is scheduled for June 15 through Aug. 24 from 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on the Saturdays of June 20, July 11 and Aug. 1. It will be held at UT Martin and at Jackson State Community College.

This 90-hour Phlebotomy Technician Program prepares professionals to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Students will become familiar with all aspects related to blood collection and develop comprehensive skills to perform venipunctures completely and safely. Classroom and lab work includes terminology, anatomy and physiology; blood collection procedures; specimen hands-on practice; and training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods.

There is no outside externship rotation included with this program. The fee for this course is $1,599. Textbooks are included.

**Surgical Technician Program**

Scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 16 through Aug. 4, this course will be held at Jackson State Community College.

This 50-hour course will cover the surgical technician’s role beginning from pre-op preparation, during the operative procedure and finish with postoperative room break down.

The objectives of the class do not include a state or national certification, which generally requires at least two years of formal education. The fee for this course is $999. Textbooks are included.

Information packets may be picked up at the following locations: Martin, Room 110 Gooch Hall, UT Martin; Ripley, UT Martin Ripley Center, Ripley; and Jackson, Room 210 McWherter Center, JSAC. To request an information packet, call UT Martin at (731) 881-7081.

To register, contact ECCE at (731) 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.

College credits can be earned at upcoming Governor’s Schools

High school students attending the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities and Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin will have the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit during the summer programs.

Students in the humanities program will arrive May 31 and depart June 27, while the agricultural sciences students arrive Saturday and depart June 19.

The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities, located on the UT Martin campus since 1985, will host 82 students and the fifth Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences — one of four in the nation — will have 34 students. The schools are staffed by faculty from UT Martin with guest presenters from throughout the United States.

UT Martin will help introduce high school students to a myriad of agricultural careers at the school for the agricultural sciences. High school students from across the state will be involved in research, living laboratories and study opportunities. The students will 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.

Students will also be exposed to the manufacturing process for biofuels to include biodiesel and ethanol. Scholars will be able to manufacture the fuel in the biofuels laboratory from selected biomass materials and actually utilize the fuels in lab engines.

The humanities immersion program includes high school juniors and seniors from across the state who have been selected to participate based on academic achievements, writing skills, school and community service and the recommendations of high school faculty.
LOCAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MATH CONTEST

The 53rd annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association High School Mathematics Contest recently was conducted at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Approximately 6,000 of the state's top mathematics students competed at 23 different testing centers located across the state. Examinations were given in six areas: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre Calculus, Statistics and Calculus. Students from Greenfield High School who participated in the contest at the UT Martin testing site were in the first row from left to right: Meagan Porter, Mallory Robinson, Misty Dixon, Laura Croom, Linda Farmer (sponsor); second row: Ashley Cantrell, Brittany Morgan, Melissa McCartney, Katie McCall, Wes Clark, Kaitlyn Simmons, Jacelyn Bates; third row: Abbey McDaniel, Patrick King, Dalton Potts, Dakota Betts, Christopher Lane and Hunter Martin. Dakota Betts, a student of Ashley Cantrell, received the first place trophy in the Algebra II competition. Katelin McCall, a student of Linda Farmer, received the second place trophy in the Algebra II competition.

WESTVIEW BAND SCHOLARSHIPS

Westview seniors Stanton Watson, left, and Matt Borden, right, have been awarded band scholarships to UTM. They will be performing this fall with the Skyhawk Marching Band. Scholarships are awarded based on leadership and musical ability. The two have been directed by Mike Tucker and Joe Farmer. Stanton's parents are Cyndi and Dennis J. Watson and Matt's are Milo and Shirley Borden.
Jacob Hardy receives Steele scholarship

Henry County High School senior Jacob Hardy has received the third annual $500 Paul Steele memorial scholarship given by the Two Rivers Bass Club.

The son of Jeff and Kim Hardy, he plans to enroll at the University of Tennessee at Martin and major in criminal justice.

While at HCHS, he was a member of the National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, active in football, golf and basketball and with his church’s youth group. He also was a Patriot Pal mentor.

Paul Steele was an avid outdoorsman and staunch believer in higher education. He fished Kentucky Lake for more than 40 years.

The Two Rivers Bass Club sponsors the Paul Steele Memorial Open Tournament each year. Portions of the proceeds from the tournament go into the Steele Scholarship fund. This year’s tournament is scheduled June 27.

UT Martin announces countians on dean’s list

The University of Tennessee at Martin has announced Henry Countians who are named on the spring 2009 dean’s list.

Those named with highest honors earned a grade-point average from 3.8-4.0; with high honors, 3.5-3.79; and with honors 3.2-3.49. They include:

**Highest honors**

- Cottage Grove — Cristine L. Manning.

**High honors**

- Buchanan — Kayla R. Parsons and Jade N. Stearnes.
- Cottage Grove — David N. Horton.
- Puryear — Timothy L. Allen.
- Springville — Pamela J. Corbin, Holley M. Mason and Jonathan B. Routon.

**Honors**

- Cottage Grove — Autumn E. Arnold.
- Springville — Erik N. Grogan.

Kristel Frazier awarded four scholarships

Henry County High School senior Kristel Frazier has been awarded four scholarships totaling $8,000 to attend college this fall.

The daughter of Edwin and Diane Michelle Frazier of Henry, she plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin and major in nursing.

She received the $1,000 William Spencer scholarship; a $1,000 McWhorter scholarship; a $4,000 Tennessee Lottery scholarship; and a $2,000 Harold Conner scholarship.

The Spencer scholarship is given in memory of U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. William Spencer, who died in combat in December 2006 while serving in Iraq.

At HCHS, Kristel has been a member of Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA). She is a choir leader at her church.

After earning her undergraduate degree, she plans to attend Vanderbilt University in Nashville.
The University of Tennessee at Martin recently celebrated the accomplishments of its graduates at the Grand Finale Celebration and Senior Walk, hosted in the Quad on campus. More than 520 graduates took the opportunity to say goodbye to classmates, faculty and staff. Nick Lucas, of McEwen, who will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural education, and Shyteria Dunlap, of Memphis, who will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in public relations, joined the classmates at the event and signed the graduates’ banner.
‘First Aid for West Tennessee’
the theme of upcoming summit

The third annual Mid-South Economic and Business Development Summit, “First Aid for West Tennessee,” is being sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneur and Economic Development Center, Dyersburg State Community College, Tennessee Small Business Development Center, and WestStar.

The event will be held June 12 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the new DSCC Student Center.

Coleman Peterson, president/chief executive officer of Hollis Enterprises, LLC, a human resources consulting firm founded in 2004, and a past executive vice president of Wal-Mart Stores Inc., will serve as the keynote speaker. He also serves on several boards, including Build-A-Bear Workshop, J.B. Hunt Transport and Northwest Arkansas Community College.

“Get Smart: What’s Hot and What’s Not” will be presented by Alan Raymond, TVA Solar and Nuclear Energy Industries, target market specialist, and Tab Townsell, mayor of the City of Conway, Ark. This session will focus on the unique ways to integrate downtown renovation, infrastructure improvement, and industrial development for success and will also educate attendees on the many recruitment opportunities for “green” industries.

“Bio-Life Science and the New Economy: Opportunities for Agriculture” will be presented by Jan Bouden, TECworks executive director, and Pete Nelson, BIO Dimensions principal. This session will be an overview of the best practices and recent progress of the bio-life sciences industry in the Mid-South. In addition, special focus will be placed on new business opportunities for agricultural producers in the new, green, bio-life sciences economy.

“Creating a Community Band-Aid & Triage for Tough Economic Times” will focus on developing specific strategies that help communities and assist businesses during economically challenging times. Subjects to be discussed include effective local marketing strategies for small businesses, establishing a good relationship with local banks, shopping at home and growing a home-based small business on a shoestring budget. This session will be offered by Ron Acree, Tennessee Small Business Development Center director, Jackson State Community College; David Doyle, TSBDCC, Southwest Tennessee Community College; Dr. Jamie Frakes, TSBDCC, Dyersburg State; and Sharon Taylor-McKinney, Business Enterprise Resource Office, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

“Building a Bridge to the New Economy” will open the event and is being presented by Dr. Thomas H. Payne, UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and professor and interim chair of the Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance, and International Business.

Additionally, a workforce development best practices session will round out the day.

Opening remarks by UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, Dyersburg State Community College President Karen Bowyer, REED Center director Hollie Holt and Dyersburg State TSBDCC director Dr. Jamie Frakes will begin at 8:15 a.m.

Participants may register online at www.utm.edu/midsouthsummit. The registration fee is $50 and includes a continental breakfast, materials and a luncheon. Checks should be made payable and sent to UT Martin REED Center, 406 South Lindell St., Martin, TN 38237.

Participants may also register by fax at (731) 587-7334 or by contacting Landy Fuqua at (731) 587-7333.

The deadline to register is May 22. For more information, call 587-7333.

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Roy Heatherly talks to UTM graduates

Roy Heatherly, The Jackson Sun’s president and publisher, told University of Tennessee Martin graduates that his presence as commencement speaker was “proof to all of you that anything and everything is possible.” His commencement remarks on May 9 were made to a standing-room-only crowd in the Kathleen and Tom Blain Center.

He noted, “After 28 years with the Gannett Company, I finally landed the job I always wanted — the one I have today.”

Heatherly urged graduates to maintain their character so that, at the end of the day when they go home, they make sure they like and respect the person in the mirror. He also encouraged them to do whatever they do with passion. And, as a person living his dream job, he advised them to set personal and professional goals.

The spring graduating class represented 54 Tennessee counties, 15 states, and seven countries.

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LOCAL STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO PHI KAPPA PHI

Ashley Michelle Niven, left, of Milan, Emily Blake Parks, of Dyers, Emily Jane Rogers, of Trenton, and Jeb Hunter Williams, of Humboldt, were recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Membership is based upon academic achievements and exemplary character. Those eligible include graduate students in the upper 10 percent of their class, seniors in the upper 10 percent, and juniors in the upper 7.5 percent.

Also eligible are faculty members who possess outstanding academic, research, creative and service achievements. An internationally respected honor society, Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest and most selective organization that recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all fields of higher education. The society was founded at the University of Maine in 1897 and currently has chapters on the campuses of 282 colleges and universities in the United States, the Philippines and Puerto Rico.
UT Martin names local students to spring semester Dean’s List

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

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

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

Xavier T. Alexander, Bradford, Honors
Allison N. Cash, Bradford, High Honors
Jessika B. Derry, Bradford, Honors
Clayton A. Hampton, Bradford, High Honors
Clinton D. Hampton, Bradford, Honors
Brittany N. Moore, Bradford, High Honors
Daniel H. Morris, Bradford, Highest Honors
David L. Terry, Bradford, Honors
Lori R. Wood, Bradford, Honors
Joshua R. Hefner, Idlewild, Highest Honors
Charli M. Crone, Medina, Honors
Jodie L. Davidson, Medina, Highest Honors
Lisa N. Detrane, Medina, Highest Honors
Jessica L. Erickson, Medina, Highest Honors
Jacob G. Flippin, Medina, High Honors
Whitney L. Foster, Medina, Highest Honors
Caroline E. Harber, Medina, High Honors
Christina E. Johnson, Medina, Honors
Lucas R. Jones, Medina, Highest Honors
Dustin P. Kenton, Medina, Highest Honors
Kevin L. Miller, Medina, Highest Honors
Brianna M. Quinn, Medina, Honors
Melody P. Sain, Medina, Highest Honors
Allison E. Todd, Medina, Highest Honors
Shelby L. Totty, Medina, Highest Honors
Jacob H. Whitman, Medina, Honors
Jesse N. Winchester, Medina, Highest Honors
Austin D. Alred, Milan, Highest Honors
Bryce E. Appleton, Milan, Highest Honors
Elise T. Arnold, Milan, Honors
Raymond F. Brake, Milan, High Honors
Amanda Bratcher, Milan, Highest Honors
Byron B. Burns, Milan, Highest Honors

Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
Bradford — Benjamin Franklin Woods III; Xavier Tatum Alexander;
Milan — Rachel Dean Szopinski; Lynsey Alyse Charlton; William Hudson Harrison Jr.; Hilary Gayle Keen; Amanda Danielle Bratcher; Brittany Lynn Brouch; Megan Leigh Carmichael; Benny L. Johnson, Milan, Honors
Hilary G. Keen, Milan, Highest Honors
Tiffany B. Matheny, Milan, High Honors
Christopher S. McGill, Milan, Highest Honors
Rachel R. McMinn, Milan, Honors
Latorya K. Murriel, Milan, Honors
Adam P. Nelson, Milan, Highest Honors
Ashley M. Niven, Milan, High Honors
Sarah E. Parker, Milan, High Honors
Sara H. Phifer, Milan, Honors
Adam J. Sandor, Milan, Highest Honors
Jake D. Stewart, Milan, Honors
Courtney N. Sullivan, Honors

MILAN HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS TEACHER

Vicki Birdwell has been selected to work on Project MATCHES at the UTM. MATCHES stands for Mathematical Applications, Technology, and Content for High School Education Standards. The Project will focus on problem solving, theory of equations, geometry, probability and statistics, number theory, and engineering and mathematical applications in the context of the New Tennessee State Standards for high school mathematics by blending technology, standards, applications, and instructional methods. Participants are required to make a three year commitment to the project. Each year, participants will be required to attend at least one two-week summer institute. Teachers will make at least one presentation at a local, state, and/or regional meeting during the project. Expected outcomes for the project include improved content knowledge and teaching methodologies for high school teachers, increased student achievement, and enhanced utilization of technology as an instructional tool.
New UTM teaching program could be for you

By Victor Parkins

The University of Tennessee at Martin is home to the Transition to Teaching Licensure Program. Transition to Teaching is a federally funded program designed to attract mid-career professionals and recent college graduates to fill vacancies in critical shortage areas in high-need schools.

The program funds alternative certification programs to help participants become highly qualified math and science teachers. Through online instruction, face to face training, and an intensive mentoring program, our participants are meeting the needs of high-need schools across the State of Tennessee.

Teaching certification is offered in Math, Foreign Language, Science and Special Education.

Students must commit to a three year contract in a Tennessee public school, complete five classes with at least a 3.0 GPA and engage with an active mentor. Students are required to repay the loan if they do not maintain a 3.0 or fulfill the 3-year commitment.

Two local professionals are taking advantage of the new program.

Rebecca Bowers of Gibson and Michelle Dunlap, formerly of Milan, are both enrolled in the program. Dunlap has already secured a teaching job at Dresden High School.

Bowers, a former computer programmer, said she was ready for a new career after ten years in a job she did not like. She started out working towards an education degree, but changed her mind because she wanted to make more money.

“I always wanted to be a teacher,” said Rebecca. “This is an opportunity for me to get into education, and get a job while I’m enrolled.”

Rebecca is already considered ‘highly qualified’ to teach, and has applied to several area schools.

Dunlap is a former firefighter and paramedic. Because she is also ‘highly qualified’, she has already been hired in Dresden teaching Spanish.

“It’s a heck of a deal,” Dunlap added. “I liked my other job, but the hours were tough on my family,” she said.

“We’re hurting for teachers in Tennessee, and this is a great program for mature professionals to get into education.”

Both Dunlap and Bowers are being mentored by former Milan teacher Rebecca Jones.

Milan Director of Schools Dr. Mary Reel is excited about the program.

“To be able to attract a chemical engineer to teach physics, an accountant to teach Algebra II, or an attorney to teach History, that is the opportunity we have with Transition to Teach. Seasoned members of America’s workforce wanting to give back to the community by choosing education as a second profession is a unique opportunity for our children,” she said.

The Transition to Teaching Program allows up to $5000 on each participant.

The courses are designed to immerse the participants in knowledge of human development and learning. Students receive extensive instruction in learning theories and cognition, students with special needs and effective practices in secondary schools. One participant who successfully interviewed for her first teaching position reported, “My knowledge of differentiated instruction and IEP accommodations impressed the principal during my interview.”

The courses are designed to specifically meet the needs of an alternative licensure teacher.

Additional training is provided by participation in the Classroom Organization and Management Program (COMP). The participants attend COMP training during a two-day workshop before they enter the classroom.

The COMP trainer follows the initial training by visiting each new teacher’s classroom. The teachers are then provided with two additional days of COMP training and classroom visits in the fall.

Mentoring is provided for the participants for the first two years of the program. Formally trained mentors conduct weekly visits with each new teacher during their first year. There is no formal evaluation conducted during these visits. This is strictly a support and growth tool provided to our new teachers through the program. This is consistently seen as the strongest component of the Transition to Teaching program by its participants. One new teacher in Memphis recently referred to her mentor as her “Angel” who was sent to help.

The Transition to Teaching Program has placed over 160 new teachers in high-need school systems since 2002. By enrolling in the Transition to Teaching Program, participants are committing to teaching in a high need school for three years. Our program is able to find those teachers at heart and move them into the classroom. As one participant stated, “I absolutely love my job teaching and interacting with students every day. Without T2T, I would still be pursuing a career path I really didn’t enjoy instead of the one I was truly called to work. Thank you for this opportunity, this challenge, and the guidance I have received.” Transition to Teaching is making a difference in improving the quality of math and science education in the State of Tennessee.
Class of 2009 scholarship recipients

Members of the Class of 2009 at Henry County High School have amassed more than $1.6 million in scholarship money, according to information from HCCHS.

This list is compiled from information submitted by students. Any name omitted is because of the failure of submission by the student.

Scholarships are for one year unless otherwise noted. Many, including the Tennessee HOPE scholarship, are renewable with specific grade-point averages.

The students and their scholarships:

Byars, Kourtnei Symone — (UTM) Peggy Perry Betcher scholarship, $300; total $300.

Davenport, Ryan Michael — (UTM) HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; Chancellor's Award (UTM), $3,000 x 4 years; total $28,000.

Frame, Nicholas Robert — (UTM) Dean's scholarship (UTM), $1,500 x 4 years; HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $20,500.

Frazier, Kristel Marie — (UTM) William Spencer memorial scholarship, $1,000; HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; McWorter Work Study Scholarship (UTM), $1,000 x 4 years; Harold Conner (UTM), $2,000 x 4 years; total $29,000.

French Jr., Ricky Lee — (UTM) McWhorter Scholarship (UTM), $1,000; HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $17,000.

Grantham, Ashley — (UTM) HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $16,000.

Haupp, Brittany Lynn — (UTM) Kiwanis Club scholarship, $1,000; Henry County Medical Center Auxiliary scholarship, $2,000; Michael D. Owens memorial scholarship, $700; total $3,700.

Hale, Dakota Blake — (UTM) Elizabeth Chenoweth Foundation scholarship, $500; total $500.

Hardy, Jacob Rowland — (UTM) HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; Two Rivers Bass Club-Paul Steele memorial scholarship, $500; total $16,500.

Johnston, Jimmy Dale Thompson — (UTM) David Murphy memorial scholarship, $400; total $400.

Lavine, Melissa — (UTM) HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $16,000.

Lewis, Candace Mae — (UTM) Dean's scholarship (UTM), $1,500 x 4 years; Tennessee Valley Realtor's Association scholarship, $500 x 4 years; Top 7 Award, $150; HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $28,000.

Lutz, Dustin Jerome — (UTM) HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; Music scholarship (UTM), $2,500 x 4 years; total $25,200.

Martin, Rachael Nicole — (UTM) Chancellor's Award (UTM), $3,000 x 4 years; HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $28,000.

Matthews, Amanda Jean — (UTM) Martha Polk scholarship, $500; HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $16,500.

Milam, Sarah Marie — (UTM) Dean's Award (UTM), $1,500; Cancer Care Center scholarship, $500; total $2,000.

Peeler, Chelsea Nicole — (UTM) Dean's scholarship (UTM), $1,500 x 4 years; HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; Kiwanis Club of Paris scholarship, $1,000; Academic Competitiveness grant, $750; Monte and Jane Goldston scholarship (Elizabeth Chenoweth Foundation), $500; Holley Credit Union scholarship, $500; Janusette Delphian Club scholarship, $500; total $25,250.

Polanco, Michael — (UTM) Dean scholarship (UTM), $1,500 x 4 years; total $6,000.

Rushing Hallie — (UTM) Dean's scholarship (UTM), $1,500; HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $17,500.

Shrader, Katie Lynn — (UTM) HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $16,000.

Story, Taylor Paige — (UTM) Vincent Implements scholarship, $200; HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $16,200.

Twibell, Evan Dane — (UTM) Henry Alumnus scholarship, $500; David Murphy memorial scholarship, $400; Elizabeth Chenoweth Foundation scholarship, $500; total $1,400.

Wagner, Samantha Megan — (UTM) HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $16,000.

Wheatley, Rachel Ann — (UTM) HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; Elizabeth Chenoweth Foundation, $500; total $16,500.

Wilbanks, Zachary — (UTM) HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $16,000.

Wolfe, LeeAnna Jean — (UTM) Color Guard (UTM), $250 x 1 semester; Academic Competitiveness grant (UTM), $375; HOPE scholarship, $4,000 x 4 years; total $16,625.

Humboldt Chronicle, Wednesday, May 27, 2009

HONORS DAY - Jessica L. Erickson of Medina recently received the Outstanding Sophomore Engineering Award during the annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This award is presented to a sophomore engineering student with at least 45 semester hours who has demonstrated scholarship and leadership ability, participated in extracurricular activities and shown professional achievement.
UT Martin Kid College celebrates 25 years

For 25 years, Kid College at the University of Tennessee at Martin has "inspired the desire to inquire" by providing children with an opportunity to have a fun, learning experience each summer.

This year, several new classes have been added to perennial favorites – Space Camp, How to Be a Pet Pro, Grossology!, Creepy Crawlies, Painting on Glass and Beginning Guitar.

Marking the anniversary, at the June 18 open house beginning at 6 p.m., a time capsule will be buried and all past Kid College children, teachers, volunteers, and others are invited to attend.

Also, previous participants have been asked to submit their favorite Kid College story – a special experience they had at Kid College.

The nine-day program for children who will attend kindergarten in 2009 through the fifth grade, is slated for June 8-18.

Parents may review the course descriptions and select the course(s) for their children based on their interest and the appropriate grade level. Children may register for one to five courses.

Everyone is invited to attend the open house from 4:30-6 p.m., June 18. All parents, family and friends are invited to drop by and meet the teachers, view displays and watch demonstrations. Refreshments will be served.

Registration fee is $40 per class and Kid College t-shirts are available for an additional $10.

Advance registration is required and space is limited. To register, call ECCE at 731-881-7082 or 731-881-7081 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/kidcollege.php. You may also view or download a Kid College brochure at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/kidcollege.php.

Three teams from the University of Tennessee at Martin's "Public Relations, Strategies and Implementations" class were asked to develop a public relations campaign for Community Developmental Services. The winning group receive a cash prize from CDS for their efforts. Pictured are: Ivy Fultz, Heather Scarano, communications and development coordinator of CDS, Jonathan Kiser, Cathy Cate, executive director of CDS, and Amanda Rogers, campaign manager of the winning group.
UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS HONORED - Eric Wilson, Matt Cook, and Whitney and Christopher Cates, all of Martin, were honored as University Scholars before spring commencement exercises, May 9, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Among the requirements for University Scholars, students complete the honors core curriculum of courses, additional small group courses with other University Scholars and a faculty-mentored, two-year research project. Dr. Dan McDonough, professor of history and director of Honors Programs, presented each student with a medallion and a certificate.

LOCAL FACULTY INDUCTED INTO PHI KAPPA PHI - Dr. Richard Garlitz, Dr. Robbie Montgomery and Dr. Bradley Ray, all of Martin, and Dr. Joyce Swan, of Selmer, were recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Membership is based upon academic achievements and exemplary character. Those eligible include graduate students in the upper 10 percent of their class, seniors in the upper 10 percent, and juniors in the upper 7.5 percent. Also eligible are faculty members who possess outstanding academic, research, creative and service achievements.
Economic summit planned

The third annual Mid-South Economic and Business Development Summit, “First Aid for West Tennessee,” is being sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneur and Economic Development Center, Dyersburg State Community College, Tennessee Small Business Development Center and WestStar.

Coleman Peterson, president/chief executive officer of Hollis Enterprises, LLC, human resources consulting firm founded in 2004 and a past executive vice president of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., will serve as the keynote speaker at the June 12 event that is slated from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the new DSCC Student Center. Peterson serves on several boards including Build-A-Bear Workshop, J.B. Hunt Transport and Northwest Arkansas Community College.

“Get Smart: What’s Hot and What’s Not”, will be presented by Alan Raymond, TVA Solar and Nuclear Energy Industries, target market specialist, and Tab Townsell, mayor, city of Conway. This session will focus on the unique ways to integrate downtown renovation, infrastructure improvement and industrial development for success. The session will also educate attendees on the many recruitment opportunities for “green” industries.

“Bio-Life Science and the New Economy: Opportunities for Agriculture” will be presented by Jan Bouten, TECworks executive director, and Pete Nelson, BLO Dimensions principal. This session will be an overview of the best practices and recent progress of the bio-life sciences industry in the Mid-South. In addition, special focus will be placed on new business opportunities for agricultural producers in the new, green, bio-life sciences economy.

“Creating a Community Band-Aid & Triage for Tough Economic Times” will focus on developing specific strategies that help communities and assist businesses during economically challenging times. Subjects to be discussed include effective local marketing strategies for small businesses, establishing a good relationship with local banks, shopping at home and growing a home-based small business on a shoestring budget. This session will be offered by Ron Acree, Tennessee Small Business Development Center director, Jackson State Community College, David Doyle, TSBDC, Southwest Tennessee Community College, Dr. Jamie Frakes, TSBDC/DSCC, and Sharon

See Summit, Page 4

Summit
From Page 1

Taylor-McKinney, Business Enterprise Resource Office, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

“Building a Bridge to the New Economy” will open the event and is being presented by Dr. Thomas H. Payne, UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and professor and interim chair of the Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business. Additionally, a workforce development best practices session will round out the day.

Opening remarks by UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, Dyersburg State Community College President Karen Bowyer, REED Center Director Hollie Holt and Dyersburg State TSBDC Director Dr. Jamie Frakes, will begin at 8:15 a.m.

Register on line at www.utm.edu/midsouthsummit. The registration fee is $50 and includes continental breakfast, materials and luncheon. Make check payable to UT Martin REED Center, 406 S. Lindell St., Martin, TN 38237, by fax at 731-587-7334, or by contacting Landy Fuqua at 731-587-7333.

For more information, call 731-587-7333.
LOCAL STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO PHI KAPPA PHI -
Kassi Abney, left, Kristy Crawford, Cara Hooten, Sara
Mitchell, Michael Musser, Casey Unger and Elizabeth
Williams, all of Martin, were recently inducted into
the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of
Tennessee at Martin. Membership is based upon aca-
demic achievements and exemplary character. Those
eligible include graduate students in the upper 10
percent of their class, seniors in the upper 10 percent,
and juniors in the upper 7.5 percent. Also eligible
are faculty members who possess outstanding aca-
demic, research, creative and service achievements.
An internationally respected honor society, Phi Kappa
Phi is the oldest and most selective organization that
recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all
fields of higher education. The society was founded
at the University of Maine in 1897 and currently has
chapters on the campuses of 282 colleges and univer-
sities in the United States, the Philippines and Puerto
Rico. Not pictured are Ahmed Alyousif, Joshua Dye,
Raymond Joseph Howard, Rachel Stephens, Lauren
Wilson, Megan Witherspoon and Andrey Yesipov of
Martin, and Andrea Wade of Dresden.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, May 27, 2009

UTM professor retiring

Dr. Paul Crapo, left, professor
of French and director of the Cen-
ter for Global Studies and Inter-
national Education, will retire on
June 30, after 14 years of service to
the university and the community.

Dr. Craig Darroch, professor of
animal science, and many other
faculty, students, staff and admin-
istrators offered Crapo their best
wishes at a retirement reception
hosted recently by the center.
Roberts recognized at UTM Honors Day

Kristyn D. Roberts, of Glenso, recently received the Milton Simmons Psi Chi Psychology Award during the 45th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award goes to an outstanding junior or senior psychology major who has achieved high grades in advanced studies. The award, consisting of a certificate and a check, is named in honor of Dr. Milton Simmons, founder and former chair of UT Martin's psychology program.

Local students inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

Kassi Abney, left, Kristy Crawford, Cara Hooten, Sara Mitchell, Michael Musser, Casey Unger and Elizabeth Williams, all of Martin, were recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Membership is based upon academic achievements and exemplary character. Those eligible include graduate students in the upper 10 percent of their class, seniors in the upper 10 percent, and juniors in the upper 7.5 percent. Also eligible are faculty members who possess outstanding academic, research, creative and service achievements. An internationally respected honor society, Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest and most selective organization that recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all fields of higher education.

The society was founded at the University of Maine in 1897 and currently has chapters on the campuses of 282 colleges and universities in the United States, the Philippines and Puerto Rico. Not pictured are Ahmed Alyousif, Joshua Dye, Raymond Joseph Howard, Rachel Stephens, Lauren Wilson, Megan Witherspoon and Andrey Yesipov of Martin, and Andrea Wade of Dresden.

Memorial at UT Martin

Area veterans were also recognized during a Memorial Day observance in Martin.

Col. John C. “Chuck” Harrison, Inspector General, Joint Force Headquarters, Tennessee National Guard, was the guest speaker at the ninth annual Memorial Day Commemoration at the University of Tennessee at Martin held Friday, May 22, at Glenn Gallien Auditorium in Gooch Hall on the UT Martin campus.

Col. Harrison served in and was commissioned as an armor officer in the Tennessee National Guard while attending UT Martin where he earned a bachelor's degree in history. He earned a master's degree in national security affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. He also completed Command and General State College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and, in 2004, received the U.S. Army Senior Service College Fellowship, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He has received the Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, among others. In 2005, he was inducted into the UT Martin ROTC Hall of Fame.

Capt. Jeff Crawford, assistant professor of military science and recruiting operations officer, served as master of ceremonies. Dr. Robert Mancusi, assistant professor of music, performed the national anthem, and Col. Bob Smith, retired UT Martin Physical Plant employee, offered the invocation. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, welcomed guests. And Gerry Gallimore, UT Martin building and grounds staff member and U.S. Army veteran, gave the benediction.

The UT Martin Department of Public Safety and members of the Martin Police Department honored area veterans with a gun salute. Also, the Tennessee National Guard presented the colors before the ceremony.

(See related article and photos on p. 16.)
Col. Harrison speaks at UTM Memorial Day observance

During the annual UT Martin Memorial Day commemoration, held Friday, May 22 at Glenn Gallien Auditorium in Gooch Hall on the UT Martin campus, the guest speaker, Col. John C. “Chuck” Harrison, Inspector General, Joint Force Headquarters, Tennessee National Guard, made the following remarks:

“Chancellor Rakes, fellow speakers, veterans, soldiers, cadets, and distinguished visitors, it is with great honor that I am here today to celebrate Memorial Day 2009 with all of you.

“I absolutely love coming back to Martin and have fond memories of my time here as a student at the university and as a cadet with the UT Martin ROTC detachment. Although my Army career has taken me all over the world, I still keep in close contact with many of the friends I made here and I particularly enjoy getting back here to visit the campus and the ROTC cadets. The cadre and my former professors like Dr. Lonnie Maness who helped inspire my military career with his lectures on the battles of the American Civil War.

“I am particularly pleased that my alma mater chooses to celebrate Memorial Day in the time honored way, which is memorializing our nation’s killed in action. Many of our fellow citizens don’t know the true meaning and history behind Memorial Day and confuse it with other important days set aside to honor our nation and its military veterans. Unlike Veterans Day, which honors all veterans, Memorial Day honors those that have paid the ultimate price for their country.

“The US Veterans Administration tracks the history of Memorial Day back to May 5th, 1868 when an organization of Union military veterans established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the nation’s war dead with flowers. Major General John A. Logan, the head of the organization—the Grand Army of the Republic—declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30th. Many believe that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom, just as they are right now on this beautiful campus.

“The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, American lives. Each one of those represents a family and they come from all parts of our American society. From the professional football player, who believed it was his duty to forgo a lucrative sports career to the young mother who joined the military out of a sense of duty and to make a secure future for her family. From your own community of Martin, we have lost some great Americans in battle since our country was attacked on September 11th 2001. SGT Dustin Laird was killed in action on the 1st of August 2006 while leading a convoy of supply trucks. I am told that he accomplished this mission over 100 times in his deployment to Iraq. Always motivated to do so. He was a graduate of Westview High School, an upright player and beloved brother and son. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Badge. Specialist Michelle Ring, another Martin citizen, died in a mortar attack on her base in Baghdad on July 5th 2007. A young mother, she enlisted in the Army and was assigned to a military police unit when she was killed.

“Many, if not most of you have heard of the courageous exploits of Marine Captain Brent Morell, a 1999 graduate of UTM who was killed on the 7th of April, 2004 in Iraq. By all accounts, Brent was an excellent athlete, a gregarious individual who loved the Marine Corps and his family. He volunteered and was selected to be a Recon Marine, the Marine’s most selective group of warriors. He excelled there, becoming a Recon Platoon Commander. I recently visited the bronze bust of him in the library here on campus and I encourage all of you to do so. I could tell you more stories about Brent, but the citation for his Navy Cross sums up his courage best of all. The Navy Cross is the nation’s second highest award, right below the Medal of Honor. He is a member of a very select group of individuals who have received this award. The citation reads as follows:

engaged in battle and reflecting on it afterwards, have asked ourselves the same question about the soldiers on our left and right and under our command. Well, the answer is simple; we get such men and women from places like the University of Tennessee at Martin and Martin, TN; places where the citizens of those communities know the value of and also the risks of commitment to something bigger than themselves. Communities that believe in honoring those that paid the ultimate price so that the rest of us may live in peace and freedom. Citizens of Martin, and all of you representing the surrounding area, thank you for building those kinds of communities and may God bless each of you. Thanks again for having me here today, it has been my honor.”

Richard Black, left, and Alan Owen, both of Gleason, were among those who attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Memorial Day Commemoration, May 22. Black served in the U.S. Air Force. Owen is Tennessee national executive committeeman for Sons of American Legion.

Veterans attending the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Memorial Day Commemoration, May 22, saluted during “Taps.” Among veterans attending was Bill Stout, center, Martin, UT Martin ROTC instructor from 1964-70. Stout served in the U.S. Army. Col. John C. “Chuck” Harrison, inspector general, Joint Force Headquarters, Tennessee National Guard, and a UT Martin alumnus, was the guest speaker.
DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, May 27, 2009

UTM names local students to spring semester Dean’s List

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

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

Students from Weakley County achieving Dean’s List honors include:

Dresden - Keely E. Adams with high honors, Zachary O. Baker with highest honors, Debra J. Barker with highest honors, Amy M. Bell with high honors, George N. Browning with highest honors, Alexander J. Bynum with honors, Albany N. Cianfarani with high honors, Kristin N. Copeland with highest honors, Alex V. Crowell with honors, Bethany N. Dane with high honors, Lacey M. Darden with honors, Stacey L. Darden with honors, Ryan L. Delaney with high honors, Christina P. Dilday with high honors, Erica B. Dilday with honors, Brittany E. Duggin with honors, Boyd J. Erwin with highest honors, Mancel C. Fincher with high honors, Carolyn E. Hagen with high honors, Derrick E. Hansen with honors, Justin B. Hatler with highest honors, Suzanne C. Jackson with highest honors, Lacie C. Kelley with honors, James C. Levister with highest honors, Christopher D. Mason with high honors, Sarah A. McAlpin with high honors, Kristi A. Mendez with high honors, Emily S. Moon with highest honors, Jeremy M. Moser with highest honors, Jennifer M. Nix with highest honors, Charles R. Nichols with high honors, Shonna R. Parker with honors, Allison L. Paschal with highest honors, Katie E. Pinkston with honors, Meagan H. Pittman with honors, Scarlett L. Reynolds with high honors, Brandy L. Sanford with highest honors, Abby B. Stoker with honors, Krista S. Suddath with honors, Matthew A. Thomas with highest honors, Ethan M. Tawathan with high honors, Andrea F. Wade with high honors, Brandon K. Williams with highest honors, Meera Yogeesh with high honors.

Dukedom - Charles V. Bailey with honors, Heather N. Yarbro with highest honors.

Gleason - Heather L. Allen with highest honors, Lucy D. Arnold with highest honors, Jordan A. Billingsley with highest honors, Justin B. Bowlus with high honors, Albert G. Collins with highest honors, Sadie M. Cook with high honors, Megan R. Crider with high honors, Andrew R. Francisco with highest honors, Christine E. Herdner with honors, Jill A. Mitchell with high honors, Graham J. Oliver with honors, Cody T. Owen with honors, Maylon G. Price with high honors, Kristyn D. Roberts with high honors.

Greenfield - Clint A. Ary with highest honors, Jennifer M. Bethel with honors, Brooke A. Bette with highest honors, Barbara A. Bridgewater with highest honors, Christina R. Brock with highest honors, Jonathan W. Caverd with honors, Cassie R. Chapel with highest honors, James L. Croom with honors, Justin N. Davidson with honors, David A. Dilday with honors, Chelsey P. Engler with highest honors, Lisa K. Franklin with honors, Tiffany B. Frazier with honors, Devera K. Galey with honors, Jennah B. Goodlow with honors, Taren P. Hatcher with highest honors, Kristan D. Jennings with highest honors, Morgan B. Jones with honors, Jamie M. Knott with highest honors, Benjamin J. Leason with honors, Nicci R. McAlister with highest honors, Robert L. McCall with highest honors, Clint A. Meal with honors, Emily L. Medlin with highest honors, James H. Moore with honors, Alyse A. Page with high honors, Jacob W. Pentecost with honors, Kelsey L. Phippen with honors, Keegan A. Stewart with honors, Anna M. Ussery with honors.

Martin - Kassi L. Abney with highest honors, Melissa J. Adams with highest honors, Abdullah Alhelai with honors, Abdullah Albrahim with highest honors, Mustafa Alibrahim with honors, Justin D. Allen with high honors, Ali Almutawa with high honors, Joseph S. Anderson with honors, Shila A. Baker with honors, Jessica N. Green with honors, Taejun N. Bea with high honors, Emily A. Belote with highest honors, Lindsey B. Blankenship with honors, Alyssa B. Bondurant with highest honors, Darla A. Bondurant with highest honors, Jessica K. Breeden with highest honors, Delia N. Brewer with high honors, John S. Britton with high honors, Jennifer L. Brooks with highest honors, Kyle H. Brooks with highest honors, Alyssa B. Brown with highest honors, Hannah S. Burdham with honors, Kevin E. Burdette with high honors, Lauren B. Burress with high honors, Ashley M. Byrd with honors, Christopher E. Capua with honors, Leslie A. Cannon with high honors, Charles R. Cavin with high honors, Kayla A. Cazeneve with high honors, Matthew R. Cook with highest honors, Steven W. Dalton with high honors, Cory S. Davis with honors, Jennifer L. DeYeso with honors, Candace M. Dean with highest honors, Michael L. Dobson with highest honors, Jordan P. Dorton with honors, Jeanette B. Doup with highest honors, Misty L. Dunlap with highest honors, David P. Dunn with honors, James C. Eisterhold with honors, Lee A. Elliott with high honors, Jason A. Evans with honors, Sierra J. Ezell with highest honors, Bryant J. Fishier with honors, Lauren E. Fleejer with high honors, Kirk A. Foe with honors, Christopher T. Fowler with highest honors, Victor O. Fulton with honors, Jordan R. Gardner with honors, Ryan C. Good with honors, Keishi J. Gibson with high honors, Victor S. Gossow with honors, Dahlia M. Haddad with honors, Amy V. Hall with highest honors, Nathan L. Hammond with high honors, Grant R. Harper with high honors, Martha N. Harrell with high honors, Angela K. Harris with highest honors, Wajida J. Hassoon with honors, Jennifer R. Havener with highest honors, Thomas H. Hester with honors, Heather L. Higgs with high honors, Rebecca K. Hinds with highest honors, Stephanie C. Holmes with honors, Heather M. Howard with high honors, Lacey M. Howard with honors, Raymond J. Howard with honors, Cameron M. Huff with honors, Lenetta D. Humphrey with high honors, Justin C. Hunt with high honors, James D. Hutchins with high honors, Chandra M. Jacobs with high honors, Seong Yoo Jeong with highest honors, Austin L. Kendall with honors, Theresa L. Kimmy with high honors, Jake R. King with honors, Kristy M. Krongan with highest honors, Anthony G. Kuhn with highest honors, Marilena D. Landry with highest honors, Laura J. Leahy with high honors, Becky L. Lee with honors, Brady S. Legens with highest honors, Joshua S. Lemons with highest honors, Colin M. Lester with highest honors, Rachel D. Lester with honors, Brandi A. Long with honors, Loren K. Mallari with high honors, Lorie K. Mallari with honors, Cristina S. Maloney with high honors, Jeffery D. McDaniel with high honors, Katherine A. McKeel with highest honors, James S. Melton with honors, Holly C. Michael with highest honors, Jessica E. Miles with high honors, Erica C. Miller with high honors, Winston R. Minchew with high honors, Sara A. Mitchell with highest honors, Maci W. Mount with highest honors, Michael L. Musser with highest honors, Kalea A. Muzzall with highest honors, Ashley N. Newton with highest honors, Terrill M. Orton with high honors, Audrey E. Osment with highest honors, Brandon H. Pate with highest honors, Punam Patel with high honors, Ronald C. Peckham with highest honors, Suzanne M. Peckham with high honors, John J. Perugini with highest honors, Jason B. Quick with high honors, Ross A. Ratchowski with honors, Angela D. Reddick with high honors, Jonathan D. Richwine with high honors, Angela D. Sams with honors, Rachel Sandifer with highest honors, Eric W. Seaver with honors, Christopher C. Shumate with honors, Caitlin E. Sinclair with honors, Lynsey D. Sinclair with honors, Brandi G. Skelton with honors, Heather M. Sowell with highest honors, Rachel G. Stephens with honors.
honors, Michael B. Stigall with honors, Spencer C. Taylor with high honors, Cara M. Thomas with highest honors, Kyle A. Thweatt with high honors, Jake E. Todd with honors, Ashley M. Totty with high honors, Elisabeth G. Unger with honors, Mark K. Unger with highest honors, Robert C. Unger with highest honors, Regina F. Vanceleave with high honors, Laura K. Vaughn with high honors, Hunter T. Vincent with highest honors, Matthew H. Waggener with honors, Emily D. Wall with high honors, Hillary J. Watson with high honors, Allison E. Webb with honors, Gregory T. West with honors, Cory A. Wilcox with honors, Harlin G. Wilkins with honors, Rachel G. Wilkinson with high honors, Elizabeth A. Williams with honors, Mallory K. Williams with highest honors, Ray O. Williams with honors, Savannah M. Wilson with honors, Brad E. Winter with honors, Lauren P. Witherspoon with high honors, Megan L. Witherspoon with highest honors, Lindley N. Woodward with honors, Michael S. Yandel with highest honors, Wesley R. Yates with high honors, Teena M. Young with highest honors

Palmerston - Rachel A. Reynolds with highest honors

Sharon - Crystal J. Autry with high honors, Kenra J. Caldwell with honors, Amber N. Carson with honors, Rachel E. Cooper with highest honors, Jessica D. Dallosta with honors, Olivia M. Daniel with honors, Barbara P. Ferrell with highest honors, Matthew L. Fitzgerald with highest honors, Brittany L. Gilbert with honors, Christopher R. Johnson with honors, Tonya E. Jordan with highest honors, Erika C. Klutts with high honors, Amy Kurrenley with highest honors, Kimberly A. Thomas with high honors, Sharon R. Thomas with honors, Krystal A. Wood with high honors.

UT Martin Kid College celebrates 25 years

For 25 years, Kid College at the University of Tennessee at Martin has “inspired the desire to inquire” by providing children with an opportunity to have a fun, learning experience each summer. This year, several new classes have been added to perennial favorites - Space Camp, How To Be A Pet Pro, Grossology!, Creepy Crawlies, Painting on Glass and Beginning Guitar.

Marking the anniversary, at the June 18 open house beginning at 6 p.m., a time capsule will be buried and all past Kid College children, teachers, volunteers, and others are invited to attend. Also, previous participants have been asked to submit their favorite Kid College story - a special experience they had at Kid College.

The nine-day program for children who will attend kindergarten in 2009 through the fifth grade, is slated for June 8-18. Parents may review the course descriptions and select the course(s) for their children based on their interest and the appropriate grade level. Children may register for one to five courses.

Grades kindergarten through second grade may choose from: Karate for Kids; Painting on Glass; Knights, Princesses and Castles; ABCs of Sign Language; Baking with Miss Baker; Abracadabra; Creepy Crawlies and Spooky Spiders; Grossology; Jr. Space Camp; Cheerleading Princesses; Party With Playdough; Music, Movement and More!; How to be a Pet Pro; Fabric Dying from Around the World; Sun-Catchers and Stained Glass Painting; Lights, Camera, Action!; Scrapbook Fun; Stellar Storybooks and many more.

Children in grades 3-5 may choose from: Science Central; Pioneer Life; Cheerleading Queens; Karate for Kids; Scrapbook Fun; Hocus-Pocus or Hocus Focus?: Beginning Guitar; Painting on Glass; Let’s Make Some Music!; Sr. Space Camp; Advanced Explorers of Ancient Egypt; Lights, Camera, Action!; Crafty Kids; Grossology and many more.

Everyone is invited to attend the open house from 4:30-6 p.m., June 18. All parents, family and friends are invited to drop by and meet the teachers, view displays and watch demonstrations. Refreshments will be served.

Registration fee is $40 per child and Kid College t-shirts are available for an additional $10. Advance registration is required and space is limited. To register, call ECCE at 731-881-7082 or 731-881-7081 or register online at http://www.utmem.edu/departments/ecce/kidcollege.php. You may also view or download a Kid College brochure at http://www.utmem.edu/departments/ecce/kidcollege.php.
FULTON STUDENT GRADUATES — Datheia Jones (second from left) of Fulton, along with Crystal Autry (left) of Ripley and Beth Mitchell (right) of Greenfield, were among the graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s recent spring commencement ceremony. Each of them received a bachelor of science in nursing degree. They visited with Neena Patterson, lab instructor of nursing.

WM STUDENT INCLUDED — Maddie Carrington (right) of Woodland Mills, joined by (from left) Mari Kate Blair of Dyersburg, Rebecca Hinds of Martin, Laura Heathcott of Dyersburg, Amy Hall of Martin and Jennie Brooks of Martin, were among the graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s recent spring commencement ceremony. Ms. Carrington, Ms. Blair, Ms. Heathcott and Ms. Hall each received a bachelor of science in education degree. Ms. Hinds received a bachelor of arts degree with a major in international studies and Ms. Brooks received a bachelor of science degree with a major in political science.
Gault Scholarships awarded to students

The University of Tennessee at Martin has awarded the 2009-10 Stanley Gault Scholarships to four West Tennessee students. Each student will receive $500 for the academic year.

The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit, leadership and a personal essay. First preference is given to the son or daughter of a Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. associate.

This year’s recipients are:

- Heather Baker, daughter of Mark and Jeanine Baker of Martin, who will be a junior this fall majoring in biology.
- Elizabeth Barnes, daughter of Cleo and Becky Barnes of Union City, who will be a junior majoring in elementary education this fall.
- Mary Beth French, daughter of Ricky and Sheila French of Springville, who will be a senior majoring in graphic design this fall.
- Amy Gardner, daughter of Rusty and Marchelle Gardner of Martin, who will be a sophomore this fall majoring in business management.

The scholarship was established in 1996 by former Goodyear Union City plant manager Dick Davies and his wife, Barbara, in honor of the former Goodyear chairman.

The scholarship was established as an endowment, with the principal invested and only the interest spent. Therefore, the scholarship will continue to be awarded and grow in future years.

To be considered for the Gault Scholarship, students must apply during the spring semester for the following academic year. Current or past recipients of the Gault Scholarship may be reawarded the scholarship in following years but must reapply each year to be eligible. Applications are available at Goodyear or the UT Martin Office of Development.

AMONG GRADUATES — Adam Vallee (right) of Union City, along with Doug Rich (left) of McKenzie and Jessica Watson of Lawrenceburg were among the graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony recently. Each of them received a bachelor of arts degree with a major in history.
OC STUDENT GRADUATES — Laura Hooper (right) of Hornbeak, joined by (from left) Lorie Mallari of Chino Hills, Calif., Scarlet Hixson of Hendersonville, Aaron Richardson of Kingston, Kristina Hixson of Dayton and Kyle Kragenbrink of Columbia, were among the graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony recently. They each received a bachelor of science degree with a major in biology.

EARN DEGREES — Kelsey Sigman (left) of Union City, along with Terrill Orton (center) of Martin and Daniel Burke of Springfield, were among graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony recently. Ms. Sigman and Burke each received a bachelor of science in business administration degree with a major in finance, while Ms. Orton received a bachelor of science in business administration degree with a major in marketing.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2009 Dean’s Lists for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Several Obion County residents were among the students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during recent spring commencement.

Among those who received undergraduate degrees were Brandon Wayne Orr, Laura Lynel Beasley and Laura Lynn Hooper, all of Hornbeak; Julie Renee Baker, Hunter Ray Stephens and Jessica Joyce Francis, all of Kenton; Jon Bradley Kendall and Lauren Ivy Fultz, both of Obion; Walter Scott Lee Hayes and Kayce Nicole Jones, both of Samburg; James Wesley Faulkner, Cristin Stephanie Maloney, Delana Jean McDaniel and Kady Elizabeth Elliot, all of South Fulton; Zachary Scott Buckland, John Kevin Dobbins and Emily R. Kendall, all of Troy; and Jennifer Lynn Crittendon, Ron Edward Parks, Kelly Marie Whitson, Megan Elizabeth Bing, Brooke Adair Parker, Micaela Mary Tabarez Spriggs, Garrett Struan Flannery, Brandi Leigh Grisham, Benjamin Donald Hager, Emily Jolene Hathaway, Dustin Lee Hickerson, Jeremy Kyle Keathley, James Lee Morris, James Lynn Rambo Jr., Kelsey Caitlin Rigman, Nathan Keith Woods, Madilyn Elizabeth Carrington, Allison Marie Theftford, Sarah V. Fuqua, Brett Erin Prather, R.B. Tolar, Adam Dixon Vallee, Zachary Trey Ward, Angie Hinojosa and Elizabeth G. Hudson, all of Union City.

The students who received graduate degrees include Jenna Leigh Litton and Patricia Kimberly Pierce, both of Kenton; and Vicky Roshun Lake and Latrice Monique Vann, both of Union City.

Two Fulton students received undergraduate degrees during recent spring commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Among the graduates were Dathea F. Jones and Terika SubViolet Taylor.

Honors: Jaymini D. Dave, South Fulton, Honors; Tanika L. Dickerson, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Charles S. Ellegood, South Fulton, High Honors; James W. Faulkner, South Fulton, Honors; Kyle D. Greer, South Fulton, Honors; Megan E. Grubbs, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Tianda V. Harris, South Fulton, Highest Honors; David Hartley, South Fulton, Honors; Margaret A. Hickman, South Fulton, High Honors; Kassie L. Hughes, South Fulton, High Honors; Allison T. Jones, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Tammy G. Malray, South Fulton, High Honors; Delana J. McDaniel, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Andrew H. Moore, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Robbie A. Peoples, South Fulton, High Honors; Nikki L. Pergande, South Fulton, Honors; Derrick W. Rachels, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Jonathan W. Smith, South Fulton, Honors; Jacqueline D. Tuck, South Fulton, Honors; Laura A. Williams, South Fulton, High Honors; Melissa E. Swift, Water Valley, Honors; Lauren A. Wray, Wingo, Highest Honors.
The Fulton-South Fulton Rotary Club is proud to have coordinated the awarding and presentation of over $369,450 during the last fifteen years to graduating seniors of Fulton and South Fulton High School. On May 14, 2009 we added to that amount another $23,000.00 in scholarships to graduating seniors of FHS and SFHS. We express our gratitude to participating businesses and individuals investing in the future of our community through the education of our youth today. Congratulations to all of the deserving students receiving awards.

AMANDA WALL
Daughter of David and Greta Wall
South Fulton High School
$2000
University of Tennessee - Martin
- David and Amelia Prater - $250
- All Kraft Erectors - $1000
- Edward Jones - $250
- Community Scholarship - $500

BRANDT SISSON
Son of Mike and Tammy Sisson
South Fulton High School
$1000
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Joe Davis Memorial - $300
- McKinney Construction - $250
- Community Scholarship - $400

ANNA SERATT
Daughter of Charles and Wanda Seratt
South Fulton High School
$1000
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Waymatic - $1000

HOLLY McCLEANAHAN
Daughter of Mike and Barbara McClanahan
South Fulton High School
$1000
University of Tennessee - Martin
- First State Bank - $500
- Community Scholarship - $500

KAYLA CROCKER
Daughter of David and Lori Crocker
South Fulton High School
$750
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Roberts Lodge - $250
- Full Line Exhaust - $500

LAUREN DOWDY
Daughter of Sarah Dowdy & Mark Dowdy
South Fulton High School
$750
University of Tennessee - Martin
- All Kraft - $500
- Community Scholarship - $250
Ferry Morse scholarship recipients announced

Ferry Morse Seed Co. in Fulton announces its 2009 scholarships winners. Each winner received $1,000.

Victoria Belle Abbott, daughter of Alan and Tracy Abbott of Rutherford, Tenn., is graduating from Gibson County High School. While in high school, she has been active in Future Teachers of America, serving as president, active in the Beta Club, and is a member of the Gibson County Marching Pioneers, where she served as band captain this year.

After graduation, she plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin to major in mathematics. She aspires to teach high school math in the future.

Holly Rene McClanahan, a South Fulton High School senior, is the daughter of Mike and Barbara McClanahan, and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Parker, and Mr. and Mrs. Cleo McClanahan, all of South Fulton. She is graduating as a Tennessee State Scholar, and finishing in the top five of her class with high honors. She is the captain of the varsity cheerleading squad, a yearbook staff member, class officer, and Beta Club officer. She was chosen as senior class favorite, is in the senior Who's Who, and is active in several clubs. She is a member of South Fulton Baptist Church. Her future plans are to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall, with a major in Nursing, to specialize in Pediatric Nursing.

Jonathan Michael Barnhart and Sarah Anne Jenkins, both of Cordova, and Kristin Lee Shick of Collierville were recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Rushing inducted into Honor Society

Natalie Lynn Rushing, of Fulton, was recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Membership is based upon academic achievements and exemplary character. Those eligible include graduate students in the upper 10 percent of their class, seniors in the upper 10 percent, and juniors in the upper 7.5 percent. Also eligible are faculty members who possess outstanding academic, research, creative and service achievements.

An internationally respected honor society, Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest and most selective organization that recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all fields of higher education. The society was founded at the University of Maine in 1897 and currently has chapters on the campuses of 282 colleges and universities in the United States, the Philippines and Puerto Rico.
Ut Martin names local students to Dean’s List

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

Crystal M. Austin, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Catherine E. Bailey, Adamsville, Honors
Spencer K. Bean, Adamsville, High Honors
Danielle N. Birk, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Jennifer P. Burks, Adamsville, Honors
Robyn H. Daniel, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Lauren E. Finley, Adamsville, Honors
Blake J. Gibbs, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Tiffany A. Greene, Adamsville, Honors

Gerry L. Hamm, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Melissa T. Hester, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Shayna L. Johnson, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Chelsea E. Phillips, Adamsville, Honors
Ronnica D. Ricketts, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Holly R. Spencer, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Sara M. Shelton, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Elizabeth J. Thompson, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Autumn M. Waller, Adamsville, High Honors
Eric W. Allen, Bethel Springs, Honors
Jessica L. Goodrum, Bethel Springs, High Honors
Lacie D. Hill, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
Sheila C. Hurst, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
Beth A. McDonald, Bethel Springs, Honors
Marsha Parsons, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
Kirby L. Redmon, Bethel Springs, Honors
Tiffany M. Russell, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
Nicholas J. D’Acquisto, Finger, High Honors
Sharon D. Johnson, Finger, High Honors
Jacob C. Moore, Finger, Highest Honors
Carolyn L. Reed, Finger, Highest Honors
Courtney N. Harris, Guys, Honors
Kayce J. Howard, Guys, Highest Honors
Brian J. Fullwood, Michie, Highest Honors
Pamela A. Horner, Michie, Highest Honors
Adam Z. Jones, Michie, Highest Honors
Bianca J. Macias, Michie, Highest Honors
Sherra L. McKinney, Michie, Highest Honors
Wendy K. Pittman, Michie, High Honors
Courtney A. Weatherford, Milledgeville, High Honors
Brandon K. Hamm, Ramer, Highest Honors
Amber D. Hurst, Ramer, High Honors
Joyce K. Strickland, Ramer, Highest Honors
Colton N. Teague, Ramer, Highest Honors
Jennifer Weathers, Ramer, Highest Honors
Heather R. Albrighton, Selmer, Highest Honors
Steven C. Barton, Selmer, High Honors
Amanda L. Berry, Selmer, Honors
Kevin C. Binger, Selmer, High Honors
Christopher B. Carroll, Selmer, Highest Honors
Jenny L. Drumright, Selmer, Highest Honors
David M. Duncan, Selmer, Highest Honors
Lacy J. Elam, Selmer, Highest Honors
Ashley L. Ervin, Selmer, Honors
Megan R. Evans, Selmer, Highest Honors
Sarena J. Evans, Selmer, Highest Honors

Alissa J. Gann, Selmer, Highest Honors
Marquetta L. Gant, Selmer, Honors
Amy N. Goodman, Selmer, Highest Honors
Amanda L. Griffin, Highest Honors
Charlie R. Horton, Selmer, Honors
Denise W. King, Selmer, High Honors
Erik L. McElrath, Selmer, High Honors
Elizabeth A. McLean, Selmer, Highest Honors
Elizabeth S. Palomino, Selmer, High Honors
Billy A. Patterson, Selmer, Highest Honors
John B. Pickle, Selmer, High Honors
Karen E. Pratt, Selmer, High Honors

Allison B. Purtteman, Selmer, Honors
Sarah R. Rowland, Selmer, High Honors
Sonya A. Ruby, Selmer, Highest Honors
Jessica A. Ryan, Selmer, Highest Honors

Amanda L. Shelton, Selmer, Highest Honors
Julie M. Smith, Selmer, Highest Honors
Joshua R. Steele, Selmer, Honors
Cynthia G. Stephens, Selmer, Highest Honors
Nicole M. Stoppa, Selmer, High Honors
Sandra K. Thompson, Selmer, High Honors
Daniel S. Vargason, Selmer, High Honors
Brooks L. Weatherford, Selmer, Highest Honors

Mary E. Weaver, Selmer, Highest Honors
Amanda J. Whitaker, Selmer, Highest Honors
Daniel L. Wolford, Selmer, Highest Honors
Aaron L. Killingsworth, Stantonville, Highest Honors
Rhianna C. Pitts, Stantonville, Highest Honors
Jennifer L. Taylor, Stantonville, Highest Honors
Teaching careers await custodial workers who earn degrees

Many college graduates expect to “clean up” once they earn their degrees. Things were different for Boyd Joseph (B.J.) and Tiphanie Erwin of Dresden, who cleaned up on the way to receiving their diplomas.

Both worked as student custodians at the University of Tennessee at Martin while completing degree requirements. B.J. received his degree in secondary history May 9, one year after his wife, Tiphanie, earned a degree in human learning pre-K-3. Both are trading in their custodial positions to become schoolteachers.

B.J. and Tiphanie are Weakley County residents and Dresden High School graduates. The couple met at church and married in 2004, the same year Tiphanie graduated from high school.

Tiphanie started working for the university’s physical plant the day after her classes ended. As a part-time employee, she knew she could schedule work around her class schedule.

B.J. began working at the E.W. James & Sons grocery store in Dresden in 1991 as a high school sophomore, where he remains a part-time employee. He came to UT Martin in fall 1993 but ended up on academic probation “because I really didn’t want to be in college.”

He dropped out shortly after the 1994 spring semester began. Time passed, “And I guess I had to grow up and decided … that I wanted to do something else with my life, … ” he said. B.J. had long dreamed of becoming a teacher, so he joined Tiphanie in spring 2005 as a UT Martin student.

Family finances required that he work, and noticing how the physical plant scheduled Tiphanie’s hours around her class schedule, B.J. applied for a student worker’s position on the custodial staff.

He was hired and worked up to 20 hours weekly for the university (a policy for student workers) while also keeping his part-time job at the grocery store.

His work hours usually totaled 30 hours in addition to his classes and homework, so time was precious.

Tiphanie began working at the Paul Meek Library and then transferred about a year later to Gooch Hall. Her days usually started at 5 or 6 a.m., and she worked until her first class began.

Depending on her accumulated hours, she sometimes returned to work after class. During the summers, she worked from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. cleaning restrooms, dusting, sweeping and sweeping floors, changing light bulbs and washing windows – whatever was needed. “I also worked weekend crew,” she said. “The semester 1 student-taught … I worked the weekends.”

B.J. also worked mostly in Gooch Hall, which involved cleaning restrooms, floors and desks, emptying garbage and other duties. “Basically, you have to make sure the building is ready for classes,” he said, adding, “One thing it did do, and I think it was good working custodian work, is we both want to be teachers, and we’re doing custodian work in a classroom and in a school building. You see what the janitor does. If it wasn’t for the custodian crew, the buildings wouldn’t be in any shape,” he said.

Meshing work and academics was challenging. “You’d go to your classes and go to work, and you’d go home, and you’d have all that homework to do,” Tiphanie said. Then she was up at 4 a.m. to start the next day. Once her work was done, she would sometimes sit in the janitor’s closet to study. “I hated night classes,” B.J. remembered as Tiphanie laughed in agreement, “Because you’d go home at 9 o’clock at night.” He added, “Anything worthwhile is not going to be easy. You’re going to have to work.”

Despite the long hours, they were never discouraged to the point of quitting their jobs or school.

While 15- to 17-hour days weren’t unusual, they saw the experience as preparation for the teaching world. “Teachers don’t have 8 to 3 jobs really,” B.J. said, well aware that teachers work much more beyond the regular school day with class preparation, grading papers and evening activities.

As part-time workers, B.J. and Tiphanie weren’t issued the standard work clothes worn by physical plant employees, so they dressed appropriately for the work they performed. Both would often wear their work clothes to class, and they sometimes were treated differently.

“I mean, that happens everywhere you go,” he said. “But by and large, most of the people … were really supportive. They were really good.”

And, when people learned that Tiphanie and he were students, they became even more supportive of what the couple was trying to accomplish.

On a personal level, the jobs eliminated their biases about people who do similar work. “It’s legitimate work. It’s necessary work,” he said.

“They teach you in the education classes over here to make friends out of the school secretary and the janitor, because they’re two of the most important people in the school. And after you’ve walked in the janitor’s shoes and (have) seen what the janitor does, you realize that they’re right. You realize that they are very important to the school – anywhere really.”

Both like to meet new people, and their custodial work offered the side benefit of working with international students employed by the physical plant.

“That was a new experience for me,” Tiphanie said. Besides exposure to the different cultures, she said the couple provided assistance to international students by checking their class assignments and even explaining how to order food at the local McDonald’s.

And, the custodial work did have its memorable moments. They recalled arriving early one morning and were waiting in the Gooch Hall lobby to clock in when they saw something run across the hall floor. A skunk had entered an open door and proceeded to find a hiding place.

“We searched for that thing for most of the day and we could not find it,” B.J. said.

Fortunately, nobody was sprayed, and a staff member eventually saw it and, from a safe distance, ran the intruding skunk out a door.

Remarkably, B.J. earned his degree in four-and-a-half years, while Tiphanie graduated in only four.

Education classes, in particular, require a significant time commitment outside of class; so to complete degrees amid busy work schedules is a significant accomplishment. Each has also excelled with the tests required for teacher licensing. Tiphanie is fully licensed, and B.J. was recognized for a high score on the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) test. He’s also passed the history certification test and is waiting on scores from the geography and government tests. Teachers must
“Both B.J. and Tiphanie have worked for me for several years and have done an outstanding job,” Kosta said. “We have been blessed to have student workers like them over the years, and I do rely on them to keep our campus as good as it can be.”

Beyond achieving their personal goals to land teaching positions, regular employment is a financial necessity. As part-time workers, neither qualified for employee educational benefits. Tiphanie earned the Hope Lottery Scholarship, but they both had to take out loans along the way. "But that makes you work harder," B.J. said. "You know, when it's your own dime instead of your parents' money or the government's money, you work harder."

The Erwins' experiences have left them in a good position to offer others advice on achieving success. "Keep your eye on the goal," Tiphanie said, while B.J. carried that thought a step further. "... Sometimes people have to grow up," he said, noting that he speaks from experience. "I've seen people that get out of school, do like I did and work in the workforce, and then come back to college later on and do really well." Other students he sees "just need to get their priorities straight."

Keeping priorities straight isn't a problem for B.J. and Tiphanie Erwin. No job was ever too big, too dirty or started too early in the morning as they worked in and out of the classroom to earn degrees. And, nobody appreciates clean classrooms more than the Erwins who are about to realize their dream of becoming teachers.

The Erwins continue to live in Dresden and would like to stay in the region, so they're busy applying for teaching positions. Tiphanie is substituting for a teacher on maternity leave at a McKenzie pre-school and also substituted in Weakley County Schools. "The problem education, I think, is facing that everybody else has seen is that a lot of the older teachers aren't retiring," B.J. said, who remains employed by the university until the end of the summer. Dennis Kosta, the university's custodial manager, is pleased to have B.J. return following graduation. He offers high praise for the Erwins and their work in the physical plant.
LOCAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MATH CONTEST - The 53rd annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association High School Mathematics Contest recently was conducted at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Approximately 6,000 of the state's top mathematics students competed at 23 different testing centers located across the state. Examinations were given in six areas: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre Calculus, Statistics and Calculus. Students from Westview High School who participated in the contest at the UT Martin testing site were (first row from left) Rachel Samuel, Melissa Darroch, Chloe Nance, Zalak Patel, Nicole Owen, Emily Kurtz, Sydney McClure, Nada Hussein, Julie Reddick, Kyeongmee Kim; (second row) Abraham Haddad, Merritt Spence, Sarah Wade, Franco D'Aprile, Chantia Brown, Laura Gullet, Noor Haddad, Mark Maloney, Max Gearin, Rachel Coleman, Ezra Nace, Sponsor Margaret Greer; (third row) Kristin McCloud, Zack Austin, Nick Shell, Justin Arnold, Saumil Patel, Elliott Coleman, Tremain McKinley, Reid Cates, Hyeontae Kim, Grace Ann Swain, Marianela D'Aprile, Megan Ablies, Timothy Bergman and Matt Caldwell. Rachel Samuel, a student of Carol Stephan, received the third place trophy in the Geometry competition. Marianela D'Aprile, a student of Margaret Greer's, received the first place trophy in the Pre-Calculus competition. Timothy Bergman, a student of Mrs. Greer's, received the second place trophy in the Pre-Calculus competition. Ezra Nance, a student of Mrs. Greer's, received the first place trophy in the Calculus and Advanced Topics competition.

Weakley County
2009 UT Martin graduates

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Dresden – Zachary O'Neal Baker; Sunni Christine Jackson; George Nathan Browning III; Albany Deshawn Cianfarani; Andrea Faythe Wade; Kristin Nicole Copeland; Boyd Joseph Erwin; Kaleena Ann Muzzall; Jessica Marie Neisler; Heather Lanece Cheatham; James Chad Levister; Joseph Summers Winstead;
- Gleason – Heather Lynn Allen; Justin Blake Bowles; Albert Glen Collins; Kristyn Dawn Roberts; Evan Marshall Trevathan;
- Greenfield – Clint A. Ary; Pamela Beth Mitchell; Jacob Wade Pentecost; Chelsey Patrice Engler; Robert Lynn McCall II; Jenny Elizabeth Kelley; Rickey Lynn Mask;
- Martin – Sarah Lynn Baringer; Jonathan Daniel Richwine; Courtney Nicole Vallee; Laura Jayne Leathy; Orton Terrill; Nathaniel Thomas Reinhard; John Stanley Britton; Jennifer Lea Brooks; Jessica Kiley Breeden; Alyssa Blair Brown; Amy Virginia Hall; Colin Matthew Lester; Holly Cheree Michael; Amber Nicole Starks Lamb; Kimberly Jo Laster; Christopher Michael Cates; Matthew Russell Cook; Rebecca Keaton Hinds; Eric Christopher Wilson; Eric William Seavers; Kimberly Sarah Kraft; Cara Marguerite Thomas; Michael Lee Dobson;
- Palmersville – Rachel Ann Reynolds;
- Sharon – Rachel E. Cooper; Jessica Dru Dallosta; Samantha Marin Porter; Christopher Ryan Johnson.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Dresden – Whitney Jean Hopper;
- Martin – Katie Dane;
- Sharon – Melissa Leeann Estes.

Roy Heatherly, Jackson Sun president and publisher, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simik, University of Tennessee acting president, conferred degrees.
Tami Kesling, wife of Bob Kesling, director of broadcasting and voice of the Vols Network, received her bachelor’s degree Saturday, May 9, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Tami earned her degree through UT Online, the University of Tennessee's online degree program located at the Martin campus. She is joined by Bob and their daughters, Allison (left) and Melissa (right). The Keslings reside in Knoxville.

Lester Hudson, of Memphis, Mike Hicks, of Jacksonville, Fla., Djerko Riedewald, of the Netherlands, and Donald Chapman, of Atlanta, Ga., were among graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony on May 9, 2009. Each of them received a Bachelor of University Studies degree. Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee acting president, conferred degrees.
LOCAL GRADUATES – Kelsey Sigman, of Union City, Terrill Orton, of Martin, and Daniel Burke, of Springfield, were among graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony on May 9. Sigman and Burke each received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with a major in finance; Orton received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with a major in marketing.

LOCAL GRADUATES - Crystal Autry, of Ripley, Datheia Jones, of Fulton, Ky., and Beth Mitchell, of Greenfield, were among graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony on May 9, 2009. Each of them received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. They are pictured with Neena Patterson, lab instructor of nursing. Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee acting president, conferred degrees.

UT Martin awarded more than $16,000

The Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners has awarded grants totaling $200,000 to seven state-funded universities. These grant funds allow Tennessee colleges to purchase instructional computer and laboratory equipment to enhance education for students in accredited architectural, engineering and interior design programs.

Receiving grant funds this year in The Jackson Sun’s coverage area is the University of Tennessee Martin. A grant of $16,322 was awarded to the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences. Funds will be utilized to purchase a shake table and universal power module for the structural dynamics laboratory.

Grant funding is provided from the board’s revenues or reserve funds. The Tennessee General Assembly and Governor Phil Bredesen authorized funding for the grants. Call (800) 256-5758 (toll-free).
High school grads get pleasant surprise

Five former students get money from auctioned car, donated by city of Jackson

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Recent North Side High graduate Ryan House couldn't believe his luck when he was selected as one of five seniors to receive $200.

"I thought they had the wrong person," said House, 18.

He plans to save the money as he prepares to head to Nashville Auto Diesel College.

The school system decided in April to auction a 1993 Ford Crown Victoria that was donated to the system by the city of Jackson's surplus of vehicles.

School officials asked South Side High School's auto body class to repair the car to prepare it for auction.

Five bids were made on the car.

Superintendent Nancy Zambito said the vehicle sold for a little more than $800.

The system distributed the proceeds in equal shares to one senior from each of the system's five high schools.

A computer program randomly selected winning students.

Remaining students awarded in the drawing were: Amy Baxter, 18, of Madison Academic Magnet High; Amanda Daniels, 17, Jackson Central-Merry High; Megan Riley, 17, of South Side High; and Chantel James, 18, of Liberty Technology Magnet High.

James plans to spend the money shopping.

In the fall, James will attend Lane College and wants to be a nurse.

Daniels will head to the University of Memphis to major in biology and wants to become a pediatrician.

She said she would save her money to purchase necessities for dormitory life in the fall.

"I'll have to buy a refrigerator and other things," Daniels said.

Daniels' mother, Tammy, said the surprise money would help the family's budget to prepare her daughter for college.

Grads

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Tennessee Martin to study dance education.

"How lucky can someone be?" said Peggy Riley about her daughter Megan. "I know she'll be wise about spending this money. This was a very nice thing that the school system did."

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—Tajuana Cheshier, 425-9643

Ryan House, left, Amy Baxter, Amanda Daniels, Megan Riley and Chantel James each received a check from the Jackson-Madison County School System from the sale of a Crown Victoria donated to the school from the Jackson Police Department.
Kimberly Kraft, of Martin, Jana Dickey, of New Johnsonville, Jenny Drumright, of Selmer, and Romiell Dunlap, of Shannon, Miss., were among graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony on May 9. Kraft received a Bachelor of Music degree; Dickey received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in psychology; Drumright received a Bachelor of Science in Education degree; and Dunlap received a Bachelor of University Studies degree. Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee acting president, conferred degrees.