Tigrett eighth-graders, parents gear up for high school

BY TAJUANA CHERIES
TCHESHER@JACKSONSUN.COM

Tigrett Middle School eighth-graders chanted, “ninth grade is the beginning of the rest of my life” while their parents, in a separate session, were reminded to stay active in their child’s school — even if it is high school.

The meetings were part of the Parent Information Extravaganza held at the school this week.

“TIGRETT FROM PAGE 81

said. “They need to hear from someone who is right there living it, and doing it.”

Tigrett students wrote questions for the college students to answer during their session.

Bethel University sophomore John Campbell told students to start high school off with their best efforts.

“In high school, I was labeled as a lazy student,” said Campbell, a 20-year-old physical education major. “I took things too easy my freshman and sophomore years and that made it hard to pull my grade point average up in my senior year.”

University of Tennessee Martin senior Jacqueline Boyland said she gave the eighth-graders advice she wished she had received when she was an eighth-grader.

Tigrett parent Andre Walker talks about involvement in his daughters’ lives during the Parent Information Extravaganza.

UT Martin senior Jacqueline Boyland answers Tigrett eighth-graders’ questions during the Parent Information Extravaganza Thursday night.

TAJUANA CHESHER/THE JACKSON SUN
"I wish someone would've told me about all the things that can throw you off track — like gang activity, sex education and other things that can make you fail," said Boydland, an education major. "I hope they listened about keeping their grades up. It's harder to go from the bottom to the top than to maintain high grades and go even higher."

After the session, 14-year-old Keerrica Smith said she plans to take the college students' advice.

"I'm going to keep my head in my books," Tigrett parent Andre Walker shared his thoughts in a session facilitated by youth mentor Rocky Miller. "I'm on top of everything," said Walker, who has four daughters. "I'm on Facebook and Twitter."

"I've told them that I've been 14 before and everything they're trying to do, I've already done. I've told my children that education is important and to take advantage of it while they can," Epperson said. This is the first time the school has held a meeting for eighth-grade parents and students on preparing for high school and parent involvement.

Nearly 100 parents signed in. "It turned out really well," Epperson said. "We're definitely having this next year."

---

Betty Stafford Scott, has met the objective and rigorous standards approved by the U.S. Supreme Court and the American Bar Association, and qualified for board certification in Family Law Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. The National Board of Trial Advocacy is dedicated to the identification of lawyers who possess an enhanced level of skill and expertise in family law trial advocacy, and have demonstrated integrity and dedication to the interests of their clients and their clients' children, thereby improving the professional competence of lawyers.

In addition, as of September, 2009, Scott is one of only twelve attorneys in the state of Tennessee to be certified by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization as a Family Law Specialist. Scott, of the Stafford Scott Law Office in Jackson, has concentrated her practice on cases involving family disputes, divorce, custody of children, equitable division of marital property, mediation, child support, alimony, probate, pre-nuptial agreements, appellate, termination of parental rights, and a number of other areas of litigation. She is also certified as a Tennessee Mediator. Scott graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin, Magna Cum Laude, with a degree in business administration, and from the Nashville School of Law. She is a member of the Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women, the Lawyers' Association for Women, Anne Harris Schneider Chapter, and a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, Family Law Section. She was awarded the Jackson Business and Professional Women, and the Lawyers' Association for Women, Anne Harris Schneider Chapter, scholarships. She is an active supporter of the Pro Bono Project, which provides legal assistance to indigent people.
A TOAST TO TONY: SEVEN-COURSE MEAL IS FOUR-STAR SALUTE TO CHEF FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE

By Jennifer Biggs
Published Sunday, May 2, 2010

Chef Tony Oliveira's voice cracked and the dining room filled with quiet sniffs as he offered thanks to friends and family who helped make his dream come true.

For one night last week, Restaurant Iris lost both its name and chef. The sign out front was changed to "Tony O's", and Iris chef/owner Kelly English was running food and working the line as Tony ran the show. He designed a seven-course menu and threw a dinner to fund a cause close to his heart: osteosarcoma research at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

He's at home at St. Jude as much he is in the kitchen, having been in and out of treatment for the past 16 years. The 28-year-old's cancer has returned again, and the prognosis is grim.

"There's not a lot of chemo that I haven't taken, so there's not a lot left," Tony said.

Yet the mood last Sunday was mostly festive and uplifting. It's hard to be sad when you gather a group of Louisiana chefs and put them in one kitchen. Too much life to celebrate. Too much food to eat, drink to enjoy, memories to share.

Tony, who grew up in Memphis, was 12 when he was diagnosed with cancer. He had competed in the Iron Kids Triathlon and was training for nationals when his parents noticed he wasn't keeping up.

"His times were getting worse, he wouldn't train, he was losing weight," recalled his father, Cody Oliveira.

The kid who had never been sick had lymphoma.

He underwent chemotherapy and went into remission, but the cancer quickly came back. A bone marrow transplant at 14 brought him several years of a healthy life, and Tony went to the University of Tennessee at Martin on a baseball scholarship.

"He got tired of it after a few years and came on home," Cody said. "He started a landscaping business and went to the University of Memphis."

Tony grew tired of landscaping and went to work at Three Oaks Grill, where he fell in love with the restaurant business.

But the cancer wasn't done with him.
"They found a spot on his hip, and that's when the osteosarcoma -- bone cancer -- hit him," Cody said.

The convalescence and chemotherapy took their toll, and Tony was down for a few months, but soon afterward, he was ready for culinary school.

He enrolled at the John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La., and excelled in school, despite being warned away from it.

"My dad is in the food business, and he didn't want me to do it. He said, 'If you go into the restaurant business, you'll never have a life.'"

But Tony was a star, quickly taking up with the older, more experienced students. He was awarded a scholarship to study at the Institut Paul Bocuse in Lyon, France, one of only three American students there at the time (another was classmate Chris Price, who cooked with him on Sunday).

"I've been a professional chef for 35 years and have taught for 11," said Randy Cheramie, associate dean of the John Folse Culinary Institute, who also cooked at the Tony O's dinner. "I've taught a lot of kids, and Tony ranks in the top three ever."

After Bocuse, Oliveira took a job as a sous chef at La Tour in Vail, Colo., moving up to chef de cuisine after just three months.

It lasted for about a year, until February 2009. He lost control of his hand while working in the kitchen, and, having been through several relapses by that point, he knew something was wrong. As it turned out, he had a brain tumor. He had to let the job go, and he came home and back to St. Jude for treatment.

"He ended up having two brain surgeries, tumors removed from his lungs, his spleen removed; he had five major surgeries from February 2009 to December 2009," Cody said.

Everything seemed to be going well. English hired him at Iris in May 2009, letting him work between surgeries. Tony and his fiancée, Brandi Hannon, were excited about their upcoming wedding and plans to move back to Colorado, where Tony had been offered the executive chef job at a restaurant opening after the June wedding.

"Then in early March, things changed again," Cody said. "You realize you don't put your plans in concrete."

Tony now has tumors in his lung and attached to his superior vena cava, a major artery. Because of the rate of growth, the placement of the vena cava tumor and the relapses he has had, surgery is not an option.

"One day he called and said, 'I'm done. I'm going to have fun for the rest of my life,'" English said. "But
then he asked to come back, because when he's working, he's working."

Tony went back to work, but accelerated his wedding plans. He and Brandi were married in March, went on a honeymoon and came back to prepare for the big dinner.

English, also from Louisiana, arranged the dinner and handed over his restaurant, but Tony picked his staff, including Cheramie, Price and Drake Leonards, his close friend and classmate who is now a cook at the prestigious Café Boulud in New York.

Among the dinner guests were two of Tony's oncologists, Dr. Melissa Hudson and Dr. Earle Weeks, who are married to each other. Hudson is at St. Jude, and Weeks is in private practice at Integrity Oncology; she treated Tony for years, and now Weeks is his doctor.

Hudson explained that because there are so many treatment options available now, some patients end up surviving one type of cancer to get another.

"What she means by being successful is that you might live long enough to develop something else," Weeks said. "Tony has had two brain surgeries, two lung surgeries. We're treating with chemotherapy to keep his disease in check as long as we can."

The chemo he's on now -- two days after the dinner he was taking treatments -- might be hard on him, Tony said.

"I'm staying strong, though. My family is strong, my wife is strong. We're dealing with it one day at a time," Tony said.

And he knows every day is a gift.

"Thirty years ago, we couldn't have done this, kept him alive," Weeks said. "He's been doing this for 15 years, which means he lived long enough to find someone who loves him and he married. He's productive and he loves what he does. This is something we couldn't have known if we hadn't been able to treat him."

-- Jennifer Biggs: 529-5223

---

Dr. Keith Carver has been appointed interim vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs. Most recently, Carver spent four years as assistant vice chancellor for development at the University of Tennessee, Martin.
The University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk ROTC Battalion inducted five alumni into the ROTC Alumni Hall of Fame at a recent ceremony.


"The ROTC Hall of Fame induction ceremony is an event that recognizes the achievements of five distinguished University of Tennessee at Martin graduates," said Lt. Col. Angela M. Odom, professor of military science. "We are honored to induct these individuals into the ROTC Hall of Fame, as they have made significant contributions to the service of our nation."

Maj. Gen. James R. Sholar, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2008, was the guest speaker. Sholar assumed the position of deputy commanding general, United States Army Reserve Command, in 2009. Previously, he commanded the 88th Regional Support Command, Fort McCoy, Wis., from September 2006 to July 2009. He also served as senior commander at Fort McCoy from January 2008 to July 2009.

Retired Lt. Gen. John Castellaw, United States Marine Corps, also attended the ceremony. He is a UT Martin alumna and a member of the ROTC Hall of Fame.

UT Martin ROTC Alumni Hall of Fame has six general officers among the 17 total. A total of 631 officers have been commissioned through the Department of Military Science and Leadership since 1964, when the Army awarded the university "senior" ROTC status.

Maloan currently serves as the deputy adjutant general, third in command of the Army Tennessee National Guard.

Maloan received a direct commission in 1988 in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. Prior to receiving his commission, he served as an enlisted member of the 164th Support Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard. Maloan serves as presiding judge and chancellor of the 27th Judicial District, which includes Weakley and Obion counties.

Prior to his arrival to the Army staff, Adams served as the deputy brigade commander of 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Adams is currently serving as a senior strategic planner in the Office of the Director of the Army staff. He was commissioned a second lieutenant of armor in December 1984, upon graduation from UT Martin.

He received a bachelor of science degree in business administration. Adams' military education includes the Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Infantry Mortar Platoon Officer Course, the Heavy Weapon Systems Officer Course, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College, where he was awarded a Master of Science in national security strategy.

Benedict serves as the executive officer to the Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Benedict was commissioned in U.S. Army Signal Corps in August 1985, after graduating from UT Martin with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering technology. He holds a master's degree in telecommunications from Webster's University and a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Danley retired from the U.S. Army in 2003. He attended UT Martin, where he received a bachelor of science degree in natural resources management and was commissioned in infantry as an ROTC Distinguished Graduate in 1978. He also holds a master's degree in educational administration and supervision from UT Martin.

Walker is the commander of the Defense Energy Support Center Europe and Africa (DESC-EA). He has served more than 29 years in the Army in assignments around the world. He was commissioned in 1982 as a quartermaster officer.

Walker holds a master of science degree in logistics management from the Florida Institute of Technology and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.
THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
Memphis, Tennessee

Student achievements

Monday, May 3, 2010

Cheryl Lynn Lockhart and Stephen Lindbergh Hughes, both of Tipton County, and Joshua R. Weiss of Germantown 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.

Sarah K. Saunders of Bartlett recently received the Intercollegiate Athletics Student-Athlete Award for Cross Country during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award is given to student-athletes in their respective sports, who have demonstrated leadership in and out of the athletic venue, and academic excellence, as selected by the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics staff and coaches.

Victoria N. Morgan of Cordova recently received the Allison Nelson Award during the 46th 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 recommendations by the UT Martin piano faculty with the department chairman's approval.
Graduation services planned at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin commencement will be May 15 with Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, delivering the commencement address.

Set for 11 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, 744 graduates are slated to receive diplomas.

UT Martin Chancellor Rakes will preside over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, will confer degrees.

Dr. Jerry Graham, UT Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the procession of marshals will be Jenna Wright, faculty senate president; Dr. Janet Wilbert, faculty senate vice president; Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs; and Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs. Delana Easley, UT Martin accompanist, will perform the procession and recessional music.

Immediately following commencement, a reception will be hosted in Skyshawk Fieldhouse.

Dunagan began his work at UT Martin in 1973 as director of development. Some of his assignments while at UT Martin included executive vice chancellor, vice chancellor for student affairs and vice chancellor for development and administration.

Before being named UT Martin, Drs. Stan (UT Martin assistant professor of geology) and Stephanie Dunagan live in Paris; Cody and Glena Dunagan live in Florence, Ala.; Brett and Tracy VanderMeeden live in Madison, Miss.; and Casey and Elizabeth Dunagan live in Washington, D.C.

Graduate will receive up to six 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.

Graduates can get their tickets at the Grand Finale Senior Walk on May 5 and later that afternoon immediately following the student commencement practice in the Elam Center.

Tickets for graduating students will remain available in the Office of Academic Records until 5 p.m., May 14.

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 7:15 a.m., May 6, in the Office of Academic Records on the first floor of the Administration Building.

Any tickets not claimed by 5 p.m., May 14, 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 15.

Communications Day Banquet

RITA MITCHELL • READER SUBMITTED • MAY 4, 2010

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 Gene Polinski, vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center in Nashville. Brandy Hardy of Clarksville received the Darmo Devault Public Relations Scholarship. Dr. Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications, presented the award.
AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS — Wal-Mart employees were among participants at the recent 12th annual WestStar African-American Leadership Conference in Jackson. This year’s keynote speaker was D’Army Bailey, retired judge, native of Memphis and a founder of the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. Other conference topics included: “Regional Initiatives: STEP Program/REDI/Mega Site,” “Social Networking/Security/Avoiding Identity Theft using Technology,” “The Facts about Domestic Abuse (and What to do When you Know the Facts)” and “Healthcare.” The conference is one of several sponsored by WestStar in its 21-county region. WestStar is the state’s oldest regional leadership program. WestStar was created in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin to serve the multi-county area by providing leadership development and training. From left, are Russ Steiner, market manager; Market 146; Scotty Simmons, Martin store manager; Steve Barnes, market asset protection manager; Market 146; Jeff Schultz, Jackson store manager; Chad Clayton, Milan store manager; David Harris, Union City store manager; Cathy Strawbridge, Dyersburg store manager; Kevin Campbell, Brownsville store manager; Tim Poole, Humboldt store manager; and Chris Jones, Ripley store manager.

LOCAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT FOREIGN LANGUAGE DAY — Westview High School students recently won second place in the French Culture Bowl at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. Pictured, left to right, are: Dr. David Coffey, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts; Dr. Lynn Alexander, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Ava Abad, Ashleigh Fabianich, Kyeongmee Kim and Marianela D’Aprile.
LOCAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT FOREIGN LANGUAGE DAY – Gleason High School students recently won third place in the Spanish Culture Bowl at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. Pictured, left to right, are: Tyler Banker, Heather Bowler, Dr. Lynn Alexander, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Doreen Forest, teacher, Ryan Richardson, David Ivy and Dr. David Coffey, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

LOCAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT FOREIGN LANGUAGE DAY – Gleason High School students recently won second place in the Spanish DVD Skits competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. Pictured, left to right, are: Dr. David Coffey, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Jenna Frazier, Kelly Hatley, Katelyn Morris and Dr. Lynn Alexander, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts.
LOCAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT FOREIGN LANGUAGE DAY — Westview High School students recently won first place in the French DVD Skits competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. Pictured, left to right, are: Dr. David Coffey, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts; Matthew Emery, Damien Gallimore, Dr. Lynn Alexander, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts; and Daniel Heisler.

Kid College to be held June 7-17

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. Art FUNdamentals, Computer Genius, The Great Dinosaur Mystery, Spanish, Mad Scientists, Soccer, American Girl Doll Fashion Boutique and Lifesaving 101 are among new classes. The nine-day program for children who will attend kindergarten in 2010 through the fifth grade is slated for June 7-17.

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 17.

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.

To register online and view or download a Kid College brochure, visit the Web site at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/children.php.
Local Students Inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

MARTIN - Bethany Lynn Allen, of Carroll County, 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 272 colleges and universities in the United States, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico. Not pictured are Kelsey Christopher Schwettzer and Lauren Perritt, also of Carroll County.

Carroll County Student Receives Scholarship to Attend UT Martin

MARTIN - A Carroll County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Sarah Eason, daughter of James and Ruth Eason of Bruce ton, will be a freshman. She received the Leaders in Residence Award.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 301 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-828-UTMI; out-of-state residents should call (731) 581-7040.

http://www.commercialappeal.com/photos/2010/may/04/166920/
Gleason students receive awards at Foreign Language Day

Gleason High School students, Elizabeth Terrell and Breanna Carden, recently won second place in the Spanish Posters competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. Pictured, left to right, are: Dr. David Coffey, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Terrell, Carden and Dr. Lynn Alexander, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Gleason High School students recently won second place in the Spanish DVD Skits competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. Pictured, left to right, are: Dr. David Coffey, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Jenna Frazier, Kelly Hatley, Kate Lyn Morris and Dr. Lynn Alexander, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Gleason High School students recently won third place in the Spanish Culture Bowl at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. Pictured, left to right, are: Tyler Banker, Heather Bowler, Dr. Lynn Alexander, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Doreen Forest, teacher, Ryan Richardson, David Ivy and Dr. David Coffey, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Cazenave recognized at UTM Honors Day

Kayla A. Cazenave, of Martin, recently received the Gallien Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award is given in memory of Dr. Glenn S. Gallien, who served as the first head of the teacher education unit at UT Martin. Students are nominated on the basis of contributions to achievement, leadership qualities and academic excellence.
Local students recognized at UT Martin Honors Day

Ezra F. Nance, of Martin, recently received the Outstanding Freshman Engineering Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award is presented to the freshman engineering student with the top performance while following the suggested schedule for engineering freshman.

Molly E. Alexander, of Martin, recently received the Intercollegiate Athletics Student-Athlete Award for Rodeo during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award is given to student-athletes in their respective sports, who have demonstrated leadership in and out of the athletic venue, and academic excellence, as selected by the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics staff and coaches.

Christina Paige Dilday, of Dresden, recently received the Madeline Hall Pritchett Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award of $250 is given by the Weakley-Obion Alumnae Association of Chi Omega sorority in recognition of contributions to her institution.

through extracurricular achievements, leadership qualities and academic excellence. The recipient is selected by an awards committee of the alumnae association.

Ronald C. Peckham, of Martin, recently received the Literary Award in Short Story during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award is for the best short story submitted in a campus competition.

Robert H. Mitchell, of Martin, recently received the Martin Lions Club-H.B. Smith Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award is given to the prospective graduate who has accumulated the highest academic average.

Thomas H. Hester, III, of Martin, recently received the Outstanding Chemistry Major Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award consists of a cash amount given to an outstanding senior chemistry major. The selection is made by the chemistry faculty of the Department of Chemistry and Physics.

Crystal A. Aaronsen, of Martin, recently received the Jim Burdette Memorial Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award is given to a senior Alpha Omicron Pi sorority member in recognition of academic excellence, leadership and service to her sorority and UT Martin.

Kristi A. Mendez, of Dresden, recently received the William H. Baker Scholarship Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award is given to one or more full-time students in the College of Business and Global Affairs who have completed 60 hours of college credit, demonstrated scholarship and leadership ability, participated in extracurricular activities and shown promise of professional achievement.

Theresa L. Kimmy, of Martin, recently received the Outstanding Visual and Theatre Arts Student Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Lynsey D. Sinclair, of Martin, recently received the Alpha Omicron Pi Mothers' Club Scholarship Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Matthew L. Fitzgerald, of Sharon, recently received the Outstanding Sophomore Engineering Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The 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 promise of professional achievement.

Mitchell recognized at UTM Honors Day

Sara A. Mitchell, of Martin, recently received the Phi Chi Theta Key Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award is given to a junior or senior student majoring in business administration who shows outstanding scholarship, character and leadership. The recipient is chosen by members of the UT Martin Chapter of Phi Chi Theta Professional Business Fraternity.
Byrd receives Friend of 4-H Award

Dr. Sue Byrd, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of family and consumer sciences, received the Friend of 4-H Award at the recent statewide 4-H Congress. This honor is awarded to an individual for his or her significant contribution and dedication to 4-H in Tennessee.

Early in her career, Byrd worked as a family and consumer sciences agent in Sequatchie County. Since leaving extension services, she has continued working relationships with UT Extension. She has been an advocate for the 4-H Clothing Project and has judged 4-H record books for round-up competition.

Byrd, state 4-H specialists, agents and other staff members are working to revive the 4-H Clothing Project. The first Line and Design Camp for youth was one effort to help increase interest in the clothing project. Byrd and the UT Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences partnered with 4-H to allow the use of the department's laboratories for implementation of the camp's daily activities.

Byrd has written 4-H publication activity sheets in the area of apparel and textiles, also, she has presented at 4-H in-service, "Activities, Projects and Life Skills for 4-H Clothing Project." In addition, she has presented topics at numerous Tennessee Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences conferences and has showcased programs at several poster sessions.

CONGRATULATIONS

Local students inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Blake Joseph Gibbs and Brent R. Drobina, both of McNairy County, 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 283 colleges and universities in the United States, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico.

Julie Smith Gibbs will graduate from U T Martin with Highest of Honors with Bachelor Degree, May 15 in Elementary Education. Julie is married to Derek Gibbs and they live in Adamsville. She is the daughter of David and Wanda Smith of Selmer and granddaughter of Shirley Smith of Ramer. Julie we are very proud of you. We love you so much.

Mom and Dad
Former chancellor to speak at commencement ceremony

The University of Tennessee at Martin commencement will be May 15, with UT Martin chancellor emeritus Dr. Nick Dunagan delivering the commencement address.

The event is set for 11 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, where 744 graduates are slated to receive diplomas.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, will confer degrees.

Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer and the procession of marshals will be Jenna Wright, faculty senate president; Dr. Janet Wilbert, faculty senate vice president; Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs; and Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs. Delana Easley, UT Martin accompanist, will perform the processional and recessional music.

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

A live Web cast of the commencement ceremony will be available at http://webcast.utm.edu/UTMms01/Viewer/Viewers/Viewer320T.aspx?mode=Default&peid=681f12c7-518ec-4886-a99d-2f1555f32f&pid=98d9b3f8495a-4d2a-5b0-2f01b19a9e6&type=SL1.

Dunagan began his work at UT Martin in 1973 as director of development. Some of his job assignments while at UT Martin included executive vice chancellor, vice chancellor for student affairs and vice chancellor for development and administration.

Each graduate will receive up to six complimentary tickets to admit his or her guests to commencement. Overflow seating with a video and audio feed of the ceremony will be provided in the fieldhouse for all guests without tickets. Graduates can get their tickets at the Grand Finale Senior Walk today and later this afternoon immediately following the student commencement practice in the Elam Center.

The Gazette, Trenton, Tennessee

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Teapot Trot

Jordan Jones of Kenton, a freshman at UTM, was overall female winner in the Trenton Teapot Trot 5K Race. There were 207 participants in the run.
UC STUDENT HONORED — 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. Katie Keathley of Union City received the Communications Department Senior Ambassador Award. It was presented by Dr. Robert Namsey, Department of Communications chair. The keynote speaker for the banquet was Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center in Nashville.

UT Martin athletics department recognizes student radio station

WUTM FM, 90.3 The Hawk, the student broadcast voice of The University of Tennessee at Martin, was recently recognized by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics for its continued support of Skyhawk Athletics.

WUTM regularly broadcasts UT Martin athletic contests, including home football, basketball, baseball and softball games, as well as selected away games.

Under the auspices of the Communications Department, communications students staff and operate the 200-watt, Class A non-commercial radio station, licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. In addition to the on-air signal, the station streams its signal via the Internet.

The athletics department also recognized the station for its No. 1 ranking in the

WUTM RECEIVES AWARD - Presenting the award for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics was the voice of the Skyhawks, Chris Brinkley. Accepting the honor at the recent Communications Award Banquet was Rachel Stephens, WUTM FM, 90.3 The Hawk program director. Best of the South Competition at the Feb. 2010 Southeastern Journalism Conference. The station has finished as one of the top three stations in this competition for four of the past five years, and a number of individual radio awards for production have been garnered by students working at WUTM.
Epic Nashville trip engraved into mind of UTM student

FLOOD RAVAGED — Floodwater from the Cumberland River creeps into downtown Nashville, Monday, May 3. Heavy weekend rain caused the Cumberland River, which winds through Nashville, to overflow its banks flooding part of downtown and other areas around the city. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

Sabrina Bates
News Editor

University of Tennessee at Martin student Kari Kidwell described the events that will forever etched into her memory as "surreal."

The weekend getaway began with Kidwell and a couple of friends heading to Middle Tennessee to help "Parrot Heads across the state welcome Jimmy Buffett to the stage of Bridgestone Arena on Saturday. The group's spirits wavered some as they drove closer to Nashville amidst heavy rains and detoured traffic.

After the engine on their car stalled near the Bucksnort exit, Kidwell said they did something that was typically frowned upon by their parents when they accepted a ride from a stranger, Doyle and his grandson, Austin.

Dodging and weaving traffic along I-40, the van full of people managed to get into Nashville to a friend's house who would provide shelter for them that evening. They parted ways with Doyle, freshened up and headed downtown for the Buffett concert.

Doyle refused any money and only requested that the strangers "pay it forward."

"We didn't realize how prophetic the final song was that Jimmy Buffett sang that night with 'Stories We Will Tell,'" Kidwell shared.

Through the stormy weather Saturday evening and early Sunday morning, the group of friends slept sound, unknowing of what was to come when they awoke on Sunday morning.

"A friend went to the bathroom and noticed there was water. We thought it was as simple as the toilet backing up. It was then that we looked outside and found that the front and back yards were flooded at his house," Kidwell said.

By 9 a.m. on Sunday, water was already burying the tires of the cars outside. With...

SEE FLOOD, PAGE 6

FROM PAGE 1
in 15 minutes, the group managed to grab the two cats, the dog, pet meds and backpacks before the rising water reached their knees in the house.

"There were neighbors outside who were helping others get out of their homes along that street. When we stepped off the porch, the water was waist deep. There was all of this rushing water. It was still raining, thundering and lightening," Kidwell shared.

They managed to make it across the street to higher ground and was given a dry place to gather their thoughts at a stranger's home.

"We met a guy who had his two godchildren with him who had just moved in down the street. They hadn't even unpacked. All they had when they walked out of the house was the clothes on their back," she added.

Their friend's home was only 10 minutes from downtown Nashville. Kidwell said they learned later that a levee to a nearby creek had burst.

Later that evening, while they hunkered down in a hotel room with their minds reeling from the day's events, Kidwell said they saw their friend's house on television, almost completely submerged by flood waters.

Fortunately, he had flood insurance; but a large percentage of the masses that were affected by the flood that has put commerce, education, travel and clean up
FLOOD

at a halt; did not have that type of insurance.

"We met a woman who was devastated. All she could say was 'I've lost everything.' It took all you could do not to get choked up," Kidwell said.

The stories of rescue efforts and mass devastation will be forever engraved into the minds of those who lived it or knew someone who lived it.

"We actually saw a fire vehicle that had its sirens on with a trailer carrying rescue boats on the back of it. We were all in shock. It was absolutely surreal. That's all we could say to describe it," Kidwell said.

"Even through all of the damage and the material possessions that were lost this weekend, we all made it out in one piece and that's the most important thing. This is definitely not something we want to ever go through again," she added.

"It was Buffett or bust and we definitely bunted on that trip. We are no worse for the wear. But I pray that wherever you are Doyle and Austin, that you are safe," Kidwell said.

Help is coming to the water-ravaged region of Middle Tennessee in the form of the Red Cross and the National Guard.

People in Kenton and Shelby County have just begun clean-up and assessments of the properties engulfed with torrential downpours and levee breaches over the weekend.

Dyer County is under a watch and wait as the runoff from fields and tributaries of the Obion River pour into Dyersburg.

As of Wednesday, Pres. Barack Obama had issued a federal disaster declaration for six counties in Tennessee: Cheatham, Davidson, Hickman, Williamson, Montgomery and Dyer counties.

Gov. Phil Bredesen requested a declaration of 52 Tennessee counties on Monday.

The American Red Cross chapters across the state are gathering supplies such as food and water and requesting donations for additional relief efforts.

The Obion County chapter serves Weakley, Lake and Obion counties. Donations of food and water can be dropped off at its office in Union City beside the courthouse.

Those supplies will be used for families in the tri-county region.

On a business level, the Dollar General corporation is providing aid to flood victims in Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee through merchandise donations to the American Red Cross.

The company is donating a variety of supplies to the Red Cross, such as personal hygiene products, socks, underwear, diapers and other baby products. The company is also donating cleaning supplies to Second Harvest Food Bank in Nashville.

Customers can join the relief efforts at any Dollar General store across the state by contributing monetary or product donations at the registers.

For more information about the American Red Cross, visit redcross.org.

CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD – Two students chosen by the Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society, Evan A. Baker of the University School of Jackson, and Marianela D'Aprile of Westview High School took the National Chemistry Olympiad Examination, a 90-minute multiple choice and 105-minute essay written test and a 90-minute laboratory practical at the University of Tennessee at Martin on April 24. This test will determine if these students qualify to become members of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad team that will compete in the 42nd International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in Tokyo, Japan, in July. From left to right are UT Martin ACS chapter president Kayla Poindexter, Baker, D'Aprile and UT Martin chapter vice president Kayla Baker. Poindexter, Kayla Baker and Dr. S.K. Airee, professor of chemistry, coordinated the test.
MacKewn earns recognition for recycling efforts

Dr. Angie MacKewn has a passion for recycling, and her volunteer recycling work for the University of Tennessee at Martin and surrounding area has earned her a Love Community Service Award from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

MacKewn, of Greenfield, an associate professor of psychology, was selected from a group of Tennessee higher-education nominees. She received the award April 29 at a THEC reception in Nashville.

Awards went to five faculty/staff members and five students who excel in volunteer work and community service activities.

The Tennessee General Assembly created the recognition programs for faculty, staff, and students at public and private two- and four-year post-secondary institutions in 1991.

In 1993, the General Assembly funded the program by presenting $1,000 cash awards to future recipients.

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

"Angie joined the UT Martin faculty almost seven years ago, and during her time here, she has taken a lead role in educating people about recycling and waste minimization," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

"Recycling previously existed at the university, but through the hard work of Angie and many others, recycling efforts have greatly expanded in recent years. She is a true volunteer in every sense as she translates her passion for recycling into action."

MacKewn’s volunteer work has gone beyond participating in recycling events. She and others worked to move the university's recycling facility to a larger building three years ago.

Since the move to the former National Guard Armory building on Moody Street in Martin, the number of items accepted for recycling has expanded to include items such as plastics, glass, scrap metal and cell phones.

The recycling percentages for UT Martin have grown to nearly a 35 percent rate per person.

MacKewn has also been part of several grants to place recycle bins in K-12 schools, hold sustainability conferences at UT Martin and expand the recycling facility.

She was successful in obtaining a Tennessee Department of Transportation litter grant award and worked with Dennis Kosta, the university's custodial manager, to obtain three consecutive Walmart community environmental grants and a growing-gardens grant to place several garden plots near the residence halls.

For three years running, MacKewn has led the university's participation in "Recyclemania," an international competition among colleges and universities in Canada and the U.S.

MacKewn also helps to organize Earth Week activities and Earthfest, a community celebration of the earth and sustainable practices.

Events include live music, food, competitions among scouting groups for their recycling efforts, a "swap cycle" in which people swap out goods for free, a recycle run and recycled art contests.

The university's recycling facility also schedules monthly "recycle days" where volunteers collect recycling from area residents who drop off materials at the university's recycling facility.

"I'm extremely fortunate to work with such great people at UT Martin who support recycling," MacKewn said.

"Their efforts are making the campus and community more sustainable." MacKewn's recognition brings the total to 26 students, faculty and staff members from UT Martin recognized by the THEC Love Community Service Awards programs.

The Paris Post-Intelligencer > News > Local News > Paris TN: ...

Paris TN: Briefly
Published: Thursday, May 6, 2010 12:51 PM CDT
Competes
A Lakewood School student had placed sixth in the sixth-grade category in the 2010 Middle School/Junior High School Mathematics Contest held April 29 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Nicholas Lancaster competed in the contest at UT Martin with a total of 375 students who took the exams, and more than 70 teachers, sponsors and parents participated in the contest.

More than 450 people representing 22 different public and private schools in Northwest Tennessee competed in the contest, which was sponsored by the UT Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The contest also was held at Middle Tennessee State University, Austin Peay State University and Pellissippi State Technical Community College.

Oversburg Middle School won the Sixth Grade Team award and Milan Middle School won the Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade Team awards.

The top four scores from a school constitute the team score.
PROVIDER APPRECIATION WORKSHOP — The Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral along with co-host, Northwest Association for the Education of Young Children and West Tennessee Association for Childhood Education International sponsored a provider appreciation workshop featuring Dr. Jean Feldman, right. Feldman presented the "Rock, Rhyme, Write and Read" workshop on April 17 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Fieldhouse to 504 providers. The Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral provides free training and technical assistance to child care providers. The aim is to improve the quality of child care for all children.

EARN SCHOLARSHIPS — 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. Rebecca Alsup (left) of Prospect and Melissa Jackson (right) of South Fulton received the Swafford Public Relations Scholarships, presented by Jeanna Curtis Swafford, interim vice chancellor for development. Ms. Alsup also received the PRSSA Advisor Award of Merit. The keynote speaker for the banquet was Gene Polcinski, vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center in Nashville.
New classes join favorites at UT Martin’s Kid College

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 the perennial favorites — Space Camp, How to Be a Pet Pro, Grossology, Painting on Glass and Beginning Guitar.

The new classes include Art FUNdamentals, Computer Genius, The Great Dinosaur Mystery, Spanish, Mad Scientists, Soccer, American Girl Doll Fashion Boutique and Lifesaving 101.

The nine-day program for children who will attend kindergarten in 2010 through fifth grade is slated for June 7-17. Children may take up to five courses.

Kindergarten through second grade students may choose from Art FUNdamentals, Baking with Miss Baker, Bird Feathers and Fun, Cheerleading, Computer Genius, Drawing Corner, the Great Dinosaur Mystery, Jr. Space Camp, Jr. Space Camp, Karate, Spanish, Li’l American Girl Doll Fashion Boutique, Mad Scientists, Munchable Math Fun, Playdough, Soccer, Practicing Pet Pros and 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, Crafty Kids, Grossology, A Blast with the Past, American Girl Doll Fashion Boutique, Cheerleading, Spanish, Practicing Pet Pros, Baking with Miss Baker, Playdough, Kids with Cameras, Wearable Art, Whiz Kids, Chemical Reactions, Yoga and more.

An open house will be held 4:30-6 p.m. June 17.

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. To register online and view or download a Kid College brochure, visit the Web site at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/ nondegree/children.php.

UT Martin faculty member recognized for recycling efforts

Dr. Angie MacKewn has a passion for recycling, and her volunteer recycling work for the University of Tennessee at Martin and surrounding area has earned her a Love Community Service Award from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

MacKewn, an associate professor of psychology, was selected from a group of Tennessee higher education nominees and received the award at a recent THEC reception in Nashville.

Awards went to five faculty/staff members and five students who excel in volunteer work and community service activities. The Tennessee General Assembly created the recognition programs for faculty, staff and students at public and private two- and four-year post-secondary institutions in 1991. In 1993, the General Assembly funded the program by presenting $1,000 cash awards to future recipients. The awards are named for the late Tennessee Rep. Harold Love, who sponsored legislation to create the recognition program.

Dr. MacKewn’s volunteer work has gone beyond participating in recycling events. She and others worked to move the university’s recycling facility to a larger building three years ago. Since the move to the former National Guard Armory building on Moody Street in Martin, the number of items accepted for recycling has expanded to include items such as plastics, glass, scrap metal and cell phones. The recycling percentages for UT Martin have grown to nearly a 35 percent rate per person.

She has also been part of several grants to place recycling bins in K-12 schools, hold sustainability conferences at UT Martin and expand the recycling facility.

In addition, she also helps organize Earth Week activities and Earthfest, a community celebration of the earth and sustainable practices.
UC HONOREE — Cortney Moore (right) of Union City received the Pre-professional and Graduate Student Group American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Outstanding Member Award at the 22nd Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences awards banquet. The award was recently presented by Dr. Lisa LeBleu, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences chair.

TROY STUDENT CHOSEN — Kayla M. Baker (left), a University of Tennessee at Martin graduating chemistry major from Troy, recently received the Nancy W. Hinds Student Service Award, presented by Ms. Hinds. Ms. Baker has worked as an organic lab assistant under the Federal Work-study Program for the last two years. This is a new award established in honor of Ms. Hinds’ dedication and service to chemistry education at UT Martin and faculty will present it annually to a student who has provided outstanding service to the Department of Chemistry and Physics.
UT Martin faculty members recognized at Honors Day

Five University of Tennessee at Martin faculty members were honored with awards for outstanding achievements in scholarship, citizenship, teaching and advising during the recent Honors Day program.

Dr. David Barber, assistant professor of history, and Dr. Chris Caldwell, professor of mathematics and statistics, received the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award. The Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award of $5,000 was established in 1993 by James R. Cunningham, who attended UT Junior College in the 1930s. It is awarded annually to faculty members who have demonstrated strength in teaching and made a contribution to the teaching profession through scholarly activities, extracurricular achievements and leadership responsibilities.

Dr. Lisa LeBleu, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences chair and professor, received the University of Tennessee Alumni (UTAA) Outstanding Teacher Award.

Each year, the UTAA presents awards of $2,000 to faculty members on each of the UT campuses who have been selected as outstanding teachers.

Students, alumni and faculty nominate outstanding teachers, who then are evaluated on classroom performance, scholarship and service.

Dr. Patricia A. Hewitt, professor of educational studies, received the Outstanding Advisor Award.

The Outstanding Advisor Award of $1,000 and a plaque are presented to the faculty member selected for demonstrating a caring attitude toward advisees, availability to advisees, monitoring student progress toward academic and career goals and the ability to engage in developmental advising and other distinctive characteristics. The recipient also is eligible for the national award competition sponsored by the American College Testing Program and the National Academic Advising Association.

Paula H. Moore, associate professor of accounting and business law, received the Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award.

The Coffey Outstanding Teaching award of $5,000 was established in 1998 by Mai and Charlie Coffey and is awarded annually to a faculty member who demonstrates strength in teaching and contributes to the teaching profession through extracurricular achievements, leadership qualities and scholarly activities.

It all adds up for 2 math students

The 2010 Middle School/Junior High School Mathematics Contest was recently sponsored by the University of Tennessee Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The contest was also held at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Austin Peay University in Clarksville and Pellissippi State Technical Community College. At UT Martin, the contest drew more than 450 participants representing 22 public and private schools in northwest Tennessee. A total of 375 students sat for exams and more than 75 teachers, sponsors and parents participated in the contests.

Dyersburg Middle School won the Sixth Grade Team Award, while Milan Middle School captured the Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade Team awards.

In individual competition, Union City Middle School student Molly MacInlin claimed fifth place and Ridgemont Elementary School student Korben Hagan earned 10th place in the eighth-grade competition.
Business summit scheduled

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center, Dyersburg State Community College Tennessee Small Business Development Center and WestStar Leadership will host the fourth annual MidSouth Economic and Business Development Summit from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. May 18 in Boling University Center at UT Martin.

The theme will be “Economic Development: Your Community Lifesaver.”

The registration fee is $50 and includes continental breakfast, materials and a luncheon.

Registration and a continental breakfast, sponsored by University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services, are slated from 8-8:30 a.m. The program will be opened at 8:30 by Dr. Jamie Frakes, director of DSCC Tennessee Small Business Development Center; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; and Hollie Holt, REED Center director.

“Making the Ordinary Extraordinary: Marketing Your Community” is set for 8:45-9:30, presented by Frakes. “West Tennessee MegaSite Update,” presented by A. Franklin Smith, Haywood County mayor, and Duane Lavery, HTL Advantage chief executive officer, is slated for 9:35-10:15.

After a break, Trent Fleming of Trent Fleming Consulting of Germantown will present “Banking and the Rural Community” from 10:30-11:15. Fleming works as an adviser to financial institutions on matters such as strategic planning, business continuity, employee education and training and operational efficiency. His background includes correspondent banking, regulatory compliance and industry experience as a sales operations executive with two large banking software vendors.

From 11:20 a.m.-noon, Steve Holt, director of UT Martin Instructional Technology Center and Web Services, will present, “44 1/2 Things You Can Do With Google.”

During the luncheon from 12:15-1:45, Dr. Dale Henry, author of “The Proverbial Cracker Jack: How to Get Out of the Box and Become the Prize,” will be the keynote speaker. Henry has been a teacher, principal, dean of the oldest college in Tennessee, businessman, author, speaker and trainer.

For more information or to register online, go to www.utm.edu/midsouth-summit or contact Landy Fuqua at (731) 587-7333.

McKenzie, Huntingdon Students Win in UT Math Competition

Mr. Richard Helgeson, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences interim dean presents the second place award to Dan Hoffman, an eighth grade student at McKenzie Middle School.

The 2010 Middle School/Junior High School Mathematics Contest, sponsored by the University of Tennessee Department of Mathematics and Statistics, had four top ten winners from Carroll County.

Dan Hoffman of McKenzie Middle School tied for second place in the eighth grade category; Justin Miller of Huntingdon Middle School tied for sixth place in the sixth grade; Jansan Davis of McKenzie Middle School won second place in seventh grade; and Sarah Warren of McKenzie Middle School won second place in seventh grade.

At UT Martin, the contest drew more than 450 people representing 22 different public and private school in Northwest Tennessee. A total of 375 students sat for the exams, and more than 75 teachers, sponsors and parents participated in the contest.
Midsouth Economic/Business Development Summit is May 18

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center, Dyersburg State Community College, Tennessee Small Business Development Center and WestStar Leadership will host the fourth annual MidSouth Economic and Business Development Summit, "Economic Development: Your Community Lifesaver," from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., May 18, in Boling University Center. Registration fee is $50 and includes continental breakfast, materials and luncheon.

Registration and a continental breakfast are slated from 8:30 a.m., sponsored by University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services. Dr. Jamie Frakes, director of DSCC Tennessee Small Business Development Center, Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, and Holly Holt, REED Center director, will open the program at 8:30 a.m.

"Making the Ordinary Extraordinary: Marketing Your Community" is slated from 8:45-9:30 a.m., presented by Frakes. "West Tennessee MegaSite Update," presented by A. Franklin Smith, Haywood County mayor, and Duane Lavery, HTL Advantage chief executive officer, is slated from 9:35-10:15 a.m.

After a 15-minute break, Trent Fleming, of Trent Fleming Consulting of Germantown, will present "Banking and the Rural Community" from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Fleming works as an adviser to financial institutions on matters such as strategic planning, business continuity, employee education and training and operational efficiency. His background includes correspondent banking, regulatory compliance and industry experience as a sales operations executive with two large banking software vendors.

From 11:20 a.m.-noon, Steve Holt, director of UT Martin Instructional Technology Center and Web Services, will present, "44½ Things You Can Do With Google."

During the luncheon from 12:15-1:45 p.m., Dr. Dale Henry, author of "The Proverbial Cracker Jack: How to Get Out of The Box And Become The Prize," will be the keynote speaker. Henry has been a teacher, principal, dean of the oldest college in Tennessee, businessman, author, speaker and trainer.

For more information or to register online, go to www.utm.edu/midsouth-summit or contact Landy Fuqua at 731-587-7333.
Students can earn college credit at two local 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 June 6 and depart July 3, while the agricultural sciences students arrive May 23 and depart June 18.

The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities, located on the UT Martin campus since 1985, will host 76 students, while the seventh 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, veterinary science, engineering and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources. They will be exposed to scientific and land stewardship concepts while sharpening their 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 utilize the fuels in laboratory engines.

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, have the potential to turn all learning environments into laboratories.

“Agribusiness today is a fast-paced, high-tech industry that requires strong analytical skills to be successful,” said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, TGSAS director and UT Martin professor of agricultural economics. “TGSAS helps foster those skills through a variety of experiential learning opportunities.”

A four-day field trip to Moline, Ill., and St. Louis is planned for this year’s class. Students will visit the John Deere™ facilities in Moline and then travel to St. Louis to tour the Monsanto Research Center, Purina Mills, Missouri Botanical Garden and other sites of interest.

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.

“We believe the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities is the most extraordinary academic experience you can have as a high school student and our outstanding faculty do everything they can to create a rigorous, engaging environment in which the scholars can further develop their intellectual abilities,” said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs and governor’s school director.
Mt. Pleasant makes offer to aspiring city manager

Position vacant since Feb. 2009

By CHRIS GRAHAM/ chrisgraham@cdh.net

MT. PLEASANT — Commissioners have extended a job offer to a candidate for the city's vacant chief administrative position.

Charles Beal, who is the city recorder and finance director for McKenzie, a small town about 45 miles northeast of Jackson, confirmed he was offered the position last week.

"We are in negotiations," he said. "... A decision will be made this week."

Interim City Manager Debbie McMullin wrote in an e-mail Monday that commissioners offered Beal a salary of $70,000, use of a city car, two weeks vacation and full benefits.

If Beal were to take the job, the town will have a permanent city manager for the first time in a little over a year.

In February 2009, the board voted not to renew Richard Goode's contract as city manager, effectively ousting him from the position. Goode's salary was $83,000 plus benefits.

The sudden firing coupled with allegations by Mayor Richard Hendrix that Goode lied about items in the city's budget brought lawsuits against the mayor and city seeking a combined $2.5 million.

The lawsuit against the city asked a judge to prevent the town from hiring another city manager and reinstate Goode, who is now the city manager in Menominee, Mich.

As of Monday, the cases were still pending and no rulings had been made. McMullin declined comment on the lawsuits.

Beal has been McKenzie's city recorder since 2003. According to the U.S. Census, McKenzie's population was 5,295 compared to Mt. Pleasant's population, which stood at 4,491.

Before becoming McKenzie's city recorder, Beal was regional vice president for Regions Bank in McKenzie for 13 years and graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a bachelor's degree in business administration, commercial and finance management.

He is one of eight candidates competing for the job. He also vied for the position in 2008 before Goode was hired.

Some of the issues facing Beal if he were to take office will be a violation-prone wastewater system, which may face sanctions from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Inspectors have found sewage leaking from the base of the city's multi-million dollar wastewater lagoon system.

The city is also reeling from the loss of numerous manufacturing jobs amid a recession that is still gripping the nation.

Beal said he is well-aware of the issues facing Mt. Pleasant and thinks he is the right person to handle the job, pending the contract negotiations.

"It's just a challenge that I would be wanting to tackle," he said.

Hendrix, Vice Mayor John Davis Jr. and Commissioners Bob Shackelford, Chris Frierson and Maury Collett Sr. could not be reached for comment Monday.

Story created May 11, 2010 - 14:36:02 EDT.
Bethel Springs School Art Show at UT Martin in Selmer

Bethel Springs Elementary School is having an art show at UT Martin in Selmer. Students in grades K-8 have art on display from May 3-14. Go by the campus and see their amazing work.

McNairy County student receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

A McNairy County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions. Emilie Johnson, daughter of Terry and Ginger Johnson of Stantonville, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship. Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.

LOCAL STUDENTS 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 Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of The First Amendment Center in Nashville. Rebecca Alsup, left, of Prospect, and Melissa Jackson, right, of South Fulton, received the Swafford Public Relations Scholarships. Jeanna Curtis Swafford, center, interim vice chancellor for development, presented the award. Alsup also received the PRSSA Advisor Award of Merit. (Photo submitted)

Curlin UTM award winner

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 Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of The First Amendment Center in Nashville. Casey Curlin, of Fulton, received the M. Sue Kahle Excellence in Leadership Award.
Local Earth Day artists receive awards

UTM Recycles! sponsored an Earth Week Art Contest to raise awareness and interest in the local recycling group and its sustainable activities. The contest was part of the weeklong celebration of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22).

Grades 6-8 Winners
Grades six-eight contest winner, pictured with Karoline Null, was Bruce Hicks, honorable mention. Not pictured were John Sterrett, honorable mention; Tamara Sterrett, first place; Tyler Darroch, honorable mention; Emma Fieser, second place; and Michelle Fieser, third place.

Grades 3-5 Winners
Grades three to five winners, pictured with Karoline Null, included, from left, Kiran Last, first place; and Tray Hammond, third place. Not pictured was Davis Fieser, second place.

Grades K-2 Winners
Grades Kindergarten through two contest winners, pictured with Karoline Null, included, from left, Alyssa Null, honorable mention; Brian Hicks, first place; Madison Miles, honorable mention; Sarah Foltz, honorable mention; Lillie Worwick, honorable mention; Emily Ray, third place tie; and Brianna Howard, honorable mention. Not pictured were Destin McKeel, second place; Sallie Bradshaw, third place tie; and Nicholas Sterrett, honorable mention.

College Division Winners
College division winner, pictured with Karoline Null, was Glenn Butkovic, of Sharon, who received honorable mention. Not pictured were Tori Shaw, of Martin, first place; Jacob Bloodworth, of Hornbeak, second place; and Anni Ranck, of Martin, honorable mention.
The University of Tennessee at Martin is the safest of the four-year public institutions in Tennessee in the most recent statewide crime statistics released. Additionally, for crimes that are committed, the UT Martin Department of Public Safety has one of the best crime clearance rates.

"UT Martin students continue to learn and grow in one of the safest environments in the South," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. "Our staff continues to work hard adjusting and improving public safety to ensure we are prepared for a variety of potential situations."

According to crime statistics for 2009 released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, UT Martin ranked as the safest campus in the state among Tennessee Board of Regents and UT institutions, with the least amount of reported offenses per 1,000 in population. UT Martin's clearance rate (cases solved) was almost double the statewide average of 28 percent for those same institutions.

"Statewide, college campuses have experienced significant increases in incidents since the last report, but we show a significant decrease," said Scott Robbins, UT Martin director of public safety.

"The greatest decrease was in the theft of property category, which was almost cut in half," added Robbins, who attributes the drop to the "campus community taking proactive steps to secure and/or maintain control of their property and watching out for each other." He noted that a "Security Minded" awareness program adopted by numerous campus departments also produced positive results. "We want to build on this momentum and, hopefully, have further reductions in the number of "opportunity crimes,"" he said.

"Our greatest asset toward maintaining a low crime rate, however, continues to be the great folks who attend and work at UT Martin and their genuine concern for the safety and welfare of others."

During the last decade, the UT Martin crime rate consistently has been lower than the national and statewide averages for college campuses, and the index crime clearance rate consistently has been higher.

---

Student Organizations Winners
Student Organizations Division contest winner, pictured with Karoline Null, was Charlene Westbrook, Nontraditional Student Association, first place.

Community Category Winners
Community Category contest winners, pictured with Karoline Null, included Robin Last, second place; and John Null, first place. Not pictured were Damiana Chadwick, third place; and Barbara Moses, honorable mention.
Five inducted into ROTC Hall of Fame

The University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk ROTC Battalion inducted five alumni into the ROTC Alumni Hall of Fame at a recent ceremony. Maj. Gen. Mike Maloan, UT Martin Class of 1972; Col. James W. Adams, ROTC Class of 1984; Col. Leith A. Benedict, ROTC Class of 1985; retired Col. James W. Danley, ROTC Class of 1978; and Col. Stephen E. Walker, ROTC Class of 1981, were inducted.

“The ROTC Hall of Fame induction ceremony is an event that recognizes the achievements of five distinguished University of Tennessee at Martin graduates,” said Lt. Col. Angela M. Odom, professor of military science. “We are honored to induct these individuals into the ROTC Hall of Fame as they have made significant contributions to the service of our nation.”

Maj. Gen. James R. Sholar, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2008, was the guest speaker. Sholar assumed the position of deputy commanding general, United States Army Reserve Command, in 2009. Previously, he commanded the 88th Regional Support Command, Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin, from September 2006 to July 2009. He also served as senior commander, Ft. McCoy, from January 2008 to July 2009. A native of Stewart County, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant, field artillery, through UT Martin ROTC in 1971. He has served continuously for more than 35 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Army and Army Reserve.

Retired Lt. Gen. John Castellaw, United States Marine Corps, also attended the ceremony. He is a UT Martin alumnus and a member of the ROTC Hall of Fame.

UT Martin ROTC Alumni Hall of Fame has six general officers among the 17 total. A total of 631 officers have been commissioned through the Department of Military Science and Leadership since 1964, when the Army awarded the university “senior” ROTC status.

Maloan currently serves as the deputy adjutant general, third in command of the Army Tennessee National Guard. Maloan received a direct commission in 1988 in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps. Prior to receiving his commission, he served as an enlisted member of the 164th Support Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard. Maloan serves as presiding judge and chancellor of the 27th Judicial District that includes Weakley and Obion counties.

Prior to his arrival to the Army staff, Adams served as the deputy brigade commander of 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Adams is currently serving as a senior strategic planner in the Office of the Director of the Army staff. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. of Armor on December 1984, upon graduation from UT Martin. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. Adams' military education includes the Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Infantry Mortar Platoon Officer Course, the Junior Officer Maintenance Course, the Cavalry Leaders Course, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College, where he was awarded a Master of Science in national security strategy.

Benedict serves as the executive officer to the Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. Benedict was commissioned in U.S. Army Signal Corps in August 1985, after graduating from UT Martin with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. He holds a master’s degree in telecommunications from Webster's University and a master’s degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Danley retired from the U.S. Army in 2003. He attended UT Martin, where he received a Bachelor of Science in natural resources management and was commissioned in infantry as an ROTC Distinguished Graduate in 1978. He also holds a master's degree in educational administration and supervision from UT Martin.

Walker is the commander of the Defense Energy Support Center Europe and Africa (DESC-EA). Walker has served more than 29 years in the Army in assignments around the world. He was commissioned in 1982 as a quartermaster officer. Walker holds a Master of Science in logistics management from the Florida Institute of Technology and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.
New classes join favorites at Kid College, June 7-17

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!, Painting on Glass and Beginning Guitar, Art FUNdamentals, Computer Genius, The Great Dinosaur Mystery, Spanish, Mad Scientists, Soccer, American Girl Doll Fashion Boutique and Lifesaving 101 are among new classes.

The nine-day program for children who will attend kindergarten in 2010 through the fifth grade is slated for June 7-17. 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.

Kindergarten through second grade students may choose from Art FUNdamentals, Baking with Miss Baker, Bird Feathers and Fun, Cheerleading, Computer Genius, Drawing Corner, The Great Dinosaur Mystery, Jr. Space Challenge-Mars, Jr. Space Camp, Karate, Spanish, Li'l American Girl Fashion Boutique, Mad Scientists, Munchable Math Fun, Playdough, Soccer, Practicing Pet Pros and 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, Crafty Kids, Grossology, A Blast with the Past, American Girl Doll Fashion Boutique, Cheerleading, Spanish, Practicing Pet Pros, Baking with Miss Baker, Playdough, Kids with Cameras, Wearable Art, Whiz Kids, Chemical Reactions, Yoga and many more.

Everyone is invited to attend the open house from 4:30-6 p.m., June 17. 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. To register online and view or download a Kid College brochure, visit the Web site at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/ndegree/children.php.

Knight is Spring Featured Faculty Scholar

Dr. John E. Knight, left, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of management, recently was named the Featured Faculty Scholar for the spring semester. He is pictured with Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Dr. John E. Knight, the University of Tennessee at Martin Featured Faculty Scholar for spring semester, recently was honored at a recent reception at Paul Meek Library on campus.

Knight, professor of management, received bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Georgia Institute of Technology and joined UT Martin in 1971. He is a professional engineer and certified quality engineer. He was named visiting professor and visiting research professor to Hiroaki University, Hiroaki, Japan, in 1986 and 1997. He has served on the Faculty Senate, as well as numerous university and departmental committees. Knight also has provided public service for a number of civic and church projects and consulting for various area companies.

A sample of Knight's extensive list of publications, presentations and accomplishments is on display in the library.

our group

Mitzi W. Baker, RN, MSN

Critical Care Research Nurse

Mitzi W. Baker, RN, MSN graduated with her BSN from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2000. She completed a Masters in Nursing - Nursing Education in 2008 and is pursuing certification as a Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner. She began working in Northwest Tennessee on a general medical-surgical unit. After moving to Nashville she worked on a neuro medical-surgical unit and critical care unit both at St. Thomas Hospital. Currently, Mitzi assists part-time with research studies at St. Thomas where she especially enjoys educating families and building relationships with patients and their families. Her passions also include being a mom to her three small children and playing outside. When there is free time left over, she enjoys geology, making cards, and reading Christian mystery novels.
Dunagan to address UTM grads

The University of Tennessee at Martin commencement will be May 15 with Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, delivering the commencement address. Set for 11 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, 744 graduates are slated to receive diplomas.

UT Martin Chancellor Rakes will preside over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, will confer degrees. Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the procession marshals will be Jenna Wright, faculty senate president; Dr. Janet Wilbert, faculty senate vice president; Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs; and Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs. Delana Easley, UT Martin accompanist, will perform the procession and recessional music. Immediately following commencement, a reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Dunagan began his work at UT Martin in 1973 as director of development. Some of his job assignments while at UT Martin included executive vice chancellor, vice chancellor for student affairs and vice chancellor for development and administration.

Before being named UT Martin's eighth chancellor in April 2001, he also served as interim chancellor three times (1985-86, 1997-98, 2000-01) and as executive director of WestStar, the university's regional leadership program for West Tennessee. He retired as chancellor in June 2007.

Dunagan is a member of Weakley County Economic Development Board, Volunteer Hospital Board of Trustees and the Ned Ray McWherter Monument Commission. He was selected the 2006 Weakley County of the Year by the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce. He also received the 2006 Otis L. Floyd Award for Excellence in Administration, presented by the Tennessee College Public Relations Association.

A native of Caruthersville, Mo., he is a 1968 UT Martin graduate, a 1971 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law and received a doctorate in higher education administration in 1990 from Vanderbilt University. He is a retired colonel in the Tennessee Army National Guard and is a member of Martin First United Methodist Church.

He is married to the former Cathy Porter, a UT Martin graduate from Humboldt, Tenn., and they have four children and five grandchildren. Three children and their spouses all graduated from UT Martin. Drs. Stan (UT Martin assistant professor of geology) and Stephanie Dunagan live in Paris; Cody and Glenna Dunagan live in Florence, Ala.; Brett and Tracy VanderMeeden live in Madison, Miss.; and Casey and Elizabeth Dunagan live in Washington, D.C.

Each graduate will receive up to six 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. Graduates can get their tickets at the Grand Finale Senior Walk on May 5 and later that afternoon immediately following the student commencement practice in the Elam Center. Tickets for graduating students will remain available in the Office of Academic Records until 5 p.m., May 14.

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 7:15 a.m., May 6, in the Office of Academic Records on the first floor of the Administration Building. Any tickets not claimed by 5 p.m., May 14, 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 15.

UTM REGISTRATION - Tabitha Causey (left) and Adam Parker recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R.) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Both Humboldt High School seniors, Causey and Parker will attend UT Martin in the fall. Students met with academic advisers and registered for classes; toured the campus and residence halls; received information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and heard detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for first-year students the week before classes).
Dunagan to address UTM graduates May 15

The University of Tennessee at Martin commencement will be May 15 with Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, delivering the commencement address. Set for 11 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, 744 graduates are slated to receive diplomas.

UT Martin Chancellor Rakes will preside over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, will confer degrees. Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the procession of marshals will be Jenna Wright, faculty senate president; Dr. Janet Wilbert, faculty senate vice president; Dr. Gerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs; and Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs. Delana Easley, UT Martin accompanist, will perform the processional and recessional music. Immediately following commencement, a reception will be held in Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

A live webcast of the commencement ceremony will be available at http://webcast.utm.edu/UTMms/Viewer/Viewer302TL.aspx?mode=Default&pid=617127e-518c486849-2115512641&playerType=St.

Dunagan began his work at UT Martin in 1973 as director of development. Some of his job assignments while at UT Martin included executive vice chancellor, vice chancellor for student affairs and vice chancellor for development and administration.

Before being named UT Martin's eighth chancellor in April 2001, he also served as interim chancellor three times and as executive director of WestStar, the university's regional leadership program for West Tennessee. He retired as chancellor in June 2007.

Recognized

Jacob L. Eddlemon of Kenton recently received the Lonnie E. Maness History Department Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award of $100 is given to the outstanding graduating history major. Selection is made on the basis of grade point average, number of hours in history, contributions to the department and extra-curricular activities.

Honored

Cydney L. Williams of Trenton recently received the Outstanding Educational Studies-Special Education Student Award and the Faculty Women's Club Scholarship Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Faculty Women's Club Scholarship Award of $500 is given in recognition of the academic excellence of students who have achieved senior status. Selection is made by a committee of the club and is based primarily on academic achievement, financial need, citizenship and leadership.
DMS Visits UTM Physics Department

7th grade Dyersburg Middle School students involved in the Plus 1 program visited the Physics Department at UT Martin. The students were treated to an educational physics demonstration by professors Dr. Erkal and Dr. Getanah. The demonstrations involved properties of matter, pressure, center of gravity, static electricity and more. Afterwards they toured the campus and library. The group of DMS students pose outside the Paul Meek Library before their tour.

Dr. Erkal pours out liquid nitrogen during the demonstration. Liquid nitrogen is nitrogen in a liquid state at a temperature of minus 320 degrees Fahrenheit. The liquid nitrogen makes the nearby air very cold. The air can't hold as much water vapor when it's colder, so some of the water vapor condenses into small water droplets that we see as fog.
Dr. Erkal demonstrates how making the air in the balloon colder makes the molecules in the air slow down so they put less pressure on the balloon. Since there's less pressure the balloon shrinks.
Meg Alford assists Dr. Getanah with a demonstration.

Experimenter Londyn Vaughn demonstrates the reality that like charges repel. The strands of her hair all have the same net charge and therefore repel each other strongly.
Huss passes exam, admitted to bar

By CHRIS MENEEES
Staff Reporter

Law school is officially behind Obion County Director of Schools David Huss, and now he’s just “practicing” what he learned.

Huss — who earned a doctor of jurisprudence in 2009 — recently passed the bar exam and was officially admitted to the bar.

However, he said he has no plans to practice law on a full-time basis in the near future.

“I have made a commitment to the Obion County School System and intend on honoring that commitment,” he said. “This is an absolutely wonderful school system and I think we’re only getting better. Right now, as long as I feel like I’m contributing to the success of the school system, I would like to stay for as long as the board will allow me to stay.”

Huss said his law degree will actually benefit him on a daily basis in his capacity as Obion County’s director of schools since he frequently must deal with issues regarding laws, rules and regulations, federal statutes and board policy.

“There’s no doubt it will come in handy,” he said.

He said he can recall at least two other directors of school that he knew in the past who had law degrees, but neither of them passed the bar exam.

Huss earned a bachelor of science degree in accounting in 1989 from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master’s degree in educational leadership in 2001 from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville. He finished his studies at the Nashville School of Law in 2009 to earn the doctor of jurisprudence.

He explained he completed law school on a five-year plan, attending on a full-time basis for two years when he lived in Nashville and then cutting back to part-time due to the long commute when he moved to Union City in 2006 to serve as Obion County’s director of schools. The last two years of study were spread out over three years.

Huss said after passing the bar exam, he had two options for being admitted to the bar to practice law. He could either go before the Supreme Court in Nashville or could do it locally, due to a rule that went into effect last year. For the sake of convenience, he chose to be admitted to the bar locally — with the brief ceremony recently held in Obion County General Sessions Court.

He chose Obion County General Sessions Judge Jimmy Smith — an attorney who formerly served as vice chairman of the Obion County School Board — to administer the oath. He also had to have two attorneys recommend him for admission to the bar and he chose local attorneys John Miles and Jim Glasgow Jr., both of whom he had worked with on a professional level in the past.

“What John and Jim had to do was recommend me for admission to the bar and Jimmy administered the oath,” Huss said. “They graciously did that for me.”

Brittany O’Nan to intern with Republican National Committee

Brittany O’Nan, of Bartlett, will intern this summer with the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C. She will spend May 29-Aug. 7 working in the areas of fundraising, event planning and communication strategies. O’Nan, a senior, has a double major in business finance and marketing.

“I feel so lucky that I get to do this internship,” said O’Nan. “The Republican National Committee is such a great organization, and I am really excited to be working with them. I know Washington, D.C., will be a lot different from my hometown, so I am nervous, but so ready at the same time. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.” She added that the internship also would be a good experience for her because she will be living on her own in Washington and required to adapt to different environments — good preparation for when she travels in the future. “I’ll also get more experience with meeting new people and building strong work relationships.”

O’Nan plans to attend law school or graduate school when she graduates in May 2011. “I plan on my career being more than just a way for me to make money. I want to make an impact on other lives, as well.” She added, “One day, I truly hope to work for a firm helping families with their financial problems.”

For more information, contact Darrell Simmons, Washington, D.C., travel study coordinator, at (731) 881-7777.
The University of Tennessee at Martin department of communications held its annual Communications Day to honor the academic and extracurricular accomplishments of communications students. Josh Weiss of Germantown received the Jerald Ogg Communication/Public Relations Endowment.

Lindsey Lunsford of Germantown received the Outstanding Fashion Merchandising Student Award at the 22nd annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences awards banquet.

MARTIN — Dr. Nick Dunagan, chancellor emeritus at the University of Tennessee at Martin, encouraged each graduate at the UT Martin commencement ceremony Saturday to be a "bucket filler and not a bucket emptier."

Dunagan explained that the concept, created in the 1960s by Dr. Donald Clifton, is based on each individual carrying around an imaginary bucket that is constantly being filled or emptied, "depending on what people say to you, what people do to you and your circumstances in life."

"A full bucket gives us a positive outlook and renewed energy, and every drop in that bucket makes us stronger," Dunagan said. "But an empty bucket poisons our outlook, saps our strength and doesn't make us feel good at all."

Dunagan urged the graduates to surround themselves with other bucket fillers. He explained how UT Martin had filled his bucket as he watched students blossom, faculty members find joy in teaching, an administrator solving a problem, or a graduate returning to visit the campus with his family. "What you decide to do and the path you decide to take will have a profound influence on your relationships, your productivity, your health and also your happiness," he said.

Dunagan had requested the commencement musical selection, "My Wish," made popular by Rascal Flatts. He suggested that graduates listen to the lyrics again, especially the references to "help somebody every chance you get" and "always give more than you take."

"Good luck and Godspeed," he said. "My wish is that you have also felt that this institution has filled your bucket, and you will go out in life and pay forward and help fill the buckets of others."

The spring graduating class of 696, the largest in the university's history, represented 54 Tennessee counties, 12 states and 10 countries. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, UT interim president, conferred degrees.

Rakes asked UT Martin's newest alumni to take time to thank all those who have helped them achieve this goal, to keep in touch with their alma mater and to be supportive and vocal about the value of higher education.

"Education is not what's received, but what you achieve," said Rakes. "As graduates of UT Martin, your diploma is a symbol of a significant achievement — you add another tool to your résumé."

Best Wishes to the Class of 2010 from Coble Furniture!
A special congratulations goes out to
Beau Bridges - CHS
Maria Carter for graduating
University of North AL
Lauren Lovins for graduating
UT Martin
We are very proud of you!
UT Martin grads urged to be ‘bucket fillers’

Spring class largest in school history

RITA MITCHELL
SPECIAL TO THE JACKSON SUN

MARTIN — Dr. Nick Dunagan, chancellor emeritus at the University of Tennessee at Martin, encouraged each graduate at the UT Martin commencement ceremony Saturday to be a “bucket filler and not a bucket emptier.”

Dunagan explained that the concept, created in the 1960s by Dr. Donald Clifton, is based on each individual carrying around an imaginary bucket that is constantly being filled or emptied, depending on what people say to you, what people do to you and your circumstances in life.

“A full bucket gives us a positive outlook and renewed energy, and every drop in that bucket makes us stronger,” Dunagan said. “But an empty bucket poisons our outlook, saps our strength and doesn’t make us feel good at all.”

Dunagan urged the graduates to surround themselves with other bucket fillers. He explained how UT Martin had filled his bucket as he watched students blossom, faculty members find joy in teaching, an administrator solving a problem, or a graduate returning to visit the campus with his family.

“What you decide to do and the path you decide to take will have a profound influence on your relationships, your productivity, your health and also your happiness,” he said.

Dunagan had requested the commencement musical selection, “My Wish,” made popular by Rascal Flatts. He suggested that graduates listen to the lyrics again, especially the references to “help somebody every chance you get” and “always give more than you take.”

“Good luck and Godspeed,” he said. “My wish is that you have also felt that this institution has filled your bucket, and you will go out in life and pay forward and help fill the buckets of others.”

The spring graduating class of 696, the largest in the university’s history, represented 54 Tennessee counties, 12 states and 10 countries. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, UT interim president, conferred degrees.

Rakes asked UT Martin’s newest alumni to take time to thank all those who have helped them achieve this goal, to keep in touch with their alma mater and to be supportive and vocal about the value of higher education.

“Education is not what’s received, but what you achieve,” said Rakes. “As graduates of UT Martin, your diploma is a symbol of a significant achievement — you add another tool to your résumé.”

Robert Ethan Myers, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Myers, was awarded the Dean’s Scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall 2010.

Ethan will graduate in May with a 4.0 grade point average from Columbia Central High School where he has been an honor student, varsity football player and participated in several honors and service organizations.

He plans to major in biology to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. Ethan will also be playing football with the UT-Martin Skyhawks.
Highly-decorated Vietnam vet now faces different kind of battle

By JOHN BRANNON
Staff Reporter

A few days ago, surgeons at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, Ky., removed about half of David Stephenson’s skull and put it in his abdomen for safekeeping. It’s still there.

The operation was necessary to relieve cranial swelling brought on by a stroke May 1.

When the skullpiece will be returned to its rightful place depends on how well his body responds to treatment. Meanwhile, he is under 24-hour care in the hospital’s critical care unit. His wife, Kellie, is constantly at his side.

Wednesday, Stephenson sent word that he was well enough to receive a visitor. About 10 a.m., a nosy newspaper man arrived with a lone tape recorder and a lot of questions.

A secret

The Messenger had learned the David Stephenson story is perhaps the best kept secret in northwest Tennessee. Who would have thought that all these years, a genuine hero — little known, never celebrated — from the Vietnam War era lived right here in Union City under the community’s collective nose?

He is a sight to see, this 63-year-old combat veteran, a pleasure to meet and a testament to the tenacity of the human spirit. That he would survive a major stroke, endure brain surgery and be sitting up in bed a few days later chatting with a visitor would seem miraculous to most. He dismisses it with a touch of humor. “I’ve been told I’m a tough old bird,” he quips.

Indeed, he is “a tough old bird,” as the sinister scar on his bald head attests. It looks like a big question mark inscribed by a sharp knife. This is where surgeons entered and removed part of the skull. They closed their work and the work site with 66 metal staples. Since then, 33 have been removed.

Nuggets

He was born and raised in the Friendship community of Dyer County, the son of the late William A. Stephenson and Emily Stephenson.

In the 1960s, when the Vietnam war was at its peak in casualties and at its low mark in public support, a young David Stephenson was a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin. But his plans for graduating with an undergraduate degree in economics and marketing were put on hold when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1968.

After basic training and AIT — advanced individual training — in the fine art of foot soldiering, which is to say “infantry,” he was assigned to a unit in the 101st Airborne Division. Ultimately, he wound up in Vietnam in Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry Brigade. His job was radio operator, meaning he wore a heavy radio backpack known in Army jargon as the AN/PRC-25. He was to stay with the platoon leader, a commissioned officer who needed to communicate with headquarters and support elements such as artillery and air support. The radio’s long “whip” antenna was nothing less than a good target for enemy snipers, he said.

Landmark day

March 21, 1969, was a landmark day in the life of young Stephenson, whose travels before being drafted into military service had been few and far between. Like many other conscripts of the time, he was swept out of a civilian lifestyle and placed in a hard and harsh military regimen alien to his raising. But he and they adjusted, practically overnight. The vast majority made good soldiers.

But no one expected, probably not even Stephenson himself, a young soldier to do what he did that fateful day. In terms of rank and training and in the eyes of the Army, he was far from qualified to act in any major leadership capacity. He was an enlisted man, a specialist E-4, a radio operator. He had not attended any of the prestigious leadership schools such as the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. Such plums are reserved for career commissioned and noncommissioned officers, not for draftees who serve the mandatory two years and are done with it.

And yet, when push came to shove, when the platoon leader lay dead and the platoon sergeant was seriously wounded, a side of him long dormant surfaced. He took over. He took command. He had the right stuff.

Ambush

The incident — an ambush by North Vietnamese soldiers — took place at a remote spot near the infamous A Shau Valley, which is located in western Thua Thien province in northern South Vietnam. A website states the 25-mile long valley was an arm of the Ho Chi Minh Trail funneling troops and supplies toward Hue and Danang. In the northern end of the valley was a major North Vietnamese Army staging area. The valley became a major battleground.

Official order

General Order Number 4273 issued by Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division and dated May 5, 1969, officially awards the Silver Star medal to Spec-4

(See Page 2, Col. 1)
Veteran...
(Continued from Page One)

Stephenson. A narrative accompanying the award tells a compelling story.

It reads:


The third platoon was moving as lead element on a reconnaissance in force mission against a suspected enemy base camp near the A Shau Valley. As the platoon moved up a ridge, it received a heavy volume of automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenade and machine gun fire from a well-fortified enemy force. The lead squad was pinned down, the platoon leader (First Lt. Bill "Wild Bill" Dent) was killed and the platoon sergeant was wounded.

"Specialist Stephenson immediately took charge of the remaining elements of the platoon, provided a base of fire and kept the company commander informed of his situation. He directed the platoon to relieve pressure on the lead squad, allowing it to regroup with a minimum of casualties. He then coordinated with the company commander and another platoon leader who was maneuvering his element to the flank. He directed air strikes, aerial rocket artillery and helicopter gunships in conjunction with the operation.

"His spontaneous leadership, tenacity and calmness under fire served as an inspiration to his men and kept the platoon intact as a fighting unit."

Stephenson said the platoon was part of a company-size force from LZ (Landing Zone) Saltery. "We had three platoons. I was in the lead squad of the lead platoon."

The escape
Stephenson himself was wounded. Ultimately, he and others were rescued by Army helicopter. In time, he recuperated and was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant E5. He could look back with pride. In his brief time in uniform, he had been awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantryman's badge and the Air Medal and more.

Yet it was not over. Though he left the Army behind, the demons of war claimed squatter's rights in his head and came home with him. He said for 40 years he had nightmares and became addicted to alcohol and drugs. He has been clean and sober for four years.

"The demons came around five nights out of seven," he said. "But not any more. You know why? Look at the sign right behind you."

On a wall is a sign that declares in prominent type: "God can't do what?"

"He got God in his life and turned it around," Kellie said.

Family
Stephenson has two sons—Eric, 36, of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Chad, 38, of Vero Beach, Fla. — by a previous marriage. Kellie has a son, Taylor Mangold, by a previous marriage. Stephenson and Kellie have a daughter, McKenna, 14, a student at Lake Road School.

On Wednesday, Eric was at the hospital to visit his father. He said until recently, his father never talked about what happened in Vietnam. "Then he told me that after 40 years, the nightmares had finally stopped," he said. "Part of his moving on with his life was giving it to God and letting God take care of it. I'm very proud of him. He's found peace with his past and peace with his present."

A little known fact is that when Stephenson was rescued by "choppers," he was found to have several bullet holes in his uniform. The bullets had passed through the clothing without touching his body.

Kellie speaks
On Thursday, Mrs. Stephenson gave The Messenger an update on her husband's condition. She said he appears to be healing and doctors may take out the rest of the staples soon. During the day, she said, he's tired because of physical therapy, but late nights "he'll talk your ear off."

As for that part of his skull that was surgically removed, it'll be returned to its rightful place as soon as possible.

"It's not in his stomach. It's right underneath the skin," she said. "They've got it connected to a blood supply. That way, when they put it back, it'll still be viable."

She said that he would survive and do as well as he has "is an absolute miracle."

"A week ago Sunday, when the doctor called me out into the hallway, he said David had had a massive stroke and what happens with this type injury, the brain swells and the prognosis is not good," she said. "My exact words were, 'Do you mean death?' He said yes. Nobody here really thought he had a good chance. It's just remarkable. The doctors here have stayed right on top of his situation."

"She agrees he is indeed a 'tough old bird.'"

"We give God all the credit," she said. "Even the neurosurgeon called David a miracle. David is a very spiritual person. He does a lot of witnessing to people. He's very active in AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) and NA (Narcotics Anonymous). He's always given of his time. He transports people to AA and NA meetings."

Will her husband ever regain full mobility? It remains to be seen. "We'll just have to wait and see. He'll go to a long-term rehab facility. We're look-
HIGHLY DECORATED — A display box containing medals awarded David Stephenson of Union City attests to his bravery and service during a tour of duty in South Vietnam. At the top is the coveted Combat Infantryman's badge. Underneath the badge is the Silver Star medal. Proceeding clockwise, the remainder are the Air Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star medal. At the center is a card issued by the 101st Airborne Division.

LOCAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT FOREIGN LANGUAGE DAY — Gleason High School students, Elizabeth Terrell and Breanna Carden, recently won second place in the Spanish Posters competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. Pictured, left to right, are: Dr. David Coffey, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Terrell, Carden and Dr. Lynn Alexander, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

LOCAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT FOREIGN LANGUAGE DAY — Westview High School student, Brandie Gushrowski, recently won third place in the French Posters competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. Pictured, left to right, are: Dr. David Coffey, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Bushrowski and Dr. Lynn Alexander, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

UT study says system worth $2.5 billion in income

KNOXVILLE (AP) — A study by the University of Tennessee shows its campuses bring in at least $2.5 billion annually in income to the state and support more than 53,600 jobs.

The study by the Center for Business and Economic Research at UT Knoxville also found the university generates an estimated $237.6 million in state and local tax revenue.

Data from fiscal year 2006 was analyzed to estimate the economic impact of the UT system overall and the campuses in Knoxville, Martin, Chattanooga, the Health Science Center in Memphis and the Space Institute in Tullahoma.
LOCAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT FOREIGN LANGUAGE DAY – Westview High School student, Marianela D'Aprile, recently won second place in the French Posters competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin High School Foreign Language Day. Pictured, left to right, are: Dr. David Coffey, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, D'Aprile and Dr. Lynn Alexander, interim dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

LOCAL STUDENTS 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 Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of The First Amendment Center in Nashville. Spencer Taylor, right, and Josh Lemons, left, both of Martin, received the Wayne Tansil Scholarship. Tomi Parrish, center, instructor 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 Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of The First Amendment Center in Nashville. Chad Brewer, of Martin, received the WLJT Scholarship. Monica Shumake, WLJT general manager and CEO, presented the award.

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 Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of The First Amendment Center in Nashville. Chris Mansfield, of Martin, received the Freshman Communications Scholarship. Rodney Freed, instructor of communications, presented the award.
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 Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of The First Amendment Center in Nashville. Kara Kidwell, of Martin, received the Outstanding Non-Traditional Student Award. Dr. Richard Robinson, assistant professor of communications, presented the award.

LOCAL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT UT MARTIN COMMUNICATIONS DAY - The UT Martin Department of Communications recently held its annual Communications Day to honor the academic and extracurricular accomplishments of communications students. Brent Harris, of Martin, received the Broadcasting Chairman's Outstanding Senior Award. Dr. Robert Nanney, Department of Communications chair, presented the award. Harris also received the WUTM Faculty Advisor Award.

LOCAL STUDENT RECOGNIZED - Amanda Borah, of Martin, received the Outstanding Interior Design Student Award at the 22nd Annual UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences awards banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Lisa LeBleu, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences chair.

UT DAY ON THE HILL - University of Tennessee at Martin sophomore Abbey Stoker, of Dresden, and freshman Calvin Jones, of Munford, were recent student representatives to UT Day on the Hill in Nashville. The two students, along with students and administrators from all UT campuses, had opportunities to meet with state legislators and discuss legislative bills pertaining to higher education. The entire group ended the day listening to coaches Pat Head Summitt, Bruce Pearl and Derek Dooley. They are pictured with Dr. Jim Thompson, left, UT College of Veterinary Medicine dean.
Unger to intern with Tenn. Democratic Party

Mary Unger, of Martin, will intern this summer with the Tennessee Democratic Party in Nashville. She will spend May 24-Aug. 8 working in the areas of fundraising, event planning and communications. Unger, a senior, has a major in communications with a concentration in public relations and a minor in political science.

“I’m fortunate enough to have individuals in my life to help me pursue this opportunity,” said Unger.

“This is an important time for politics in Tennessee, and working with the Tennessee Democratic Party will be incredibly beneficial in pursuing my future goals.

I can’t wait to see what all Nashville has to offer while working for such an influential organization.” She added that the internship also will be good experience for her because she will be living on her own in Nashville and will get to understand what it’s like to reside in a larger city. “With the support of my family and friends, I feel confident about traveling to Nashville and making strong connections for my future.”

Unger plans to work in public relations or attend graduate school after graduating in May 2011. “My goal is to work in public relations in a corporate or governmental setting,” she said. “This internship will be a good test to figure out if I would like to pursue political public relations or possibly further my collegiate career to the graduate level.”

Mitzi Smith receives doctorate

Among the 1,350 graduates at Arkansas State University’s Spring 2010 Commencement Saturday was Mitzi Harris Smith of Blytheville, who received a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership.

Dr. Smith, who has been a teacher and high school principal in this area the past 28 years, also holds a B.S.E. from the University of Tennessee at Martin (1981) and an M.S.E. from Arkansas State University. She is a graduate of Dyer County High School.

Dr. Smith completed her dissertation titled “A Study of Leadership Styles That Lead To Academic Achievement of Hispanic Students.”

She taught English and Advanced Placement classes at Newport High School, South Pemiscot High School, Gosnell High School, and Union City High School before becoming principal at South Mississippi County High School eight years ago. She has also served as a part-time instructor at Arkansas Northeastern College.

She will leave her position at South Mississippi County Schools on July 1 to become Director of Curriculum at another area school.

Dr. Smith is married to Herb Smith of Blytheville, Ark., UTM Class of 1981 and former editor of the Weakley County Press. They have two children who are also teachers. Daughter Ashley Gallant is a third grade teacher at Central Elementary School in Blytheville and son Chris Smith is a teacher/coach at Obion County Central High School.

She is the daughter of Ralph and Anne Stanbrough of Newbern.
Five inducted into ROTC

The University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk ROTC Battalion inducted five alumni into the ROTC Alumni Hall of Fame at a recent ceremony. Maj. Gen. Mike Maloan, UT Martin Class of 1972; Col. James W. Adams, ROTC Class of 1984; Col. Leith A. Benedict, ROTC Class of 1985; retired Col. James W. Danley, ROTC Class of 1978; and Col. Stephen E. Walker, ROTC Class of 1981, were inducted.

"The ROTC Hall of Fame induction ceremony is an event that recognizes the achievements of five distinguished University of Tennessee at Martin's graduates," said Lt. Col. Angela M. Odom, professor of military science. "We are honored to induct these individuals into the ROTC Hall of Fame as they have made significant contributions to the service of our nation."

Maj. Gen. James R. Sholar, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2006, was the guest speaker. Sholar assumed the position of deputy commanding general, United States Army Reserve Command, in 2009. Previously, he commanded the 88th Regional Support Command, Ft. McCoy, Wis., from September 2006 to July 2009. He also served as senior commander, Ft. McCoy, from January 2008 to July 2009. A native of Stewart County, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant, field artillery, through UT Martin ROTC in 1971. He has served continuously for more than 38 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Army and Army Reserve.

Retired Lt. Gen. John Castellaw, United States Marine Corps, also attended the ceremony. He is a UT Martin alumnus and a member of the ROTC Hall of Fame.

UT Martin ROTC Alumni Hall of Fame has six general officers among the 17 total. A total of 631 officers have been commissioned through the Department of Military Science and Leadership since 1964, when the Army awarded the university "senior" ROTC status.

Maloan currently serves as the deputy adjutant general, third in command of the Army Tennessee National Guard. Maloan received a direct commission in 1988 in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. Prior to receiving his commission, he served as an enlisted member of the 164th Support Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard.

Walker is the commander of the Defense Energy Support Center Europe and Africa (DESC-EA). Walker has served more than 29 years in the Army in assignments around the world. He was commissioned in 1982 as a quartermaster officer. Walker holds a Master of Science in logistics management from the Florida Institute of Technology and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.
LOCAL UTM STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

Several local students were recognized during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

- Thomas H. Hester III, of Martin, recently received the Outstanding Chemistry Major Award.
- Crystal A. Aaronsen, of Martin, recently received the Jim Burdette Memorial Award.
- Kristi A. Mendez, of Dresden, recently received the William H. Baker Scholarship Award.
- Theresa L. Kimmy, of Martin, recently received the Outstanding Visual and Theatre Arts Student Award.
- Lynsey D. Sinclair, of Martin, recently received the Alpha Omicron Pi Mothers’ Club Scholarship Award.
- Lacie A. Trevathan, of Gleason, recently received the Outstanding Educational Studies 4-8 Student Award.
- Ezra F. Nance, of Martin, recently received the Outstanding Freshman Engineering Award.
- Ronald C. Peckham, of Martin, recently received the Literary Award in Short Story.
- Robert H. Mitchell, of Martin, recently received the Martin Lions Club-H.B. Smith Award.
- Molly E. Alexander, of Martin, recently received the Intercollegiate Athletics Student-Athlete Award for Rodeo.
- Christina P. Dillard, of Dresden, recently received the Madeline Hall Pritchett Award.

UPCOMING MBA SESSION TO DISCUSS CUSTOMER SERVICE

"Customer Service: It's All About the Guest in Your Business" is the topic of an upcoming Martin Business Association Lunch and Learn session.

Sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin, the Tennessee Small Business Development Center, and MBA, the workshop will be from noon-1 p.m., June 15, at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center, 406 S. Lindell St., Martin.

The cost is $10 and includes lunch. This Lunch and Learn will focus on how to implement do's and don'ts for customer service.

Register by June 11 by calling the REED Center at 587-7333 or register online at www.utm.edu/reed.
Senior Walk

MARTIN - 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 550 graduates took the opportunity to say goodbye to classmates, faculty and staff. Pictured left to right, Elaine Haw of McKenzie, an agriculture business major; Heather Grossner of Troy, an accounting and finance double major; and Julie Joyner of Trenton, a business management major, joined classmates at the event.

David Deaton of McKenzie, a graphic design major, joined classmates at the event.

Local Students Participate in Math Contest

MARTIN - The 54th 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. At the UT Martin testing site, 256 students competed from 12 schools. Students from McKenzie High School who participated in the contest at the UT Martin testing site were, from left to right, first row, LeAnn Venture, Chase Gunter, Ashley Bailus, Laura Warren, Laura Oakley and Kelsey Carr; second row, Troy Herbsou, Curtis Broadbent, Aarron Oakley, Conor Scuton, Kenisha Dowell, Randi Bunyard and Linley McCallin; third row, Austin Bennett, Olivia Pate, Hunter Herrin, Allan Akin, Matt McBride, Kirby Esch, Derek Hopper, Johnathan Curtis and James Arnold.
Reception for local artists to be held:
Pat Riley and Diane Shaw May 22

Courtsquare Arts and Antiques in Trenton is proud to host a reception and art display for two artists well known in the area: Diane Shaw and Pat Riley.

The reception is from 10 am until 2 pm, Sat., May 22 at 103 S. Court Square in Trenton.

“We cordially invite everyone to stop by and see the wonderful works of art created by Diane and Pat,” said a spokesperson.

Diane Shaw is an Associate Professor in the Visual and Theatre Arts Dept. at the Univ. of TN at Martin, teaching two-dimensional courses including Drawing, Painting, Mixed Media and Printmaking. She also teaches Art Education and Art Appreciation.

Diane has two children, Tori and Stuart Shaw and resides in Martin. Her personal work is executed in acrylic, primarily on paper. Her subjects are frequently landscapes interpreted with expressionistic and colorful swipes of color. Ms. Shaw has exhibited her works locally and nationally and in many juried shows online.

Pat Riley became interested in photography in 1982 when he purchased his first “real” camera, a Nikon LS (SLR) and began to take numerous photos. To sharpen his skills, Mr. Riley attended workshops on photography hosted by staff photographers of The Commercial Appeal newspaper.

“I really enjoy the freedom of creativity that photography offers,” he said. “The digital age has opened up many other possibilities. I would like to invite everyone to Courtsquare Arts and Antiques Saturday, May 22 to a show that will exhibit some of my work.”

Pat is manager of Gibson Co. Utility District and lives in Trenton with his wife, Julie.

Shaw and Riley will have many of their artistic works available for sale and will be on hand to discuss their works with the public. People can enjoy refreshments, visiting the gallery and greeting others.

WAY TO GO, DADDY! Griffin Burns congratulated his dad, Byron Burns, on his graduation from the University of Tennessee at Martin last Saturday. Byron, the son of Dale and Barbie Burns of Milan, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a major in Marketing. He graduated Magna Cum Laude. Byron is a Milan High School alum. He resides in Milan with his wife, Candance, and their son, Griffin.
UT Martin infuses state with $138.5M in income

The University of Tennessee at Martin brings at least $138.5 million annually in income to the State of Tennessee and supports more than 3,800 jobs, according to a study released Monday.

The study by the Center for Business and Economic Research at UT Knoxville also found the university generates an estimated $15.1 million in state and local tax revenue each year.

"As one of Tennessee's two public universities west of the Tennessee River, UT Martin continues to play a vital role in the economic, educational and cultural landscape of Tennessee," UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes said. "Boasting one of the highest graduation rates among four Tennessee public institutions, UT Martin represents one of the best buys in the South."

UT economists, led by CBER director Bill Fox, analyzed data from fiscal year 2008 to estimate the economic impact of the UT System overall and the individual impact of the campuses in Knoxville, Martin, Chattanooga, the Health Science Center in Memphis and the Space Institute in Tullahoma.

The economic impact studies focused on direct employment and income data. The university's payroll for FY 2008, including salary and benefits for 2,152 full-time and part-time faculty, staff and student employees, was $33.9 million. The effect of payroll spending was $107.8 million and accounted for approximately 762 additional jobs.

The $16.3 million UT Martin spent on goods and services in the state led to $10.5 million in income for the state and the creation of 256 additional jobs.

(See Page 5, Col. 4)


UT Martin to host Memorial Day observance

Posted: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:02 pm

University of Tennessee at Martin students Sgt. Cole Turner, Champion of Huntington and Spc. David Hochreiter of McKenzie will be guest speakers at the 10th annual Memorial Day Commemoration at UT Martin.

The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. May 28 at the Hall-Hamilton Administration Building entrance on campus.

Champion completed basic training and military job training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and Fort Huachuca, Ariz., respectively.

Hochreiter enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard, completed basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., in 2006 and, in early 2008, deployed to Iraq as a platoon medic. His unit was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After completion of his year-long deployment, Hochreiter returned home in November 2009 and is continuing his education at UT Martin.

Area veterans are asked to call Jennie Sims at (731) 881-7150 to confirm attendance so they can be recognized during the local Memorial Day event.

Capt. Daniel F. Evans, Tennessee Army National Guard officer recruiter, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Dr. Robert Marcus, assistant professor of music, will perform the national anthem and Staff Sgt. Chuck Saddler, Tennessee Army National Guard recruiter, will offer the invocation and benediction. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, will welcome guests.

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-Hamilton 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 Student Life Center on the UT Martin campus.

Published in The Messenger 5.19.10
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.

Josh Isbell of Collierville received a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice. He interned with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in Jackson during the spring semester. While at UT Martin, he served as a campus recreation supervisor, Peer Enabling Program leader, student ambassador, Habitat for Humanity chapter president and Alpha Phi Sigma National Honor Society in Criminal Justice Kappa Epsilon Chapter president. He is a National Honor Society member and received the Outstanding Service and University Service awards.

Eric Lipford of Alamo received a Bachelor of Arts with a major in psychology and minor in music. Lipford has served as the pianist, vocalist and production manager for Four Fold LLC, Scotts Hill, since 2005. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, American Choral Director's Association, Southeastern Psychological Association and Psi Chi, the National Society for Psychology. He has also served on a number of university committees and was the UT Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee member in 2008-09. His community service has included an extensive list of benefit concerts.

Oliver receives award

Graham Oliver, of Gleason, received the Outstanding Agricultural Engineering Technology Student Award at the 22nd Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences awards banquet. The award was presented by Richard Shadden, professor of agricultural engineering.
UT Martin hosts Memorial Day Observance May 28; Area vets to be recognized

Sgt. Cole Turner Champion, of Huntingdon, and Spc. David Hochreiter, of McKenzie, UT Martin students, will be guest speakers at the 10th annual Memorial Day Commemoration at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., May 28, at the Hall-Moody Administration Building entrance.

Champion completed basic training and military job training at Ft. Jackson, S.C., and Ft. Huachuca, Ariz., respectively. He completed one semester at UT Martin before being deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served in Iraq until July 2009. He then returned to UT Martin in the fall of 2009 to continue his education.

Hochreiter, of McKenzie, enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard, completed basic training at Ft. Sill, Okla., in 2006 and in early 2008. Hochreiter deployed to Iraq as a platoon medic. His unit was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After completion of his yearlong deployment, Hochreiter returned home in November 2009 and is continuing his education at UT Martin.

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

Capt. Daniel F. Evans, Tennessee Army National Guard Officer Recruiter, will serve as master of ceremonies. Dr. Robert Mancusi, assistant professor of music, will perform the national anthem, and Staff Sgt. Chuck Sadler, Tennessee Army National Guard recruiter, will offer the invocation and the benediction. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, will welcome guests. 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 Student Life Center on the UT Martin campus.

Local students participate in Math Contest

The 54th 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. At the UT Martin testing site, 256 students competed from 12 schools. Students from Greenfield High School who participated were, from left to right, first row, Laura Croom, Rachel Roberts, Mallory Robinson, Katy Caudle; second row, Wes Clark, Makala Sizese, Kaitlyn Simmons, Katie McCall, Meagan Porter and Tony Robinson; third row, Emily McCartney, Abbey McDaniel, Dakota Betts, Hunter Martin, Tyler Jones and Hunter Crouse.
Dr. Nick Dunagan tells largest UT Martin class to be ‘bucket fillers’

Dr. Nick Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor emeritus, encouraged each graduate at the 2010 UT Martin commencement ceremony today to be a “bucket filler and not a bucket emptier.” He spoke to the largest graduating class in the institution’s history.

He explained that the concept, created in the 1960s by Dr. Donald Clifton, is based on each individual carrying around an imaginary bucket that is constantly being filled or emptied, “depending on what people say to you, what people do to you and your circumstances in life.”

He said, “A full bucket gives us a positive outlook and renewed energy, and every drop in that bucket makes us stronger. But an empty bucket poisons our outlook, saps our strength and doesn’t make us feel good at all.”

Dunagan also urged them to surround themselves with other bucket fillers. He related how UT Martin had filled his bucket during his career when he saw students blossom, faculty members find joy in teaching, an administrator solving a problem, or a graduate returning to campus with his or her family to visit. He told graduates, “what you decide to do and the path you decide to take will have a profound influence on your relationships, your productivity, your health and also your happiness.”

Dunagan had requested the commencement musical selection, “My Wish,” made popular by Rascal Flatts. He also suggested graduates listen to the lyrics again, especially the references to “help somebody every chance you get” and “always give more than you take.”

“Good luck and God speed,” he said. “My wish is that you have also felt that this institution has filled your bucket, and you will go out in life and pay forward and help fill the buckets of others.”

The spring graduating class of 696, the largest in history, represented 54 Tennessee counties, 12 states and 10 countries. They join more than 37,000 UT Martin alumni worldwide.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.

Rakes asked UT Martin’s newest alumni to take time to thank all those who have helped them achieve this goal, to keep in touch with their alma mater and to be supportive and vocal about the value of higher education.

“Education is not what’s received, but what you achieve,” said Rakes. “As graduates of UT Martin, your diploma is a symbol of a significant achievement – you add another tool to your resume.”

---

ROACH RECEIVES CARL SEALE STUDENT TEACHER AWARD – The recipient of the University of Tennessee at Martin Carl Seale Student Teacher Award for spring semester 2010 is Deanna Roach, left, of South Fulton. 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. Roach was a student teacher this semester at Martin Elementary School, where Teresa Jackson is principal, and at Fulton County Elementary, where Julie Jackson is principal. Her cooperating teacher at Martin Elementary was Mary Lee Grossner, pictured with her, and her cooperating teacher at Fulton County was Carla McClure. Her university supervisor was Dr. Beth Quick, Department of Educational Studies chair. Roach will receive a Master of Science in education at UT Martin commencement on May 15. (Photo submitted)
Fulton-South Fulton Rotary Community Scholarship Program

ASHLEY SMITH
Daughter of Mary Smith & George McFarland
South Fulton High School
$500
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Robert's Lodge #50 - $250
- Community Scholarship - $250

BRITTNEE STURGEON
Daughter of Bryan & Julia Sturgeon
South Fulton High School
$500
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Dr. Edward McWhirt - $250
- Community Scholarship - $250

ASHLEE TYNES
Daughter of John & Cathy Fry and Joey & Lisa Tynes
South Fulton High School
$1250
University of Tennessee - Martin
- P & R Tire - $250
- Citizens Bank - $250
- Jo & Paul Westpheling Memorial - $250
- Community Scholarship - $500

KATHERINE BIVENS
Daughter of Margaret Smithson
South Fulton High School
$1400
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Dr. Glynn Bushart Memorial - $1000
- Dr. Josh & Allison Whitlegg - $250
- Community Scholarship - $150

JORDAN CHERRY
Son of Paula Walker & Russell Cherry
South Fulton High School
$1300
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Reelfoot Bank - $750
- Curtis Hancock Sr. Memorial - $400
- Community Scholarship - $150

SAM CURTIS
Son of Kim and the late Chuck Curtis
South Fulton High School
$800
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Pic Pac Grocery - $250
- McKinney Construction - $250
- Community Scholarship - $300
**BRITTANY BENJAMIN**
Daughter of Danyllia & Miguel Lira and Michael and Judy Benjamin
South Fulton High School
$1350
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Ali Kraft Erectors - $500
- Dr. Robert Peterson - $500
- Community Scholarship - $350

**JOSH BENNETT**
Son of Jeff and Tracy Bennett
South Fulton High School
$750
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Fall & Fall - $250
- Friends of the Library - $250
- Community Scholarship - $250

**REBECCA GROGAN**
Daughter of Stacy Gatwood & Randle Gatwood
South Fulton High School
$1000
University of Tennessee - Martin
- All Kraft Erectors - $1000

**JORDAN FORREST**
Daughter of Roger & Chandra Forrester
Fulton High School
$250
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Best Interview - $250

**DANIELLE FRIELDS**
Daughter of Danny & Genia Friels
South Fulton High School
$1350
University of Tennessee - Martin
- Waymen - $1000
- Community Scholarship - $320

**MALLORY MARTIN**
Daughter of Jeff & Lori Martin
South Fulton High School
$1400
University of Tennessee - Martin
- All Kraft Erectors - $1000
- Ward Animal Clinic - $250
- Community Scholarship - $150
LOCAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MATH CONTEST — The 54th 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. At the UT Martin testing site, 256 students competed from 12 schools. Students from South Fulton High School who participated were, from left to right, first row, Mallory Martin, Ashlee Tynes, Megan White, Sarah Gammon, Jorgianna Morton and Henry Lui; second row, Samantha Murray, Grace Bruner, Danielle Fields, Mikaela Hardy, Haley McKinney, Paxton Sisson and Hayler Pitcher; third row, Seth Fields, Landon Sowell, Reid Barker and Jordan Cherry. (Photo submitted)

Pharmacy Technician program offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies in partnership with Jackson State Community College’s Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development are offering the Pharmacy Technician program from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 22-August 10. The program will be offered on JSCC campus. The cost is $999 including textbooks and lab supplies.

The comprehensive 50-hour course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board’s PTCB exam. Technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings working under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will learn dosage calculations, intravenous flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

For more information call 731-881-7081 or go online to http://www.utm.edu/department/ecce/nondegree/home.php.

Rogers receives UTM award

Emily Rogers of Trenton received the Outstanding Phi Upsilon Omicron Member Award at the 22nd Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences awards banquet.
Dodd receives award
The recipient of the University of Tennessee at Martin Carl Seale Student Teacher Award for spring semester 2010 is Ben Dodd of Trenton (left). 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. Dodd’s cooperating teachers at Crockett County High School were Kelly Piatt and Brett Piatt. His university supervisor was Dr. Jimmy Butler, professor of agricultural education (right). He received a Bachelor of Science in agriculture at UT Martin commencement on May 15.

Shaw, Riley are featured artists
Courtsquare Arts and Antiques is proud to be hosting a reception and art display for two artists well known in the area: Diane Shaw and Pat Riley. The reception will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 22, at 103 South Courtsquare in Trenton.

"We cordially invite everyone to stop by and see the wonderful works of art created by Diane and Pat," a spokesperson said.

Shaw is an associate professor in the Visual and Theatre Arts Department at the University of Tennessee at Martin, teaching two-dimensional courses including drawing, painting, mixed media and printmaking. She has taught some art education and art appreciation courses. She has two children, Tori and Stuart Shaw, and currently resides in Martin. Her personal work is executed in acrylic, mostly on paper. Subject matter is mainly that of landscapes interpreted with loose, expressionistic, and very colorful swipes of color. Shaw has shown her work in exhibitions both locally and nationally. It has also been exhibited in many juried shows online.

Riley became interested in photography in 1982 when he purchased his first "real" camera. It was a Nikon LS (SLR) and he began to take a lot of pictures. He attended many workshops on photography to sharpen his skills that were hosted by the staff photographers of the The Commercial Appeal.

"I really enjoy the freedom of creativity that photography offers. The digital age has even opened up many other possibilities. I would like to invite everyone to Court Square Arts and Antiques on Saturday, May 22, to a show that will exhibit some of my work," he said.

Riley is the manager of Gibson County Utility District and lives in Trenton with his wife, Julie. Both artists will have many of their artistic works available for sale and will be on hand to discuss their work with you. So, make it a point to come by, enjoy the refreshments, enjoy the gallery and just say ‘hello’ and join in the fun.

‘October Blue’
Diane Shaw and Pat Riley, local artists, will host a reception and art display at Courtsquare Arts and Antiques on Saturday, May 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The artwork pictured above, “October Blue,” was painted by Shaw.
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 550 graduates took the opportunity to say goodbye to classmates, faculty and staff. Pictured (from left) Elaine Haw of McKenzie, an agriculture business major; Heather Grossner of Troy, an accounting and finance double major; and Julie Joyner of Trenton, a business management major, joined classmates at the event.

EARTH WEEK ARTISTS - UTM Recycles! sponsored an Earth Week Art Contest to raise awareness and interest in the local recycling group and its sustainable activities. Grades kindergarten to two contest winners, pictured with Karoline Null, included, (from left) Alyssa Null, honorable mention; Brian Hicks, first place; Madison Miles, honorable mention; Sarah Foltz, honorable mention; Lillie Worwick, honorable mention; Emily Ray, third place tie; and Brianna Howard, honorable mention. Not pictured were Destin McKeel, second place; Sallie Bradshaw, third place tie, and Nicholas Sterrett, honorable mention.

(Crowned queen
Leslie Stovall, daughter of Dr. John and Mrs. Stovall of Trenton, was crowned Territorial Queen of the 74th annual West Tennessee Strawberry Festival last week and will reign over the 2011 festival next May. Leslie has just completed her freshman year at the University of Tennessee, Martin. Incidentally, her mom, Cathy, was the first Miss Trenton Teapot, 30 years ago.)
Ekg and Phlebotomy Technician programs offered in Selmer

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering EKG Technician and Phlebotomy Technician programs at the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer this summer.

The 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. This 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. Additionally, students will practice with equipment and perform hands-on labs including introduction to the function and proper use of the EKG machine, the normal anatomy of the chest wall for proper lead placement, 12-lead placement and other clinical practices. The course will be offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, June 21-August 11. There will be no class on July 5. The cost is $999 including textbooks and lab supplies.

The 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 phlebotomy methods. There is no outside externship rotation included with this program. The course will be offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 1-August 31. The cost is $1,599 including textbooks and lab supplies.

For more information on these courses, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7081 or go online to http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.

Internship/Workshop program helps students

The University of Tennessee at Martin Center for International Education (CIE) has announced the first group of recipients of the federally funded International Education Internship/Workshop Scholarship Program. This program is poised to help students gain practical international project experiences and make them more marketable post-graduation.

"The CIE was entrusted these external funds to help our students gain practical educational experiences," said Dr. Malcolm Koch, CIE executive director. "We are pleased to see such a cross-discipline group of students in this pilot group, and look forward to their personal and professional success.

Selected students will participate in one of four international education internship/workshop experiences: Work Projects/Internships for Regional Business/Industry; PIBA projects with an international component, Promotional Work Projects for the CIE; Traditional Student to International Student Mentor Program or Travel-Study/Study-Abroad Ambassador Program.

Students in each of the four areas signed "international education agreements" committing them to various tasks and detailed reporting. Much of the reporting of these real-world experiences will be demonstrated in student-to-student channels, and will be monitored by internationally focused faculty and staff.

"This program is a great match for my students in fashion merchandising," said Dr. Sue Byrd, UT Martin professor of textiles, clothing and merchandising. "My students are required to complete an internship, and those tied to this cohort are interning in businesses that buy products from international vendors. This program challenges them to document and discuss the pros and cons of using international vendors, and to consider carefully the ethics involved when American suppliers are left out.

"In addition to agreement deliverables, all students in the pilot group are completing pre- and post-test international competency surveys," said Koch. "It is anticipated this program will demonstrate these direct experiences will not only give students marketable job skills, but will change their long-term views on globalization."

The CIE program is a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Center for International Education is led by Dr. Malcolm Koch, and serves the UT Martin campus community. The CIE is a part of the College of Business and Global Affairs. For more information on this or other internationally focused programs, contact Lorrie Jackson, administrative specialist, at 731-881-1023.
Dunagan urges graduates to keep their buckets full

Dr. Nick Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor emeritus, encouraged each graduate at the 2010 UT Martin commencement ceremony Saturday to be a “bucket filler and not a bucket emptier.”

He spoke to the largest graduating class in the institution's history.

He explained that the concept, created in the 1960s by Dr. Donald Clifton, is based on each individual carrying around an imaginary bucket that is constantly being filled or emptied, “depending on what people say to you, what people do to you and your circumstances in life.”

“A full bucket gives us a positive outlook and renewed energy and every drop in that bucket makes us stronger. But an empty bucket poisons our outlook, saps our strength and doesn’t make us feel good at all,” he said.

Dunagan also urged them to surround themselves with other bucket fillers.

He related how UT Martin had filled his bucket during his career when he saw students blossom, faculty members find joy in teaching, an administrator solving a problem or a graduate returning to campus with his or her family to visit.

He told graduates, “What you decide to do and the path you decide to take will have a profound influence on your relationships, your productivity, your health and also your happiness.”

Dunagan had requested the commencement musical selection, “My Wish,” made popular by Rascal Flatts. He also suggested graduates listen to the lyrics again, especially the references to “help somebody every chance you get” and “always give more than you take.”

“Good luck and God speed,” he said. “My wish is that you have also felt that this institution has filled your bucket and that you will go out in life and pay forward and help fill the buckets of others.”

The spring graduating class of 696, the largest in history, represented 54 Tennessee counties, 12 states and 10 countries. They join more than 37,000 UT Martin alumni worldwide.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.

Rakes asked UT Martin’s newest alumni to take time to thank all those who have helped them achieve this goal, to keep in touch with their alma mater and to be supportive and vocal about the value of higher education.

“Education is not what’s received, but what you achieve,” Rakes said. “As graduates of UT Martin, your diploma is a symbol of a significant achievement. You add another tool to your resume.”

UT Martin to host Memorial Day observance

University of Tennessee at Martin students Sgt. Cole Turner Champion of Huntingdon and Spc. David Hochreiter of McKenzie will be guest speakers at the 10th annual Memorial Day Commemoration at UT Martin.

The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. May 28 at the Hal Moody Administration Building entrance on campus.

Champion completed basic training and military jobs training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and Fort Huachuca, Ariz., respectively.

He completed one semester at UT Martin before being deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served in Iraq until July 2009 and then returned to UT Martin in the fall of 2009 to continue his education.

Hochreiter enlisted in the Tennessee National Guard, completed basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., in 2006 and, in early 2008, deployed to Iraq as a platoon medic. His unit was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After completion of his year-long deployment, Hochreiter returned home in November 2009 and is continuing his education at UT Martin.

Area veterans are asked to call Janice Sims at (731) 881-7150 to confirm attendance so they can be recognized during the local Memorial Day event.

Capt. Daniel F. Evans, Tennessee Army National Guard officer recruiter, will serve as master of ceremonies. Dr. Robert Mancusi, assistant professor of music, will perform the national anthem and Staff Sgt. Chuck Sudler, Tennessee Army National Guard recruiter, will offer the invocation and benediction. Dr. Tom Rakes

(See Page 8, Col. 1)
Martin — Some people know him as detective David Jones, a 20-year veteran of the Bartlett Police Department. Others know him by his stage name, Webby, a singer-songwriter who performs his unique style of music as "Rockabilly-Honky-Tonkin'-Rock-N-Roll."

Now, he will also be known as "college graduate," as Jones earned his bachelor's degree May 15 from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He joined the university's largest graduating class as he completed a degree that he began pursuing almost 30 years ago.

Through years of police work, a part-time music career and never giving up on his education, Jones has achieved his ultimate goal of earning a college diploma.

Jones, 46, was born in Montgomery, Ala., and moved to Memphis at a young age. He attended Frayser Baptist High School, played basketball and pursued a passion for music as a guitar player and singer. His athletic ability earned him a basketball scholarship at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., where he attended for two years and also kept his music dream alive by performing at a local pizza parlor. During the summers, while home from college, David would perform regularly in Nashville at clubs along Broadway and at the Nashville Palace where singer Randy Travis once worked as a cook.

When he returned to Ouachita his second year, he realized that he wanted to pursue music more than just part-time. "So I left Ouachita and moved to Nashville, traded a basketball and books for a guitar on a full-time basis," he said. "I lived in the back of my truck for about six and a half months at the Two Rivers Campground off Briley Parkway and then started playing with Loretta Lynn's daughter, Peggy."

Jones played with her for several months, then formed a Nashville-based band and went on the road, performing between 200 and 250 dates a year. "I met some good people and was very blessed in my music, playing and performing with some great musicians and artists," he said. The list of performers that he and his band opened for reads like a who's who of country music — names like George Strait, Garth Brooks, Randy Travis, George Jones, the late Keith Whitley and Kathy Mattea, just to name a few. But, he learned early on that the music business is tough and involves many personal sacrifices. He and his band were on the road several months at a time, and his girlfriend, whom he had met while performing at the Libertyland amusement park in Memphis, became ill and spent days at a time in the hospital as doctors tried to diagnose her illness.

By this point, Jones had been on the road playing music for about five years. He said that "it came down to keep chasing a dream or deal with the reality of the situation" in terms of supporting his girlfriend through her health problem. "I loved her, so I realized that I needed to put first things first, so I got off the road, and we got married." She recovered within a year, but they were told that having a child would be difficult, if not impossible, because of his wife's condition and the effects of her treatment. However, Jones said that "God had other plans," and the couple's son, Christopher, was born May 16, 1992.

Before Christopher's birth, Jones had begun taking criminal justice classes at what is now Southwest Tennessee Community College while working at Shelby County Juvenile Court. His goal was to land a police department position, which happened when he was hired by the Bartlett Police Department. This, in addition to a part-time job and family responsibilities, meant that college would have to wait. "About a year and a half ago, I was having a conversation with my son about how important an education is, and he needs to get his high school diploma, have a good GPA to get into college and pursue a degree," Christopher then asked his dad if he had finished his degree. "I said, "No son, I didn't. But I want better for you, and one of these days, I'm going to go back and finish.""

Jones realized that he had been saying the same canned response for the last 25 years in promising that he would return to school. With three years of completed college courses covering three academic concentrations under his belt, he considered his options for finishing and learned about a retired inspector at the Bartlett Police Department who had taken online courses through UT Martin. He recommended that Jones contact Dr. Brian Donavant, a former Bartlett colleague who was now a UT Martin criminal justice faculty member. "And so I called Brian, and told him what I wanted to do, and told him I had 119 hours of college, and I wanted to go back. I wanted to finish."

So Jones applied to UT Martin and began pursuit of an online Bachelor of University Studies degree in early 2008. The degree-completion program allowed Jones to count previous hours from the accredited institutions he had attended and pursue his remaining hours online. "Some of the classes have been very, very difficult, I mean especially the last two science classes. I have about pulled my hair out and probably aged five or 10 years," he said. He took classes without a break, including the summers.

Things became really tough last semester when his work caseload grew to the point that he considered dropping the course. "I kept telling myself, if I drop it, then I'm going to have to take my science somewhere else, and I'm going to have to take three more classes here, and I don't have the money, nor do I have the time. ... I'd be going backwards, and so I stayed in and pulled through it." A single parent for many years, he also faced the challenges that many adult students have in juggling a job and a family. Christopher, a junior at Arlington High School, was old enough to drive, which made it possible for him to get to school and football practice, providing Jones with more time to focus on school.
While life and school were happening, Jones' part-time music career had flourished since his return to performing in 1993. He had been off the road for about four years when he connected with a high school friend who needed a lead singer and guitarist for a band, so he quit a part-time job and started performing again. Later, while on police duty, he met Red West, who had worked as Elvis Presley's bodyguard. Jones told him that he was a musician, and West asked to hear some of Jones' music. Impressed, Red had made some phone calls to some of his friends in Nashville and set up some studio time. Jones said, "Red also suggested I change my name. Since Red was in the movie Roadhouse with Patrick Swayze, he was partial to the name 'Dalton' (played by Swayze in the 1989 film)." Jones then went through his dad's old records that included Faron Young, Ray Price and a Webb Pierce album. "Red and I discussed it and settled on 'Webb Dalton.' I've been using the name since '93."

Jones is often asked if he regrets not pursuing a music career. "As far as making it, I enjoy what I'm doing now. I am blessed with a son, I enjoy law enforcement, and we play a lot of festivals and fairs, and I enjoy the family-type events," he said. "We perform regularly on Beale Street and around the Mid-South, including Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and in Florida."

The band also performs its Redneck Riviera Tour each summer in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, Ala., with this year's tour set for June 6-12.

His Memphis-based band covers material from country to rockabilly to rock and roll and blues, as well as performing his original songs. Although he still has a passion for performing, the life of a part-time musician isn't easy.

"You can go out to my truck right now. I got it loaded down with sound equipment, and you know who set it up?" he said. "You know, it's not just going on stage and plugging my guitar in. There's a lot of time and effort that goes into it (performing). But it's worth it. I enjoy it. If I didn't, obviously wouldn't do it."

He also enjoys his law enforcement career, which produced an unforgettable experience earlier this year in Bartlett while he was on duty. He was at his desk Jan. 7 when a call came through about a child who had fallen through the surface of an icy pond. Several boys were playing football on the ice when it broke; two of the boys made it to safety, but one did not. They reached the grandfather of one of the boys who called for help. Jones and two other detectives headed to the scene to see if they could assist.

When they arrived, things didn't look good for the missing child, 10-year-old Reese Wagner, who was still under the ice at the bottom of the pond. At this point, Reese had been under for more than 20 minutes, Jones recalled. A small, tarp-covered boat just happened to be in the back yard of one of the houses next to the pond, so they uncovered it, pushed it down the hill and launched the boat. Jones and two other police officers were inside the boat, and firefighters were standing by on the pond's bank. If the experience of a child being underwater for more than 20 minutes wasn't stressful enough, the boat was taking in water because there was no drain plug. So, moving quickly, Jones used an eight-foot fireman's pole to drag the pond that ranged in depth from eight to 10 feet, which meant Jones had his arms underwater for long periods of time while searching. Repeated passes through the water produced only debris and limbs. However, on one pass, he felt that he had something, and upon pulling the object to the surface, he saw a camouflage jacket and the boy, and Jones yelled, "I got him!" They pulled Reese into the boat and took him to shore where paramedics were able to get a heartbeat inside the ambulance at the scene.

Jones visited the hospital the next day where Reese was in intensive care. He didn't get to see Reese, but he met his dad. "I wanted to see him with his eyes open. It would've obviously been difficult emotionally for the family, friends and emergency personnel if Reese did not make it. There was a lot of praying going on, Jones recalled, and a "Pray for Reese Wagner" Web page added to the people who were praying, he said.

Jones returned early the following week and found Reese's dad standing by his bed holding his son's hand. Reese was in an induced coma to prevent pneumonia, and the next thing that happened is nothing short of miraculous. "... I was standing there, and Reese opened his eyes and looked up and reached his hand out to me." Reese's dad told Jones that Reese wanted him to hold his hand, so Jones took his other hand. And, to Jones' surprise, the dad told him that Reese wouldn't have asked for his hand unless he recognized him. The only interaction that Jones had ever had with Reese was that day at the pond. Jones describes the experience as an "absolute miracle," and he gives credit to God and other rescuers at the scene for saving the boy's life.

Not all days are this rewarding, but Jones is pleased with where his life is headed. "I just did it backwards. You know, most folks, they get their degree and they go to work, and they get their experience. I've gotten my experience and then got my degree. ..." He can retire at 55, at which time his new degree will open doors to other law enforcement opportunities.

He's confident, too, that he has set a positive example for Christopher, who shows promise as a songwriter/musician and was in the commencement audience to see his dad graduate. Jones wishes he had finished his degree earlier, but he said, "It's worked out for the best." He added, "My degree is going to say 2010 instead of 1986. You know, it's new, It's fresh..."

In fact, he's so proud of his degree that Webb Dalton's performance tour schedule on his band's website (www.myspace.com/webbdaltonmusic) included a May 15 stop for UT Martin's commencement.

There might be a good song that can be written about how this story ended but, for now, the sound of his name being called as David Jones received his college degree was music to his ears.
UT MARTIN STUDENTS CLAIM PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARDS

MARTIN, Tenn. Public relations and visual communication students at the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications received awards at the annual Public Relations Society of America Student Vox Awards competition sponsored by the Memphis chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). Seven students and two faculty members attended the recent awards luncheon in Memphis.

The students received top honors with three Vox awards for a newsletter, a public relations research project, and a viral video for the Web. The students also received three Gold awards for a newsletter, a brochure, and a social media advertising campaign.

A group of public relations majors received a Vox Award for a research project conducted for the Country Pet Resort and Spa in Martin; Mary Unger and Tara Bea, both of Martin; Matt Byers, of Paris; Erica Davis, of Belle, Erin Lakin, of Burre, Josh Weiss, of Germantown; and Becca Wilkinson, of Old Hickory, worked on the project.

Rebecca Alsup, of Prosper, received a Vox award for her UT Martin Public Relations Student Society of American chapter newsletter. Alsup also received a Gold Award for her Alpha Delta Pi brochure.

Danny Hussey, of Oak Grove, received a Vox Award for his “UT Martin Rangers” viral video.

Brandy Hardy, of Clarksville, received a Gold Award for her UT Martin Vegetarian Society Newsletter.

A group of public relations, news editorial, and visual communication students received a Gold Award for a You Tube advertising campaign proposal created for the UT Martin Office of University Relations; Weiss, of Germantown; Regina Emory, of Indian Mound; Ashley Strader Ballard, of Mudflow; David Deaton, of McKenzie; Brent Harris, of Martin; Ryan Harris, of Fayetteville; Laura McFall, of Cordova, and Kaylin Bishop, of Union City, worked on the campaign proposal.

The Student Vox competition included entries in a number of categories ranging of research projects and campaigns to individual print and Web projects. A Vox Award was given to the one entry considered to be the most outstanding in each category. Gold awards were given to entries that demonstrated high-caliber work.

The Memphis chapter of PRSA sponsored the Student Vox competition. The competition provides students with an opportunity to submit their best work of the classroom, internships, or academic/social organizations. The Student Vox competition is modeled after the professional Vox Awards, which honors outstanding work done by communications professionals. The Student Vox Awards were judged by local Memphis PRSA professionals and were given to students presenting the highest caliber of work in various communications categories.

#88
Twins claim BGA class' top spots

Saturday ceremony kicked off county's 2010 graduations

By Maria Giordano · THE TENNESSEAN · May 20, 2010

FRANKLIN — Ariel and Nicole Hill are as close as twin sisters can be.

They share the same room, they encourage each other in school and in sports, and now they are Battle Ground Academy's Class of 2010 valedictorian and salutatorian.

"We've always been really, really close in grades," said Nicole, who is the class salutatorian. Her sister Ariel's grade point average was two-hundredths of a point higher, making her the valedictorian.

"I think it's that we support each other," Ariel said. "It's not vicious competition. It's more like we push each other to do our best."

The twins, who have been going to the private school since they were in fifth grade, will make BGA history as the first siblings to hold the top academic spots at the same time. The girls, 18, will be going to Vanderbilt University in the fall.

But they won't be sharing a dormitory room their freshmen year, they said, looking at one another and laughing.

"We've been roaming together since we were born," Nicole said.

At Vanderbilt, Ariel wants to study political science. She's interested in developing foreign policy and being involved with diplomacy. Nicole hopes to study economics and European studies.

Neither girl said she had planned to become valedictorian or salutatorian, nor was one jealous of the other. They both said they just worked hard to do their best.

A pivotal moment in their education, they said, was the opportunity to attend the Governor's School at The University of Tennessee at Martin. There, the girls took college-level courses and met other students like themselves.

However, sometime last year, the girls said it did occur to them that they might actually have a shot at being at the top of their class. The sisters took to the stage Sunday, when 86 BGA seniors graduated.

Poised for the future, Ariel and Nicole said the best advice they had to give was to try your best and to keep college in mind.

"Enjoy high school," Nicole said. "But you also have to do the homework. Our parents always told us that."

Contact Maria Giordano at 615-771-5425 or mgiordano@tennessean.com.
LOCAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MATH CONTEST – The 54th 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. At the UT Martin testing site, 256 students competed from 12 schools. Students from Westview High School who participated were: (from left, first row), Chase Tweatt, Tyler Everett, Rebecca Lund, Megan Jones, Jing Sun, Kylie Infield, Cheyenne Gargus, Krishna Patel, Pauline Fergusson, Molly Williams, Rachael Samuel and Georgina Brown; (second row, from left) Abram Haddad, Merritt Spencer, Samatha Daily, Megan Prince, Megan Burcham, Stephanie Gourley, Brandt Gibson, Mark Maloney, Rachel Coleman, Maritania D'Aprile and Melissa Darroch; (third row, from left) Adam Cavin, Caitlin Campbell, Devansh Acharya, Saumil Patel, Noah Towe, Layla Gargus and Tim Bergman.

LOCAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MATH CONTEST – The 54th 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. At the UT Martin testing site, 256 students competed from 12 schools. Students from Greenfield High School who participated were: (from left, first row) Laura Croom, Rachel Roberts, Mallory Robinson, Katy Caudle; (second row, from left) Wes Clark, Makala Sitzes, Kaitlyn Simmons, Katie McCall, Meagan Porter and Tony Robinson; third row, from left) Emily McCartney, Abbey McDaniel, Dakota Betts, Hunter Martin, Tyler Jones and Hunter Crouse.
UTM infuses state with $138.5 million in income, supports more than 3,800 jobs

The University of Tennessee at Martin brings at least $138.5 million annually in income to the state of Tennessee and supports more than 3,800 jobs, according to a study released today.

The study by the Center for Business and Economic Research at UT Knoxville also found the university generates an estimated $15.1 million in state and local tax revenue each year.

"As one of Tennessee's two public universities west of the Tennessee River, UT Martin continues to play a vital role in the economic, educational and cultural landscape of Tennessee," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes.

"Boasting one of the highest graduation rates among four Tennessee public institutions, UT Martin represents one of the best buys in the South."

UT economists, led by CBER director Bill Fox, analyzed data from fiscal year 2008 to estimate the economic impact of the UT System overall and the individual impact of the campuses in Knoxville, Martin, Chattanooga, the Health Science Center in Memphis and the Space Institute in Tullahoma.

The economic impact studies focused on direct employment and income data.

The university's payroll for FY 2008, including salary and benefits for 2,152 full-time and part-time faculty, staff and student employees, was $53.9 million.

The effect of payroll spending was $107.8 million and accounted for approximately 762 additional jobs.

The $16.3 million UT Martin spent on goods and services in the state led to $10.5 million in income for the state and the creation of 256 additional jobs.

Students spent approximately $47.7 million, accounting for $20.2 million in income and 674 jobs. The study did not include visitors attending non-athletic events.

And that is likely a conservative estimation of UT Martin's impact, according to the study.

"There are significant qualitative benefits from the UT System that, though difficult to quantify, may be as important as or more important than the quantitative effects described above," the study states.

"These qualitative impacts include benefits from an educated workforce, distinguished research projects and increased community engagement through an array of activities."

In addition, faculty, staff and students impact their communities through involvement in churches, charities and other organizations.

"The university also enhances the culture of each community through the arts, athletics and continuing education opportunities," said Rakes.

"UT Martin provides enhanced access through university centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer as well as offering a menu of online programs for working adults. This access serves to build a better-educated work force in Tennessee."

KINDNESS REPAID – Col. Bob Smith was given an autographed copy of "Moonfixer – The Basketball Journey of Earl Lloyd" by friend and UTM Professor Emerita Anne Cook. Cook snagged the signature from Lloyd, who was the first African-American NBA player, during a book signing in an East Tennessee library. Lloyd inscribed the book "to a real jazz fan," for the Martin historian.
Budding poets, future storytellers invited to summer writing camp

Future authors and budding poets are invited to attend a Young Writers Summer Camp, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies and the West Tennessee Writing Project. Teachers are also planned.

Teacher consultants leading sessions include third-eighth graders, Mary Perry, Martin Martin Middle School; and Deborah Doss, Milan Elementary School; and ninth-twelfth graders, Greg Barclay, South Fulton High School; and Shannon Lyon, Obion County Central High School.

Teachers will meet young writers in the lobby of Gooch Hall. Parents should provide a bag or backpack for supplies.

During each camp session, children will be with others their age and will be involved in a variety of writing activities. Registration is $125 per camper, which includes a T-shirt, writing notebook and an anthology of writing by campers.

The deadline is June 14. To register, go to http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/kidscollege.php or call ECOS at 731-881-7082.

For additional information about the camp or WTWP, see the WTWP Web site: www.utm.edu/wtp or e-mail David Carithers, WTWP director, dcarithers@utm.edu.

Young Writers Summer Camp is a program of the West Tennessee Writing Project, a program of professional development for teachers from the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at UT Martin.

Dr. Robert Mancusi, assistant professor of music, will perform the national anthem, and Staff Sgt. Chuck Sadler, Tennessee Army National Guard recruiter, will offer the invocation and the benediction.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, will welcome guests. 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 Student Life Center on the UT Martin campus.

UTM hosts Memorial Day Observance May 28

Sgt. Cole Turner Champion, of Huntingdon, and Spc. David Hochreiter, of McKenzie, UT Martin students, will be guest speakers at the 10th annual Memorial Day Commemoration at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event is scheduled for 9 a.m., May 28, at the Hall-Moody Administration Building entrance.

Champion completed basic training and military job training at Ft. Jackson, S.C., and Ft. Huachucha, Ariz., respectively.

He completed one semester at UT Martin before being deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served in Iraq until July 2009.

He then returned to UT Martin in the fall of 2009 to continue his education.

Hochreiter, of McKenzie, enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard, completed basic training at Ft. Sill, Okla., in 2006 and in early 2008, Hochreiter deployed to Iraq as a platoon medic. His unit was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After completion of his yearlong deployment, Hochreiter returned home in November 2009 and is continuing his education at UT Martin.

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

Capt. Daniel F. Evans, Tennessee Army National Guard Officer Recruiter, will serve as master of ceremonies.
Budding poets, future storytellers invited to camp

Future authors and budding poets are invited to attend a Young Writers Summer Camp, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies and the West Tennessee Writing Project.

The camp — planned for two age groups, third- through eighth-graders and ninth- through 12th-graders — will be from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. daily June 21-25 in Gooch Hall.

The two groups will be separate and will engage in age-appropriate writing activities with teachers from their grade levels.

Writing workshops, mini-lessons on content and editing strategies, writing response groups and one-to-one conferences with West Tennessee Writing Project Teachers are also planned.

Teacher consultants leading sessions include Mary Perry of Martin Martin Middle School and Deborah Doss of Milan Elementary School for third- through eighth-graders and Greg Barclay of South Fulton High School and Shannon Lyon of Obion County Central High School for ninth- through 12th-graders.

Teachers will meet young writers in the lobby of Gooch Hall. Parents should provide a bag or backpack for supplies. During each session, children will be with others their age and will be involved in a variety of writing activities.

Registration is $125 per camper, which includes a T-shirt, writing notebook and an anthology of writing by campers. The deadline is June 14. To register, go to www.utm.edu/departments/ece/ckidcollege.php or call ECOS at (731) 881-7082.

For more information, visit the WTWP website: www.utm.edu/wtwp.

BEST COWGIRL — South Fulton resident Ashley Brooks was congratulated by Joel Schultz of Mid-South Farmers Co-op after she won All Around Cowgirl at the Tennessee Junior State Wrangler Rodeo Championship Finals held at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently.

SF cowgirl wins title

South Fulton resident Ashley Brooks took the top honor at the Tennessee Junior State Wrangler Rodeo Championship Finals held at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently.

Miss Brooks was among contestants from across the state competing in multiple rodeo events to win the top four national qualifying positions. She will represent Tennessee as a five-event qualifier in the national finals rodeo this summer in Gallup, N.M.

The All Around Cowboy/Cowgirl is the coveted position for all Tennessee cowboys and cowgirls who work hard to accumulate the most points throughout the year and into the finals rodeo. Miss Brooks took the championships titles for Pole Bending and Ribbon Roping; along with her partner Grant McEwen. Miss Brooks also placed second in Goat Tying, third in Breakaway and fourth in Team Roping with her partner Allyson Melcher.

The National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA) is a non-profit corporation that was organized in 1947 to support youth, education, the great sport of rodeo and the North American western heritage. It is the world's largest rodeo association with more than 12,000 members. Annually it sanctions more than 1200 rodeos throughout the U.S., Canada and Australia. The Tennessee Junior Rodeo Association is a non-profit division of the NHSRA.

For more information on the TJRA go to Tennessee High School Rodeo Association's website at www.TNHSRA.com.
Local student awarded UTM scholarship

A Humphreys County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Kayla Anderson, daughter of Tina Anderson of McEwen and James Anderson of Dickson, will be a freshman. She received the UTM McWhorter Scholarship/Workship.

Madison Moody awarded Steele Memorial scholarship

Madison Moody has been awarded the fourth annual Paul Steele Memorial scholarship. Presented by the Two Rivers Bass Club, Madison received $500.

The scholarship is awarded to a Henry County High School senior who is in the top 10 percent of their class.

Madison, who is the daughter of Rick and Melissa Moody, plans to enroll at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall to study nursing.

At HCHS, she was a member of the National Honor Society, History and Stock Market clubs. In church, she is active in choir and with the handbell choir.

The Two Rivers Bass Club sponsors the Paul Steele Memorial open tournament each year. This year's tournament will be June 26. Steele was an avid outdoorsman, who fished for more than 40 years on Kentucky Lake. He was an avid believer of high education.

Kyle Gehring (r.), of Waverly, received the Outstanding Agricultural Education Student Award at the 22nd Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences awards banquet. The award was presented by Richard Shadden, professor of agricultural engineering.
Top communicators

PR society honors students at luncheon

By Daniel Wade, Special to My Life

Friday, May 21, 2010

The Memphis Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America recently honored more than 25 Mid-South university communications and public relations students at its monthly luncheon at the Holiday Inn at the University of Memphis.

The annual Student VOX awards competition honors outstanding work by public relations and communications students from Mid-South colleges and universities. Experienced public relations professionals from the Memphis PRSA chapter judged the entries and chose the winners. This year's winners were students from the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The chapter also presented the Dr. Al Westland Public Relations Award, named for the first public relations professor at U of M, to Matt Antwine, a senior journalism major at the University of Memphis. Antwine received a $500 scholarship to further his public relations studies.

In addition, the chapter presented the PRSSA Leadership Award to Katie Breyer, a graduating senior journalism major at U of M. The chapter will pay her national PRSA associate membership dues for one year. The chapter also presented two graduating journalism seniors, Sheri Neely and Tiffany Harris, national PRSA associate membership dues for one year to honor their service to the student society.

Winners of the 2010 Student VOX awards and Gold awards were:

Research Project

Student VOX: Mary Unger, Tara Bea, Matt Byars, Erica David, Erin Larkins, Josh Weiss and Becca Wilkinson (UT Martin) for Country Pet Resort & Spa research project

Student Gold Award: Jessica Haas and Amber Crawford (U of M) for Make-A-Wish research project

Communications Campaigns Classroom Project

Student VOX: Katie Breyer (U of M) for Campus Organization Involvement: A Case Study
Student Gold Award: Josh Weiss, Kaylin Bishop, David Deaton, Regina Emery, Brent Harris, Reuben Harris, Laura McFall and Ashley Strader Ballard (UT Martin) for Connect with UT Martin: University YouTube campaign

Print Tactics, Brochure, Classroom Project

Student Gold Award: Rebecca Alsup (UT Martin) for Alpha Delta Pi brochure

Print Tactics, Brochure, Out of Classroom Project:

Student VOX: Melissa Thompson (U of M) for LeBonheur Children's Fetal Center brochure

Print Tactics, Newsletter, Classroom Project

Student VOX: Rebecca Alsup (UT Martin) for PRSSA newsletter

Student Gold Award: Brandy Hardy (UT Martin) for Vegetarian Society newsletter

Print Tactics, Media Kit, Classroom Project

Student VOX: Katie Breyer (U of M) for Memphis Knights media kit

Print Tactics, Special One-time Publication, Out of Classroom Project

Student VOX: Melissa Thompson (U of M) for LeBonheur Children's 2010 calendar

Print Tactics, Visual Elements, Out of Classroom Project

Student VOX: Melissa Thompson (U of M) for LeBonheur Children's FedEx Family House groundbreaking event photos

Student Gold Award: Veronica Birmingham and Ahmad Kahok (U of M) for Silk Road Eastern Lounge logo

Electronic and Online Tactics, Viral Video, Classroom Project

Student VOX: Danny Hussey (UT Martin) for UT Martin Recycles viral video

Electronic and Online Tactics, Audio Only Presentation, Out of Classroom Project

Student Gold Award: Veronica Birmingham, John Graubman, Erica Horton, April Marston and Nikki Haynes (U of M) for Silk Road Eastern Lounge radio PSA and interview with John Graubman

Daniel Wade is an account executive with Obsidium Public Relations firm.
PR society honors students at luncheon

BY DANIEL WADE
Special to My Life

The Memphis Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America recently honored more than 25 Mid-South university communications and public relations students at its monthly luncheon at the Holiday Inn at the University of Memphis.

The annual Student VOX awards competition honors outstanding work by public relations and communications students from Mid-South colleges and universities. Experienced public relations professionals from the Memphis PRSA chapter judged the entries and chose the winners. This year's winners were students from the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The chapter also presented the Dr. Al Westland Public Relations Award, named for the first public relations professor at U of M, to Matt Antwine, a senior journalism major at the University of Memphis. Antwine received a $500 scholarship to further his public relations studies.

In addition, the chapter presented the PRSSA Leadership Award to Katie Breyer, a graduating senior journalism major at U of M. The chapter will pay her national PRSA associate membership dues for one year. The chapter also presented two graduating journalism seniors, Sheri Neely and Tiffany Harris, national PRSA associate membership dues for one year to honor their service to the student society.

Winners of the 2010 Student VOX awards and Gold awards were:

- **Research Project**
  - Student VOX: Mary Unger, Tara Bea, Matt Byars, Erica David, Erin Larkins, Josh Weiss and Becca Wilkinson (UT Martin) for Country Pet Resort & Spa research project

- **Student Gold Award: Jessica Haas and Amber Crawford (U of M) for Make-A-Wish research project**

- **Communications Campaigns**
  - **Classroom Project**
    - Student VOX: Katie Breyer (U of M) for Campus Organization Involvement: A Case Study
    - Student Gold Award: Josh Weiss, Kaylin Bishop, David Deaton, Regina Emery, Brent Harris, Reuben Harris, Laura McFall and Ashley Strader Ballard (UT Martin) for Connect with UT Martin: University YouTube campaign

  - **Out of Classroom Project**
    - Student Gold Award: Rebecca Alsup (UT Martin) for Alpha Delta Pi brochure
    - Print Tactics, Brochure, Out of Classroom Project:
      - Student VOX: Melissa Thompson (U of M) for LeBonheur Children's Fetal Center brochure

  - **Print Tactics, Newsletter, Classroom Project**
    - Student VOX: Katie Breyer (U of M) for Campus Organization Involvement:
    - Student Gold Award: Brandy Hardy (UT Martin) for Vegetarian Society newsletter

  - **Print Tactics, Media Kit, Classroom Project**
    - Student VOX: Melissa Thompson (U of M) for LeBonheur Children's 2010 calendar

  - **Print Tactics, Special One-time Publication, Out of Classroom Project**
    - Student VOX: Melissa Thompson (U of M) for LeBonheur Children's FedEx Family House groundbreaking event photos

  - **Student Gold Award: Veronica Birmingham and Ahmad Kahok (U of M) for Silk Road Eastern Lounge logo**

  - **Electronic and Online Tacticts, Viral Video, Classroom Project**
    - Student VOX: Danny Hussey (UT Martin) for UT Martin Recycles viral video

  - **Electronic and Online Tacticts, Audio Only Presentation, Out of Classroom Project**
    - Student Gold Award: Veronica Birmingham, John Graubman, Erica Horton, April Marston and Nikki Haynes (U of M) for Silk Road Eastern Lounge radio PSA and interview with John Graubman

Daniel Wade is an account executive with Obetidium Public Relations firm.
McClanahan scholarships given to three HCHS students

The Richard L. "Sarge" and Hazel E. McClanahan memorial scholarships have been awarded to Henry County High School seniors Jacob Montgomery, Carrie Dean and Jason Wade.

Jacob is the son of Lonnie and Deborah Noble and Eddie Montgomery.

At HCHS, Jacob was editor of The First Amendment, the school newspaper. He wrote numerous articles for written publications and online newspapers.

As a member of the National Honor Society, he served as social chairman and was involved in the society's Pennies for Patients project.

A member of Future Business Leaders of America, he was chapter vice president and was awarded first place in impromptu speaking at the state FBLA leadership conference, which qualified him for the national competition.

As a member of the speech team, Jacob placed in the top five four times in extemporaneous speaking competitions at the Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League and National Forensic League competitions.

He plans to enroll at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and major in theater.

Carrie is the daughter of Steven and Deborah Dean. She plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

At HCHS, she was in her class' top ten twice, a member of the National Honor Society and National Society of High School Scholars.

As a member of the speech team, she served as its president her senior year and vice president her junior year. She also was a member of the Spanish, Art and History clubs, serving as president of the History Club.

Carrie was a Patriot Pals mentor, active in Relay for Life fundraising and was president of the Student Advisory Council. In addition, she was a member of the Asset Building and Healthy School teams.

Jason is the son of Terry and Natalie Wade.

He plans to enroll at Lambuth University in Jackson and major in music education and minor in theater.

In high school, Jason was a two-year member of the HCHS Madrigals, a member of the speech team and Thespians.

In speech, he was awarded second place in the state competition for humorous interpretation. In the theater, he appeared in two high school productions and one presentation for the Krider Performing Arts Center children's theater.

As a singer, he was awarded an alternate slot in the Tennessee All-State competition.

Steve McClanahan, who was one of three children of Richard L. "Sarge" and Hazel E. McClanahan, has funded the scholarships because of his parents' love for education and their commitment to seeing that their children, Sherry McClanahan Blackford, Steve and Susan McClanahan, received a college education.

Madison Countians get UT Martin degrees

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

The following students from Jackson received undergraduate degrees: Blake Steven Kee; Shannon Nicole Hale; Jennifer Brawner McDowell; Bryan Allan Day; Dexter Jamal Johnson; Jana Barnes Street; Andrew Michael Atkins; Christie K. Rushing; Linda Austin; Jennifer L. Denton; Katie Elizabeth Evans; Jessica Michelle Roehs; Joshua H. Farhat; Justin Fullington; Jeremy Lynn McKay; Benjamin Paul White; Daniel Clay Replogle; Robert Lee Thornton II; Karen Christine Cook; Christine S. Drehman Pratt; and Erin Michelle Bettie.

Kristopher Dean Gordon of Medon also received an undergraduate degree.

The following students from Jackson received graduate degrees: Sabra Bledsoe; Erik Price; and Richard Miller; Matthew Cupples of Medon also received a graduate degree.

Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simsek, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.
OC students awarded degrees at UT Martin commencement

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

Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, was the commencement speaker.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.

Among those who received undergraduate degrees were:
- Hornbeak - D'Anna Leigh Smith.
- Kenton - Lauren Elizabeth Fleenor and Jacob Lee Edlemon.
- South Fulton - Kelly Renee Crawford, Jessica Kim Curtis, Tianda Vines Harris, Tammy Gail Malray and Nikki Nicole Pergande.
- Union City - Michael Darale Lockridge, Lisa Ann Downey, Dustin Shawn Crowell, Misty Dawn Lattus, Cody Lynn Glover, Patrick Russell Hall, Darran


Woodland Mills – Rachel Lynn McCollum.

Students who received graduate degrees included:
- South Fulton - Deanna Roach.
- Union City - Robbi Cary, Jeni Joy Cummings and Tyler Barker.

SPOTLIGHT

MAY 23, 2010

Hardy awarded public relations scholarship

Brandy Hardy of Clarksville received the Darrin Devolot Public Relations scholarship at the University of Tennessee at Martin of Communications' annual Communications Day, which honors academic and extracurricular accomplishments of communications students.

The Commercial Appeal

Saturday, May 22, 2010

Cordova businessman Wardell Seals Jr., (left), president and CEO of HeartBeat CPR Inc., was among participants at the recent 12th annual WestStar African-American Leadership Conference in Jackson, Tenn. This year's keynote speaker was D'Army Bailey, retired judge, native of Memphis and a founder of the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. With him are Evelyn Robertson (middle) of Hardeman County, and conference chairwoman Anne Banks (right) of Haywood County.
Five students from Coffee County Central High School were recently chosen for the 2010 Tennessee Governor's School where they will attend this summer. From left, Carly Duckett, Eric Gilmer, Christopher Waterman, Andrew Nolin, and Stephen McBride.

Coffee Co. students named to Governor's Schools

The following students at Coffee County Central High School were recently selected to attend the 2010 Tennessee Governor's School this summer.

Carly Duckett named to the Governor's School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Eric Gilmer will attend the Governor's School for the Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Christopher Waterman will attend the Governor's School for the Arts at Middle Tennessee State University.

Andrew Nolin will attend Governor's School for the Arts at Middle Tennessee State University.

Stephen McBride will attend the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The State of Tennessee provides 12 summer programs for gifted and talented high school students.

These programs provide challenging and intensive learning experiences in the following disciplines: arts, humanities, international studies, engineering science, prospective teachers, scientific exploration, information technology leadership, and agricultural science.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.tennessee.gov.
Representatives of the International Education Internship/Workshop Scholarship Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin joined Dr. Malcolm Koch (left) Center for International Education executive director, and Andrew Brown (right) Center assistant director to announce the first group of recipients of the federally funded International Education Internship/Workshop Scholarship Program, including Marie Smith, of Marks, Miss. (second from left); Debbie Pardue, of Hollow Rock, Tenn.; James Buchanan, of Memphis; Bethany Wolters, of Culleoka, Tenn.; Sarah Conrad, of Ramer, Tenn.; Heather Hamilton, of Millington; Desteni Leakes, of Memphis; and Brittany O’Nan, of Bartlett.

**UT Martin awards work program recipients**

**BY RITA MITCHELL**

*Special to My Life*

The University of Tennessee at Martin Center for International Education has announced the first group of recipients of the federally funded International Education Internship/Workshop Scholarship Program. This program is poised to help students gain practical international project experiences and make them more marketable post-graduation.

Recipients include Marie Smith, of Marks, Miss.; Debbie Pardue, Hollow Rock, Tenn.; James Buchanan, Memphis; Bethany Wolters, Culleoka, Tenn.; Sarah Conrad, Ramer, Tenn.; Heather Hamilton, Millington; Desteni Leakes, Memphis; Brittany O’Nan, Bartlett; Danny Warren, Eunice, Tenn.; Megan David, Jackson; Sarah Parker, Milan, Tenn.; Angela Schramm, Parsons, Tenn.; Ryan Blake, Chapel Hill Tenn.; Jessie Curtis, South Fulton; Brittany Franks, Oakland; and Katie Swann, Washington, D.C.

"The CIE was entrusted these external funds to help our students experience and report practical international educational experiences," said Malcolm Koch, CIE executive director. "We are pleased to see such a cross-discipline group of students in this pilot group, and look forward to their personal and professional success."

Selected students will participate in one of four international education internship/workshop experiences: Work Projects/Internships for Regional Business/Industry; Promotional Work Projects for the CIE; Traditional Student to International Student Mentor Program; or Travel-Study/Study-Abroad Ambassador Program.

Students in each of the four areas signed "international education agreements" committing them to various tasks and detailed reporting. Much of the reporting of these real-world experiences will be demonstrated in student-to-student channels, and will be monitored by internationally focused faculty and staff.

"This program is a great match for my students in fashion merchandising," said Sue Byrd, UT Martin professor of textiles, clothing and merchandising. "My students are required to complete an internship, and those tied to this cohort are interning in businesses that buy products from international vendors. This program challenges them to document and discuss the pros and cons of using international vendors, and to consider carefully the ethics involved when American suppliers are left out."

Said Koch, "In addition to agreement deliverables, all students in the pilot group are completing pre- and post-test international competency surveys. It is anticipated this program will demonstrate these direct experiences will not only give students marketable job skills, but will change their long-term views on globalization."

For more information on this or other internationally focused programs, call (731) 881-1023.

Rita Mitchell is university editor at the University of Tennessee - Martin.
Students receive honors for PR

Public relations and visual communication students in the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications received awards at the annual Public Relations Society of America Student Vox Awards competition sponsored by the Memphis chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).

Seven students and two faculty members attended the recent awards luncheon in Memphis.

The students received top honors with three Vox awards for a newsletter, a public relations research project and a viral video for the web.

They also received three Gold awards for a newsletter, a brochure and a social media advertising campaign.

A group of public relations majors received a Vox Award for a research project conducted for the Country Pet Resort and Spa in Martin. Mary Unter and Tara Bea, both of Martin; Matt Byers of Paris; Erica Davis of Bells; Erin Larkins of Burns; Josh Weiss of Germantown; and Becca Wilkinson of Old Hickory worked on the project.

Rebecca Alsup of Prospect received a Vox award for her UT Martin Public Relations Student Society newsletter. She also received a Gold Award for her Alpha Delta Pi brochure.

Danny Hussey of Counce received a Vox Award for his "UT Martin Recycles" viral video.

Brandy Hardy of Clarksville received a Gold Award for her UT Martin Vegetarian Society Newsletter.

A group of public relations, news editorial and visual communication students received a Gold Award for a YouTube advertising campaign proposal created for the UT Martin Office of University Relations. Weiss; Regina Emery of Indian Mound; Ashley Strader; Ballard of Murfreesboro; David Deaton of McKenzie; Brent Harris of Martin; Reuben Harris of Fayetteville; Laura McFall of Cordova; and Kaylin Bishop of Union City; worked on the campaign proposal.

The Student Vox competition included entries in a number of categories ranging from research projects and campaigns to individual print and Web projects. A Vox Award was given to the one entry considered to be the most outstanding in each category. Gold awards were given to entries that demonstrated high-caliber work.

The Memphis chapter of PRSA sponsored the Student Vox competition.
Consultant available this week

Local residents may have an opportunity to get one-on-one business consulting from Denise Newton, Tennessee Small Business Development Center consultant.

Ms. Newton will be at the Obion County Industrial Training Center from 1-5 p.m. Thursday.

The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the Obion County Chamber of Commerce at 885-0211 or Ms. Newton directly at (731) 587-7333.

Ms. Newton recently joined the TSBDC after spending 16 years on Wall Street. Her experience includes financial statement and portfolio analysis, strategic planning and business development. Prior to that, she spent 10 years as a corporate/commercial lender for various commercial banks specializing in small business lending, structuring and financing.

She was born and raised in West Tennessee and attended Vanderbilt University, where she graduated with an economics degree, and University of Miami, where she obtained her master of business administration degree.

Coffee Co. students named to Governor’s Schools

The following students at Coffee County Central High School were recently selected to attend the 2010 Tennessee Governor’s School this summer:

Carly Dukett named to the Governor’s School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Eric Gilmer will attend the Governor’s School for the Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Christopher Waterman will attend the Governor’s School for the Arts at Middle Tennessee State University.

Andrew Nolan will attend Governor’s School for the Arts at Middle Tennessee State University.

Stephen McBride will attend the Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The State of Tennessee provides 12 summer programs for gifted and talented high school students.

These programs provide challenging and intensive learning experiences in the following disciplines: arts, humanities, international studies, engineering science, prospective teachers, scientific exploration, information technology leadership, and agricultural science.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.tennessee.gov.
The Paris Post-Intelligencer, Paris, Tenn., Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Math whizzes

More than two dozen students from Henry County High School and Grove School recently excelled in the 54th annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association High School Mathematics Contest held recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Exams were given in six areas — algebra, geometry, algebra II, pre-calculus, statistics and calculus. About 6,000 of the state's top math students competed at 23 different testing centers statewide. Local students who went are (front row, from left) Cory Manzella, Courtney Grantham, Randi Wiles, Kim Shaw, Tiffany Boyer, Cynthia Cacciola, Hannah Fry, Kaitlin Byrd, Caleb Pardon, Cierra Covington, Shannon Evans, Michelle Culley and Jarred Presson; second row, Ashley Ramos, Carrie Turner, Matthew Chilsom, Zac Bell, Jon Tussey, Matt Carson, Clayton Greer, Maggie Hudson, Chance Robinson, Justine Caldwell, Cody Chilcutt, Sarah Cathey and Rachel Robison; third row, Aaron Wakeen, Joey Jones, Jonathan Hilgendorf, Chris Scanlan and Joshua Hampton.
Tennessee's Wild Side Weekly Fishing Report
Reelfoot Lake Fishing Report May 22, 2010

Water levels on Reelfoot have also slowly made their way back to close to the normal level as well. By the looks of the water rings on the cypress trees around Reelfoot lake, the lake water levels has dropped at least a foot in recent days. The lake is still just a few inches above the normal level but should level off by this weekend.

Depending on how much rain that we ended up with this past mid to late week will depend on how much the area lakes will rise.

Water temps are in the lower to mid 70's. This will all change and the waters will warm even more with air temps flirting with the 90 degree mark in the forecast.

Water color is really good. Clear to slightly stained over all of Reelfoot. Some areas are to clear again for fishing on a bright, sunny, clear day. Some areas though remain just a little stained and mainly in areas where the winds affect the water more than other areas.

As for the fish bite, the Bluegill bite is tops. Many reports of locals and visitors at Reelfoot doing very well on Bluegill. Most that I have seen are fishing grasslines or large cypress trees. Waxworms and Crickets best on bait. Some casting is doing well for Bluegill also.

The Catfish bite is still good also. Most of the folks I have seen and talked with are catching their catfish on the downside current ends of the ditches. Some are catching theirs off of Yo
Yo's which I saw several while Bass fishing Tuesday.

Gene and Jeff Crabtree (father/son) both of the Union City area had a very good day with the Catfish on Reelfoot Lake this past Tuesday.

The Bass are biting fairly well also. They are in the later stages of their spawn and post-spawn mode. By now, most all of the Bass have spawned. Left behind is the male Bass (usually smaller in size) to guard against the small Bass fry hatchings.

Best areas for bass is kinda take your choice of methods. Trees, logs, lilly pads, stumps, grass, duckblinds, you name it, the bite is there for you to figure out. Spinnerbaits, swimjigs and soft plastics would be a great place to start.

This past Monday, my good fishing buddy David Flood and myself tried our luck on the Bass at Reelfoot Lake and had a really good day. We managed to boat 15 bass with our best 5 weighing around 19 pounds. All Bass were released back into the lake after we had a Canon moment. We had several more strikes and fish hooked.

The Reelfoot Lake Junior Bass Club fished one of their club events last Saturday on Reelfoot Lake.

Winners of the event are as follows: Ryan Middlebrook was the overall winner with the largest stringer of Bass brought to the scales. His weighed 11.98 lbs. Other winners included John Coble Garrett on one big bass that weighed 4.03 lbs and Chance Williams at 4.94 lbs.

Last week, Mike Terry of Obion Tennessee fished on the pro side of the FLW American Fishing Series Central Division Bass Tour that was held on Kentucky Lake. There were 150 pros and 150 co-anglers to fish this event. After two days of competition, Mike accumulated enough weight to allow him to make the top 10 cut, finishing 5th, qualifying him for the final Championship day.

On the third and final day, Mike took over 22 pounds to the scales which brought his 3 day total Bass weight to 57 lbs 14 oz and good enough for a 3rd place finish and for his efforts
claiming a check for $6000. Congrats Mike on a great tournament.

Mike is a well known area bass fisherman who fishes as a pro in several bass tournaments up and down the Tennessee River System. Mike also used to fish the FLW Outdoors Bass Touring Circuit a few years back and still holds the record for the heaviest 5 bass to have ever been weighed in during ANY FLW Outdoors event that weighed just over 38 pounds.

Also from our area was Gordon Fox fishing as a co-angler in this event. Gordon wasn't as lucky but did manage to fish two days with a total weight of 13 lbs 14 oz finishing in 62nd place out of 150 other co-anglers.

Here are the results from the Ultimate Bass Fishing Tournament Trail Circuit from their latest event on Reelfoot lake this past Saturday, May 15th on Reelfoot Lake.

1st place went to the team of anglers from Missouri which had 5 bass that tipped the scales at 22.10 pounds and a check worth $550. They also claimed the Big Bass award at 5.35 pounds worth an extra $90.

2nd place was claimed by the team of Ricky Seals and David McBride both of Union City. They had 5 bass that weighed 21.26 pounds claiming a check for $150. There overall big bass weighed 5.09 pounds.

Others fishing from our area: Billy Blakley and Nelson Northern both from Obion County with ( 5 bass ) 19.53 lbs., husband and wife team of Jim and Monica Curlin of Union City with ( 5 bass ) 17.77 lbs., Kelly Powers of Rives and Clayton Gearin of Gleason with ( 5 bass ) 17.28 lbs., Ben Ferguson and Ryan Angel of Union City with ( 5 bass ) 15.17 lbs., and Chris Droke of Dyersburg and Terry Dunaway of Ripley with ( 5 bass ) 14.29 lbs.

The Reelfoot Lake Junior Bass Club will sponsor their annual Bluegill tournament on May 29, 2010 on Reelfoot Lake. The entry fee for this tournament is $ 35 per boat. A possible $500 in paybacks are instore for this tournament. This will be out of the Kirby Pocket State Park area with times being blastoff at 6:00 AM and the weigh-in will take place at 12 noon that day. For more information, you can contact Rick Kelly at 885-2610, Gordon Fox at 885-5541 or Taylor Williams at 538-9243. There will be a 10 fish limit on this tournament.

Next week, 4 members of the University of Tennessee at Martin Collegiate Bass Fishing Team will be competing in the 2010 Boat U.S. Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship on Lake Lewisville near Dallas Texas. Members include, Team 1: Travis Howell and Grayson Smith, Team 2: Rhea Taylor and Alex Derry.

Also fishing will be Obion County resident and member of the Bethel University Fishing team, Jake Lawrence.

Also reminding you to go ahead and mark your calendars for Friday, June 4th for a very special event.

The New Harmony Baptist Church near Paris Tennessee will be hosting their Annual Outdoor Feast. This years guest speaker will be one of my good friends, Randy Howell, touring BASS Elite Series Bass Fishing Professional. Randy has been fishing professionally for many years and is from Alabama.

This event starts with a free meal beginning at 6:30 PM that late afternoon with many door prizes and the TWRA will be on hand for deer scoring.

The church and this event will be located at 7050 Hwy 69 A South, Paris Tennessee 38242.

For more information on this event, you can call 731-593-5276 or 731-593-3207.

Then on Saturday, June 19th, the Reelfoot Lake Bass Club's annual Buddy Big Bass Tournament sponsored by Final Flight Outfitters in Union City, will take place on Reelfoot Lake. This will be held out of the Kirby Pocket area of the lake.

This tournament will blast off at 6 AM that morning with the weighin taking place at 11 AM that morning. This event will reward the persons who weigh in the largest bass of the tournament. This is a one fish event where most other bass tournaments as a 5 bass limit.
First, second and third places will be paid for the top 3 largest bass of the day weighed in. Entry fee is $60 per boat. You can pick up a registration for at Reynolds Brothers in Union City or simply show up the morning of the tournament between the hours of 5 and 6 AM. For more information on this tournament, you can call Gordon Fox at 885-541, Rick Kelly at 885-2029 or Brent.

Brent Callicott
Union City, Tennessee
731-446-3678
brentcallicott@gmail.com

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 Gene Polonski, vice president and executive director of The First Amendment Center in Nashville. Jennifer Coffee (right), of Millington, received the WENK Award from Andrew Williams from WENK.

University of Tennessee at Martin freshman Calvin Jones (center) of Munford and sophomore Abbey Stoker of Dresden talk with Dr. Jim Thompson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, while acting as student representatives of University of Tennessee Day on the Hill in Nashville. The students and administrators from all UT campuses had opportunities to meet with state legislators and discuss bills pertaining to higher education. The group ended the day listening to coaches Pat Summitt, Bruce Pearl and Derek Dooley.

Two Paul and Martha Meek Awards were presented at the commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Margaret Toston (center), vice chancellor for student affairs, announced the awards. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The recipients are Josh Isbell (left) of Collierville and Eric Lipford.
OC native overcomes near-fatal accident to earn degree

COMATOSE — Trey Hamilton's family feared he would never wake again after doctors diagnosed him as being in a persistent vegetative state after a boating accident in 2005. After a miraculous recovery, the 1997 graduate of Obion County Central High School has completed a second degree at the University of Tennessee at Martin and serves as a true inspiration to all who know him.

UTM GRAD — Trey Hamilton accepted his diploma from Chancellor Nick Dunagan after earning his second degree at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Hamilton's accomplishments are especially significant considering he spent over a month in a coma just four years ago.

By EMILY WILLIAMS
Messenger Intern
James "Trey" Hamilton III, a 1997 graduate of Obion County Central High School, completed work on his second college degree May 15 from the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Earning two college degrees is quite an accomplishment for anyone, but it is especially so for Hamilton, who could not even open his eyes four years ago — much less attend class — due to a terrible boating accident that left him in a coma.
In 2002, he earned his first degree at UT Martin in international studies with a minor in Spanish.
His second degree proved to be much more challenging.
On Nov. 13, 2005, he hit his head on the aluminum step of the boat in which he was a passenger after the boat hit a tree at high speed. He was transported to Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City and then airlifted to the Vanderbilt Trauma Center in Nashville, where he had to be revived.
A few days later, a trachea tube was placed in his throat and a feeding tube was sewn into his stomach. Shortly after that, a shunt had to be placed in Hamilton's skull to relieve the pressure from the swelling in his brain. Doctors diagnosed him as being in a persistent vegetative state with very little hope of recovery.
A few days later, doctors discovered the shunt in his brain had caused him to develop two different bacterial infections. As efforts were made to treat these infections, he developed a staph infection.

(See Page 2, Col. 3)

OC native...
(Continued from Page 1)
Finally, the infections were cleared and he was moved from the Trauma Center to a long-term care unit in Milan. On Dec. 15, 2005, Hamilton miraculously awakened from the coma he had been in for 32 days.
However, the road to recovery would not be easy as he would have to relearn everything from walking and talking to eating.
"Coming out of or awaking from a coma is not like Hollywood would have one believe," said his father, James Hamilton Jr. "It is very different. A coma is a nightmare of the worst kind."
The younger Hamilton stayed at Milan's NHC HealthCare for three more months before he was well enough to return home. He enrolled at Health Quest in Union City to begin rebuilding the muscles and regaining the 39 pounds he lost during the coma.
A month later, he entered the Center for Comprehensive Services in Carbondale, Ill., which helps patients who have experienced traumatic brain injuries. During this time, he was often found helping and encouraging other patients, though he was far from a full recovery himself.
Throughout his "re-education," and even today, the 31-year-old Hamilton said his entire left side continuously experiences a tingling feeling as if a muscle is about to wake up, yet never does. He still suffers from short-term memory problems. Also, he said he has double vision because his eyes do not line up correctly anymore, making it harder to read. Finding ways to compensate for this has been hard, especially at the college level.
Dr. Jeff Rogers, a professor of geography at UT Martin, taught Trey both before and after his accident.
"One of the most remarkable aspects of Trey's recovery has been the awakening of his intellectual curiosity," he said. "He is an individual with many significant, often philosophical, questions about our culture and society. He tried to use his time at UT Martin, through his coursework and participation in student organizations, to answer some of these questions."

On Sunday, Hamilton began his job as a park ranger for the Department of the Interior in the Smoky Mountains, utilizing his new degree in geoscience.
His injury and long recovery were not easy for him or his family. His experience should serve as an inspiration for all to, as Hamilton himself puts it, "Endeavor to persevere."
Editor's Note: Emily Williams, daughter of Roger and Juli Williams of Woodland Mills, is a senior at Rhodes College in Memphis. She is interning at The Messenger this summer.
Ms. Byrd receives Friend of 4-H Award

MARTIN — Dr. Sue Byrd, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of family and consumer sciences, received the Friend of 4-H Award at the recent statewide 4-H Congress. This honor is awarded to an individual for his or her significant contribution and dedication to 4-H in Tennessee.

Early in her career, Ms. Byrd worked as a family and consumer sciences agent in Sequatchie County. Since leaving extension services, she has continued working relationships with UT Extension. She has been an advocate for the 4-H Clothing Project and has judged 4-H record books for round-up competition.

Ms. Byrd, state 4-H specialists, agents and other staff members are working to revive the 4-H Clothing Project. The first Line and Design Camp for youth was one effort to help increase interest in the clothing project. Ms. Byrd and the UT Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences partnered with 4-H to allow the use of the department's laboratories for implementation of the camp's daily activities.

Ms. Byrd has written 4-H publication activity sheets in the area of apparel and textiles. Also, she has presented at 4-H in-service, "Activities, Projects and Life Skills for 4-H Clothing Project." In addition, she has presented topics at numerous Tennessee Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences conferences and has showcased programs at several poster sessions.

Dunagan tells UT Martin class to be 'bucket fillers'

Dr. Nick Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor emeritus, encouraged each graduate at the 2010 UT Martin commencement ceremony held Saturday, May 15 to be a "bucket filler and not a bucket emptier." He spoke to the largest graduating class in the institution's history.

He explained that the concept, created in the 1960s by Dr. Donald Clifton, is based on each individual carrying around an imaginary bucket that is constantly being filled or emptied, "depending on what people say to you, what people do to you and your circumstances in life." He said, "A full bucket gives us a positive outlook and renewed energy, and every drop in that bucket makes us stronger. But an empty bucket poisons our outlook, saps our strength and doesn't make us feel good at all."

Dunagan also urged them to surround themselves with other bucket fillers. He related how UT Martin had filled his bucket during his career when he saw students blossom, faculty members find joy in teaching, an administrator solving a problem, or a graduate returning to campus with his or her family to visit. He told graduates, "what you decide to do and the path you decide to take will have a profound influence on your relationships, your productivity, your health and also your happiness."

Dunagan had requested the commencement musical selection, "My Wish," made popular by Rascal Flatts. He also suggested graduates listen to the lyrics again, especially the references to "help somebody every chance you get" and "always give more than you take."

"Good luck and God speed," he said. "My wish is that you have also felt that this institution has filled your bucket, and you will go out in life and pay forward and help fill the buckets of others."

The spring graduating class of 696, the largest in history, represented 54 Tennessee counties, 12 states and 10 countries. They join more than 37,000 UT Martin alumni worldwide. Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees. Rakes asked UT Martin's newest alumni to take time to thank all those who have helped them achieve this goal, to keep in touch with their alma mater and to be supportive and vocal about the value of higher education.

"Education is not what's received, but what you achieve," said Rakes. "As graduates of UT Martin, your diploma is a symbol of a significant achievement — you add another tool to your resume."
Degree fulfills dream for Bartlett detective, musician and father

Some people know him as Detective David Jones, a 20-year veteran of the Bartlett Police Department. Others know him by his stage name, Webb Dalton, a singer/songwriter who performs his unique style of music that has been described as "Rockabilly-Honky-Tonkin'-Rock-N-Roll." Now, he will also be known as "college graduate," as Jones earned his bachelor's degree May 15 from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He joined the university's largest graduating class as he completed a degree that he began pursuing almost 30 years ago. Through years of police work, a part-time music career and never giving up on his education, Jones has achieved his ultimate goal of earning a college diploma.

Jones, 46, was born in Montgomery, Ala., and moved to Memphis at a young age. He attended Frayser Baptist High School, played basketball and pursued a passion for music as a guitarist and singer. His athletic ability earned him a basketball scholarship at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., where he attended for two years and also kept his music dream alive by performing at a local pizza parlor. During the summers, while home from college, David would perform regularly in Nashville at clubs along Broadway and at the Nashville Palace where singer Randy Travis once worked as a cook.

When he returned to Ouachita his second year, he realized that he wanted to pursue music more than just part time. "So I left Ouachita and moved to Nashville, trading a basketball and books for a guitar on a full-time basis," he said. "I lived in the back of my truck for about six and a half months at the Two Rivers Campground off Briley Parkway and then started playing with Loretta Lynn's daughter, Peggy." Jones played with her for several months, then formed a Nashville-based band and went on the road, performing between 200 and 250 dates a year.

"I met some good people and was very blessed in my music, playing and performing with some great musicians and artists," he said. The list of performers that he and his band opened for reads like a who's who of country music—names like George Strait, Garth Brooks, Randy Travis, George Jones, the late Keith Whitley and Kathy Mattea, just to name a few. But, he learned early on that the music business is tough and involves many personal sacrifices. He and his band were on the road several months at a time, and his girlfriend, whom he had met while performing at the Libertyland amusement park in Memphis, became ill and spent days at a time in the hospital as doctors tried to diagnose her illness.

By this point, Jones had been on the road playing music for about five years. He said that "it came down to keep chasing a dream or deal with the reality of the situation" in terms of supporting his girlfriend through her health problem. "I loved her, so I realized that I needed to put first things first, so I got off the road, and we got married." She recovered within a year, but they were told that having a child would be difficult, if not impossible, because of his wife's condition and the effects of her treatment. However, Jones said that "God had other plans," and the couple's son, Christopher, was born May 16, 1992.

Before Christopher's birth, Jones had begun taking criminal justice classes at what is now Southwest Tennessee Community College while working at Shelby County Juvenile Court. His goal was to land a police department position, which happened when he was hired by the Bartlett Police Department. This, in addition to a part-time job and family responsibilities, meant that college would have to wait. "About a year and a half ago, I was having a conversation with my son about how important an education is, and he needs to get his high school diploma, have a good GPA to get into college and pursue a degree." Christopher then asked his dad if he had finished his degree. "I said, 'No son, I didn't'. But I want better for you, and one of these days, I'm going to go back and finish."

Jones realized that he had "been saying the same canned response for the last 25 years." In promising that he would return to school, With three years of completed college courses covering three academic concentrations under his belt,
Christopher, a junior at Arlington High School, was old enough to drive, which made it possible for him to get to school and football practice, providing Jones with more time to focus on school.

While life and school were happening, Jones' part-time music career had flourished since his return to performing in 1993. He had been off the road for about four years when he connected with a high school friend who needed a lead singer and guitar player for a band, so he quit a part-time job and started performing again. Later, while on police duty, he met Red West, who had worked as Elvis Presley's bodyguard. Jones told him that he was a musician, and West asked to hear some of Jones' music.

Impressed, "Red had made some phone calls to some of his friends in Nashville and set up some studio time," Jones said. "Red also suggested I change my name. Since Red was in the movie Roadhouse with Patrick Swayze, he was partial to the name 'Dalton' (played by Swayze in the 1989 film)." Jones then went through his dad's old records that included Faron Young, Ray Price and a Webb Pierce album. "Red and I discussed it and settled on 'Webb Dalton.' I have been using the name since '93."

Jones is often asked if he regrets not pursuing a music career. "As far as making it, I enjoy what I'm doing now. I am blessed with a son. I enjoy law enforcement, and we play a lot of festivals and fairs, and I enjoy the family-type events," he said. "We perform regularly on Beale Street and around the Mid-South, including Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and in Florida."

The band also performs its Redneck Riviera Tour each summer in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, Ala., with this year's tour set for June 6-12.

His Memphis-based band covers material from country to rockabilly to rock-and-roll and blues, as well as performing his original songs. Although he still has a passion for performing, the life of a part-time musician isn't easy. "You can go out to my truck right now. I got it loaded down with sound equipment, and you know who sets it up," he said. "You know, it's not just going on stage and plugging my guitar in. There's a lot of time and effort that goes into it (performing). But it's worth it. I enjoy it. If I didn't, I obviously wouldn't do it."

He also enjoys his law enforcement career, which produced an unforgettable experience earlier this year in Bartlett while he was on duty. He was at his desk Jan. 7 when a call came through about a child who had fallen through the surface of an icy pond. Several boys were playing football on the ice when it broke; two of the boys made it to safety, but one did not. They reached the grandfather of one of the boys who called for help. Jones and two other deputies headed to the scene to see if they could assist.

When they arrived, things didn't look good for the missing child, 10-year-old Reese Wagner, who was still under the ice at the bottom of the pond. At this point, Reese had been under for more than 20 minutes, Jones recalled. A small, tarp-covered boat just happened to be in the backyard of one of the houses next to the pond, so they uncovered it, pushed it down the hill and launched the boat. Jones and two other police officers were inside the boat, and firefighters were standing by on the pond's bank. If the experience of a child being underwater for more than 20 minutes wasn't stressful enough, the boat was taking in water because there was no drain plug. So, moving quickly, Jones used an eight-foot fireman's pole to drag the pond that ranged in depth from eight to 10 feet, which meant Jones had his arms underwater for long periods of time while searching. Repeated passes through the water produced only debris and limbs. However, on one pass, he felt that he had something, and upon pulling the object to the surface, he saw a camouflage jacket and the boy, and Jones yelled, "I got him!" They pulled Reese into the boat and took him to shore where paramedics were able to get a heartbeat inside the ambulance at the scene.

Jones visited the hospital the next day where Reese was in intensive care. He didn't get to see Reese, but he met his dad. "I wanted to see him with his eyes open. It would've obviously been difficult emotionally for the family, friends and emergency personnel if Reese did not make it. There was a lot of praying going on, Jones recalled, and a 'Pray for Reese Wagner' Web page added to the people who were praying, he said.

Jones returned early the following week and found Reese's dad standing by his bed holding his son's hand. Reese was in an induced coma to prevent pneumonia, and the next thing that happened is nothing short of miraculous. "...I was standing there, and Reese opened his eyes and looked up and reached his hand out to me." Reese's dad told Jones that Reese wanted him to hold his hand, so Jones took his other hand. And, to Jones' surprise, the dad told him that Reese wouldn't have
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 - Christina Paige Dilday; Matthew A. Thomas; Benjamin Jason Vowell; Jeremy Michael Moss; Lea Ann Hayes; Barbara Playter Ferrell; Jennifer Lee Kemp; Phyllis Dale Sheffield;
- Gleason - Caleb Loyd Cooper; Graham Jefferson Oliver; Maylon Price; Andrew Ryan Francisco; Lucas Adam Carey;
- Greenfield - Emily Lyn Medling; Samantha Emily Willis; Tiffany Brooke Frazier; Nicii Raquel McAlister; Alyse A. Page; Rebecca Ann McDonald; Joshua David Rogeter;
- Martin - Hunter Thomas Vincent; Elizabeth Erin Gipson; Sheena Leigh Pitcher; Emily Ellen Stooksberry; Elizabeth G. Unger; Jessica Nicole Greer; Kyle Andrew Thweatt; Jennifer Lee Calhoun; David Paul Dunn; Nathaniel Lee Hammond; Justin O'Brien Hickman; Sara Anne Mitchell; Candace Michelle Dean; James Conrad Esterholder; Brandy Steven Legens; Kayla Ann Cazenave; Heather Michelle Clark Sowell; April Rivers; Ashley Brooke Via; Thomas Hinton Hester III; Cory Stanwyck Davis; Purnam Patel; Robert Casey Unger; Rachel Elizabeth Wilkinsson; Megan Leigh Witherspoon; Brent Tyler Harris; Walter Rawls Harris; Charlie Ryan Nichols;
- Audrey Ellen Osment; Charlie Wayne McIntosh; Rex Harold Stoker; Christopher Michael Burress; Marlena Denise Landry; Sharon - David J. Long; Amber Nicole Carson.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Gleason - Una Edith Baker;
- Greenfield - Candise Mitchell;
- Martin - Andrew Goad; Bethany Chandler; Jean Little; Gayle A. McFarland;
- Palmersville - Rebecca Childress; Benjamin Milbrath.

Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simok, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.

FACULTY AWARDS PRESENTED - Among faculty members honored with awards for outstanding achievements in scholarship, citizenship, teaching and advising during the recent Honors Day program were, from left, Dr. Lisa LeBleu, Dr. Patricia Hewitt, Dr. Chris Caldwell, third from right, and Paula Moore, second from right. They are pictured with Chancellor Tom Rakes, third from left, and Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs, right. Not pictured is Dr. David Barber.
LOCAL GRADUATE — Brent Harris, of Martin, was among graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony held Saturday, May 15. He received a degree in communications/broadcasting. He is pictured with Elizabeth Watts, his grandmother; Bud and Pam Harris, his parents, of Martin; Anne Alford, his girlfriend, of Dresden; and Doris and Gene Harris, his grandparents. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.

LOCAL STUDENT RECOGNIZED AT UT MARTIN HONORS DAY — Mary K. Unger, of Martin, recently received the Outstanding Communications Student Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

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 Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of The First Amendment Center in Nashville. Jennifer DeYeso, of Martin, received the Visual Communication Design Award. Tracy Rutledge, instructor 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 Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of The First Amendment Center in Nashville. Randy Cavin, right, of Martin, received the Wilson Hall Memorial News Writing Competition Award. Dr. Robert Nanney, Department of Communications chair, presented the award. Cavin also received the News-Editorial Chairman's Outstanding Senior Award.
LOCAL GRADUATES — David Long, of Sharon; Emily Bartholomew, of Somerville; and Rachael Henderson, of Houston County; were among graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony. Each received a degree in accounting. They are joined by Henderson's fiancé, James Mathis, also of Houston County.

LOCAL STUDENT RECOGNIZED AT UT MARTIN HONORS DAY — Matthew L. Fitzgerald, of Sharon, recently received the Outstanding Sophomore Engineering Award during the 46th annual Honors Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The 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 promise of professional achievement.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES AWARDS BANQUET — Graham Oliver, of Gleason, received the Outstanding Agricultural Engineering Technology Student Award at the 22nd Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences awards banquet. The award was presented by Richard Shadden, professor of agricultural engineering.

AREA STUDENT HONORED AT UT MARTIN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES AWARDS BANQUET — Jeffrey P. Hart II, of Martin, received the BG G.H. Weems Memorial ROTC Scholarship Award at the 22nd Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences awards banquet. The award was presented by Lt. Col. Angela Odom, professor of military science.
LOCAL GRADS
Gentry, left, and Casey Unger, Martin siblings, received degrees in dietetics and biology, respectively, and were among graduates at the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony held Saturday, May 15. Gentry will begin an internship, and Casey will pursue a degree in Spanish and plans to attend medical school.

LOCAL STUDENT RECOGNIZED
Sara A. Mitchell, of Martin, received the Phi Chi Theta Key Award during the Honors Day at UT Martin. The award is given to a junior or senior student majoring in business administration who shows outstanding scholarship, character and leadership. The recipient is chosen by UT Martin Chapter of Phi Chi Theta Professional Business Fraternity members.

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 Gene Pollakinski, vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center in Nashville. Mary Unger, of Martin, received the University Relations Public Relations Workshop. Bud Grimes, Office of University Relations director, presented the award.

AREA STUDENT HONORED AT UT MARTIN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES AWARDS BANQUET
Elizabeth Gentry Unger, of Martin, received the Outstanding Dietetics Student Award. The award was presented by Dr. Lisa LeBlanc, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences chair.
Local Residents Honored at UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs

MARTIN - Tommy Martin of McKenzie recently was recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs banquet. Presenting the award were Dr. Ernest Moser, right, dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs, and Dr. Mary Wallace, instructor of information systems.

MARTIN - Kelsey Schweitzer of McKenzie recently was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma honorary business society at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs spring banquet. Dr. Ernest Moser, dean of business and Global Affairs, presented the certificate.

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 - Jeremy Matthew Caldwell; Bruceinton - Whitney Noel Higdon, Sara Jara Huff, Derek Ryan Kelley; Clarksville - Jacob Ray Todd;d Hollow Rock - Jennifer Kristen Brooks; Huntingdon - Casey Marie Henson, Courtney Michele Henson, Ashley Erin Anderson, Jessica Lynn Carlson, McKenzie - Elaine Courtney Haw, Vickie Sinis, Heather Leigh Wirts.
- Thomas D. Martin, Angela Victoria Ramsey, Eryn Grace Kelly-Snead, Michael David Deaton; Trezvant - Christina Lynette Williamson.

Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.

AREA STUDENT HONORED AT UT MARTIN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES AWARDS BANQUET - Jesse Winchester, of Medina, received the Geography Award at the 22nd Annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences awards banquet.
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Bradford - Dee Ann Mitchell;
- Lisa Ann Brandon; Lori Rinks Wood;
- Medina - Kristen Read Prange; Cassandra LaMac Vincent;
- Brianna Marie Quinn;
- Milan - Sara Hope Phifer; Jessica Lee Mangrum-King; Rachel ReNae McMinn; Byron Bruce Burns; Amber L. Creswell;
- Lantonja Katrice Murriel; Raymond Franklin Brake;
- Christopher Scott McGill; Adam Jacob Sandor; James Wesley Edwards; April Ann Brake;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Bradford - Ashley Horne;
- Milan - James Joyner.

Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.

The Fulton Leader, May 26, 2010

Local students receive degrees from UTM

Several Obion 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:
- South Fulton - Kelly Renee Crawford; Jessica Kim Curtis; Tianda Vine Harris; Tammy Gail Malray; Nikki Nicole Pergande;
- Union City, Tenn. - Michael Durale Lockridge; Lisa Ann Downey; Dustin Shawn Crowell; Misty Dawn Lattus; Cody Lynn Glover; Patrick Russell Hall; Darran Kyle Hitt; Brandon David Burke; Kelsey Dixon Arnold; Abby Taylor Cruse; Dana M. Elliott; Lindsay Beth Hughes; Robin J. Long; Katie Reese Worrell; Tracy E. Kenton; Kristin Alaina Chicka; Benjamin Bradford Cope; Jacob McKinley Maness; Trenessa LaQuita Wood; Andrew Blakely Nipp; Bradley Alan Bugg; Matthew Leland Davis; Amy Nicole Kendall; Tyler McConnell Sherwood; Julianne M. Lawson; Mark A. Warren; Clayton D. Craig; Ashley Michele Tankersley; Jonathan Lee Byrd; Daniel Shaunessey Edwards Murphy;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- South Fulton - Deanna Roach;
- Union City - Robbi Cary; Jeni Joy Cummings; Tyler Barker;

Several out-of-state residents were also among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees included:
- Clinton - Jennifer C. McCowan; Natalie Lynn Rushing;
- Fulton - Kayla Jo Brockwell; Amanda Marie Howell;
- Hickman - Kandi Michelle Green; Diana D. Boren;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Clinton - Tonda Emerson;
- Fulton - Cha'keeb Fouad Hamra;
- Hickman - Katrina Campbell;

Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Trenton: Benjamin Lee Dodd, Eddie Eugene Campbell, Julie Ann Joyner, Chance Douglas Lewis, John Jay Richardson, Madison Leigh Sturgeon, William Andrew Sanders, Adam Spence Laman, and Emily Jane Rogers;
- Bradford: Dee Ann Mitchell, Lisa Ann Brandon, and Lori Rinks Wood;
- Dyer: Elizabeth Ann McCurdy, Stuart Neal Shaw, Noelle B. Turner, and Leighanna Marie Sims;
- Rutherford: Jeremy Algee Farmer and Jacob Alan Abbott;
- Humboldt: Summer L. Marsh, Deseree Danielle Rinks, Starr Danielle Bonds, Michael Scott Schoonover, Angela Kate Nicholas, Jeremy Michael Brown, Alexis Rae Luckey, Whitney Paige King, and Angela Nicole Kee;
- Medina: Kristen Read Prange, Cassandra LaMae Vincent, and Brianna Marie Quinn;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Bradford: Ashley Horne, James Joyner.
- Milan: James Joyner.
- Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, was the commencement speaker.

The State of Tennessee provides 12 summer programs for gifted and talented high school students. These programs provide challenging and intensive learning experiences in the following disciplines: arts, humanities, international studies, engineering science, prospective teaching, scientific exploration, information technology leadership, and agricultural science.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.tennessee.gov.

Coffee Co. students named to Governor’s Schools

Five students from Coffee County Central High School were recently chosen for the 2010 Tennessee Governor’s School where they will attend this summer. From left, Carly Duckett, Eric Gilmer, Christopher Waterman, Andrew Nolin and Stephen McBride.

The following students at Coffee County Central High School were recently selected to attend the 2010 Tennessee Governor’s School this summer.

Carly Duckett named to the Governor’s School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Eric Gilmer will attend the Governor’s School for the Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Christopher Waterman will attend the Governor’s School for the Arts at Middle Tennessee State University.

Andrew Nolin will attend Governor’s School for the Arts at Middle Tennessee State University.

Stephen McBride will attend the Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The State of Tennessee provides 12 summer programs for gifted and talented high school students.

These programs provide challenging and intensive learning experiences in the following disciplines: arts, humanities, international studies, engineering science, prospective teaching, scientific exploration, information technology leadership, and agricultural science.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.tennessee.gov.
BY THE NUMBERS — The 54th annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association High School Mathematics Contest was recently conducted at the University of Tennessee at Martin. About 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. At the UT Martin testing site, 256 students from 12 schools competed. Among the participants from Obion County Central High School were (from left, front row) Michael Ruddy, Megan Cook, Mallori Conley, Chelsea Southerland, Billie Dee Preuett, Kayla Ford, Nancy Davis, Erika Alonzo, Heather Muirhead and Lindsay Castellaw, (middle row) Dakota Lewis, Brady Chandler, Linden Scarbrough, Rebecca Bloodworth, Tabitha Brown, Ali McEwen, Hannah Wodruff, Allison Wicker, Kristen Storey, Mary Helen Driver, Christina Jackson, Hope Montgomery, Drew Crews, (back row) Matt Tittle, Matthew Roberson, Reid Wiggins, Barrett Marlowe, Josh Van Valkenburg, Byron Brown, Spencer Maloney, Tanner Cary, Colton Woodward and Morgan Quinton.

Internship/workshop offers international experience

The University of Tennessee at Martin Center for International Education (CIE) has announced the first group of recipients of the federally-funded International Education Internship/Workshop Scholarship Program. This program is poised to help students gain practical international experience and make them more marketable post-graduation.

"The CIE was entrusted to help students experience and report practical international educational experiences," said Dr. Malcolm Koch, CIE executive director. "We are pleased to see such a cross-discipline group of students in this pilot group, and look forward to their personal and professional success.

Selected students will participate in one of four international education internships/workshop experiences. Students in each of the four areas signed "international education agreements" committing them to various tasks and detailed reporting. Much of the reporting of these real-world experiences will be demonstrated in student-to-student channels, and will be monitored by internationally focused faculty and staff.

"This program is a great match for my students in fashion merchandising," said Dr. Sue Byrd, UT Martin professor of textiles, clothing and merchandising. "My students are required to complete an internship, and those tied to this cohort are interning in businesses that buy products from international vendors. This program challenges them to document and discuss the pros and cons of using international vendors, and to consider carefully the ethics involved when American suppliers are left out."

In addition to agreement deliverables, all students in the pilot group are completing pre- and post-test international competency surveys," Koch said. "It is anticipated this program will demonstrate these direct experiences will not only give students marketable job skills, but will change their long-term views on globalization."

The CIE program is a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Center for International Education is led by Dr. Malcolm Koch and serves the UT Martin campus community. The CIE is a part of the College of Business and Global Affairs. For more information on this or other internationally focused programs, contact Lorrie Jackson, administrative specialist, at (731) 881-1023.

Julianne Marie Lawson, daughter of Homer and Julia Lawson of Union City, recently graduated cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. While attending UT Martin, she maintained Dean's List status and was a two-year recipient of the Latimer Nursing Scholarship.

She was Student Affairs chairman for her nursing class and a member of the national nursing honor society, Sigma Theta Tau International, Pi Tau chapter. She was also a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. Miss Lawson will be working as a registered nurse in the area.
WHEN IT COUNTS — The 54th annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association High School Mathematics Contest was recently conducted at the University of Tennessee at Martin. About 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. At the UT Martin testing site, 256 students from 12 schools competed. Students from Union City High School who participated were (from left, front row) Caitlyn Nelson, Katelyn Ray, Katie Hawkins, Anna Moore, Tara Elam, Breeanna Brown, Calla Ziegler, Chloe Smithson; (back row) sponsor J.B. Murphy, Luke Searcy, Abram Carroll, John Kirkland, Chase Bowling, Matt Kethley, Brady Tidwell and Will Regan.

ON THE PLUS SIDE — Twenty students from Union City Middle School recently attended the Junior High/Middle School Mathematics Contest at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where Molly Maclin placed fifth in the Top 10 for the eighth grade overall and first place in eighth grade for UCMS; Hunter Corley placed first in seventh grade for UCMS; and Kizer Harris placed first in sixth grade for the school. The local participants included (from left, front row) Davis Odle, Corley, Jon David Fuzzell, Harris, (middle row) Mary Lawrence Critchlow, Emily Kizer, Millie Critchlow, Alex Parks, Jasmine Youngblood, Jackie Hudson, Bettye Claire Beachum; (back row) B. Clendenin, Blaine Ziegler, Bradley Hutchens, Samuel Moss, Blake McClure, Diana Sanchez, Daulton Parish, Jason Stone and Miss Maclin.

IT ALL ADDS UP — The University of Tennessee at Martin recently hosted the 54th annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association High School Mathematics Contest. About 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. At the UT Martin testing site, 256 students from 12 schools competed. Among the participants from South Fulton High School were (from left, front row) Mallory Martin, Ashlee Tynes, Megan White, Sarah Gammon, Jorgianna Morton, Henry Lu, (middle row) Samantha Murray, Grace Bruner, Danielle Friedls, Mikaela Hardy, Haley McKinney, Paxton Sisson, Hayley Pilcher; (back row) Seth Friedls, Landon Sowell, Reid Barker and Jordan Cherry.
Pharmacy tech program to begin

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies in partnership with Jackson State Community College’s Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development are offering the pharmacy technician program from 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 22-Aug. 10. The program will be offered on the JSCC campus.

The cost is $999, including textbooks and lab supplies. The comprehensive 50-hour course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board’s PTCB exam. Technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings, working under the supervision of a registered pharmacist.

Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will learn dosage calculations, intravenous flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

For more information on these courses, call UT Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7081 or go online to http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non-degree/home.php.

UTM lecturer releases book about Civil War

“Mississippi in the Civil War: The Home Front” (University Press of Mississippi) is the first book since 1943 to examine the state’s civilian populace during the Civil War. Author Timothy B. Smith, University of Tennessee at Martin lecturer of history, considers the dual paradigm of Mississippi’s Civil War defeat from both outward and inward sources.

Coming from the outside, Mississippi’s military defeat and devastation was complete, with the Union army literally dismantling the state’s political system, infrastructure, economy and war effort. The state saw extensive military operations, destruction and fighting within its borders, with one of the most destructive of all Confederate military defeats taking place at Vicksburg after one of the largest campaigns of the war.

Yet even while the Confederate forces, the means of fighting the war and the state itself were being overwhelmed militarily, there was a similar inward decline taking place. The people of the state, realizing that the enemy could run rampant over its entire territory, soon began to lose the will to continue the effort.

Many white Confederates chose to go back into the Union rather than see more destruction come about in an effort to win a victory that probably was not within grasp anyway. With the tide turning, Unionists and African Americans became bolder in their effort to defeat the Confederacy. The result was a state totally defeated in its efforts to break away from the United States and one that suffered the consequences far into the future.

“Mississippi in the Civil War” tells the story of all classes of Mississippians during the war, concentrating on previously neglected groups such as women and African Americans. The result is a new and fresh examination of the social side of war.

Smith, of Adamsville, is the author of several books, including “The Untold Story of Shiloh: The Battle and Battlefield” and “Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg.”

Learning resource workshop planned

The Steve E. Rogers Media Center in Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin will host a learning resource workshop from 11 a.m.-noon June 7.

The workshop will focus on educational displays using Ellison Dies, instructional aides and other media.

For more information, call (731) 881-7063.
RECEIVES TEACHER AWARD — The recipient of the University of Tennessee at Martin Carl Seale Student Teacher Award for spring semester 2010 is Deanna Roach (left) of South Fulton, who was joined by Mary Lee Grossner, her cooperating teacher at Martin Elementary School. The Carl Seale Student Teacher Award is given in memory of Dr. Carl Seale, who served the university from 1971-92 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. Ms. Roach was a student teacher this semester at Martin Elementary School, where Teresa Jackson is principal, and at Fulton County (Ky.) Elementary, where Julie Jackson is principal. Ms. Grossner was her cooperating teacher at Martin Elementary, while Carla McClure was her cooperating teacher at Fulton County. Her university supervisor was Dr. Beth Quick, Department of Educational Studies chair. Ms. Roach received a master of science degree in education during recent commencement exercises at UT Martin.

UT Day on the Hill

University of Tennessee at Martin sophomore Abbey Stoker, of Dresden, and freshman Calvin Jones, of Munford, were recent student representatives to UT Day on the Hill in Nashville. The two students, along with students and administrators from all UT campuses had opportunities to meet with state legislators and discuss legislative bills pertaining to higher education. The entire group ended the day listening to coaches Pat Head Summitt, Bruce Pearl and Derek Dooly. They are pictured with Dr. Jim Thompson, left, UT College of Veterinary Medicine Dean.

Pharmacy Technician program offered in June

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies, in partnership with Jackson State Community College’s Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development are offering the Pharmacy Technician program from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 22-August 10. The program will be offered on JSCC campus. The cost is $999 including textbooks and lab supplies.

The comprehensive 50-hour course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board’s PTCE exam. Technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings working under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. Course content includes medical terminology, specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will learn dosage calculations, intravenous flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

For more information on these courses, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7081 or go online to http://www.utm.edu/departments/cecc/nondegree/home.php.
UT Martin infuses state with $138.5 million in income, supports more than 3,800 jobs

The University of Tennessee at Martin brings at least $138.5 million annually in income to the state of Tennessee and supports more than 3,800 jobs, according to a study released today.

The study by the Center for Business and Economic Research at UT Knoxville also found the university generates an estimated $15.1 million in state and local tax revenue each year.

"As one of Tennessee's two public universities west of the Tennessee River, UT Martin continues to play a vital role in the economic, educational and cultural landscape of Tennessee," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. "Boasting one of the highest graduation rates among four Tennessee public institutions, UT Martin represents one of the best buys in the South."

UT economists, led by CBER director Bill Fox, analyzed data from fiscal year 2008 to estimate the economic impact of the UT System overall and the individual impact of the campuses in Knoxville, Martin, Chattanooga, the Health Science Center in Memphis and the Space Institute in Tullahoma. The economic impact studies focused on direct employment and income data.

The university's payroll for FY 2008, including salary and benefits for 2,152 full-time and part-time faculty, staff and student employees, was $53.9 million. The effect of payroll spending was $107.8 million and accounted for approximately 762 additional jobs.

The $16.3 million UT Martin spent on goods and services in the state led to $10.5 million in income for the state and the creation of 256 additional jobs.

Students spent approximately $47.7 million, accounting for $20.2 million in income and 674 jobs. The study did not include visitors attending non-athletic events. And that is likely a conservative estimation of UT Martin's impact, according to the study.

"There are significant qualitative benefits from the UT System that, though difficult to quantify, may be as important as or more important than the quantitative effects described above," the study states. "These qualitative impacts include benefits from an educated workforce, distinguished research projects and increased community engagement through an array of activities." In addition, faculty, staff and students impact their communities through involvement in churches, charities and other organizations.

"The university also enhances the culture of each community through the arts, athletics and continuing education opportunities," said Rakes. "UT Martin provides enhanced access through university centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer as well as offering a menu of online programs for working adults. This access serves to build a better-educated workforce in Tennessee."

Local students members of Chemistry Olympiad

Two students chosen by the Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society, Evan A. Baker of the University School of Jackson, and Marianela D'Aprile of Martin Westview High School, took the National Chemistry Olympiad Examination, a 90-minute multiple choice and 105-minute essay written test and a 90-minute laboratory practical at the University of Tennessee at Martin on April 24. This test will determine if these students qualify to become members of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad team that will compete in the 42nd International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in Tokyo, Japan, in July. From left to right are UT Martin ACS chapter president Kayla Poindexter, Baker, D'Aprile and UT Martin chapter vice president Kayla Baker, Poindexter, Kayla Baker and Dr. S.K. Airee, professor of chemistry, coordinated the test. Participating students received copies of the Merck Index on behalf of the Kentucky Lake Section and the Merck Company.

'Customer Service' is Lunch and Learn topic

"Customer Service: It's All About the Guest in Your Business" is the topic of an upcoming Martin Business Association Lunch and Learn session.

Sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Tennes- see Small Business Development Center and MBA, the workshop will be from noon-1:00 p.m., June 15, at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center, 406 S. Lindell Street, Martin. The cost is $10 and includes lunch. This Lunch and Learn will focus on how to implement do's and don'ts for customer service.

Register by June 11 by calling the REED Center at 587-7333 or register online at www.utm. edu/reed.
UTM students claim Public Relations Awards

University of Tennessee at Martin students winning awards in the Public Relations Society of America Student Vox Awards competition are, Brandy Hardy, second from left, David Deaton, Ashley Strader Ballard, Mary Unger, Josh Weiss and Rebecca Alsup. They are pictured with Tracy Rutledge, left, UT Martin instructor of communications; and Dr. Jeff Hoyer, right, associate professor of communications.

Public relations and visual communication students in the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications received awards at the annual Public Relations Society of America Student Vox Awards competition sponsored by the Memphis chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). Seven students and two faculty members attended the recent awards luncheon in Memphis.

The students received top honors with three Vox awards for a newsletter, a public relations research project, and a viral video for the Web. The students also received three Gold awards for a newsletter, a brochure and a social media advertising campaign.

A group of public relations majors received a Vox Award for a research project conducted for the Country Pet Resort and Spa in Martin. Mary Unger and Tara Bea, both of Martin; Matt Byers, of Paris; Erica Davis, of Bells; Erin Larkin, of Burns; Josh Weiss, of Germantown; and Becca Wilkinson, of Old Hickory, worked on the project.

Rebecca Alsup, of Prospect, received a Vox award for her UT Martin Public Relations Student Society of American chapter newsletter. Alsup also received a Gold Award for her Alpha Delta Pi brochure.

Danny Hussey, of Counce, received a Vox Award for his "UT Martin Recycles" viral Web video.

Brandy Hardy, of Clarksville, received a Gold Award for her UT Martin Vegetarian Society Newsletter.

A group of public relations, news editorial, and visual communication students received a Gold Award for a YouTube advertising campaign proposal created for the UT Martin Office of University Relations. Weiss, of Germantown; Regina Emery, of Indian Mound; Ashley Strader Ballard, of Murfreesboro; David Deaton, of McKenzie; Brent Harris, of Martin; Reuben Harris, of Fayetteville; Laura McFall, of Cordova; and Kaylin Bishop, of Union City, worked on the campaign proposal.

The Student Vox competition included entries in a number of categories ranging from research projects and campaigns to individual print and Web projects. A Vox Award was given to the entry considered to be the most outstanding in each category. Gold awards were given to entries that demonstrated high-caliber work.

The Memphis chapter of PRSA sponsored the Student Vox competition. The competition provides students with an opportunity to submit their best work of the classroom, internships, or academic/social organizations. The Student Vox competition is modeled after the professional Vox Awards, which honors outstanding work done by communications professionals. The Student Vox Awards were judged by local Memphis PRSA professionals and were given to students presenting the highest caliber of work in various communications categories.

UT Martin graduates

David Long, of Sharon; Emily Bartholomew, of Somerville; and Rachael Henderson, of Houston County; were among graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony today. Each received a degree in accounting. They are joined by Henderson's fiancé, James Mathis, also of Houston County.
UT Martin hosting two Governor’s Schools; students can earn college credit

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 June 6 and depart July 3, while the agricultural sciences students arrive on May 23 and depart June 18.

The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities, located on the UT Martin campus since 1985, will host 76 students, and the seventh 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, veterinary science, engineering and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources. They will be exposed to scientific and land stewardship concepts while sharpening their 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 utilize the fuels in laboratory engines.

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, have the potential to turn all learning environment into laboratories.

“Agriculture today is a fast-paced, high-tech industry that requires strong analytical skills to be successful,” said Dr. Joey Mehlihorn, TGSAS director and UT Martin professor of agricultural economics. “TGSAS helps foster those skills through a variety of experiential learning opportunities.” A four-day field trip to Moline, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri, is planned for this year’s class. Students will visit the John Deere facilities in Moline and then travel to St. Louis to tour the Monsanto Research Center, Purina Mills, Missouri Botanical Garden and other sites of interest.

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 brightest” students in Tennessee.

“We believe the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities is the most extraordinary academic experience you can have as a high school student, and our outstanding faculty do everything they can to create a rigorous, engaging environment in which the scholars can further develop their intellectual abilities,” said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs and governor’s school director.

Evans recognized at UTM 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 Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of The First Amendment Center in Nashville. Benita Evans, of Dresden, received the Stewart Byars Excellence in Radio Production Award. Misty Menees, friend of Byars, presented the award. Evans also received second place for 2009 Best College Radio Journalist in the Best in the South Competition and the WUTM Faculty Advisor Award.
‘Walk A Mile for Domestic Violence’
with PSEPP and Phi Beta Sigma

Personal Safety Empowerment Partnership Project and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity “Walk A Mile for Domestic Violence” was sponsored at the University of Tennessee at Martin on April 20. The event included a brief program, proclamation by Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and remarks by UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, Natalie Boyd, PSEPP director, and others. The program was held to heighten awareness about the affects of domestic violence/sexual assault. The event was capped with Boyd leading participants on a walk through the Quad in honor of April being designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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: Christina Paige Dilday; Matthew A. Thomas; Benjamin Jason Vowell; Jeremy Michael Moss; Lea Ann Hayes; Barbara Playter Ferrell; Jennifer Lee Kemp; Phyllis Dale Sheffield;
- Gleason: Caleb Loyd Cooper; Graham Jefferson Oliver; Maylon Price; Andrew Ryan Francisco; Lucas Adam Carey;
- Greenfield: Emily Lyn Medling; Samantha Emily Wills; Tiffany Brooke Frazier; Nici Raquel McAlister; Alyse A. Page; Rebecca Ann McDonald; Joshua David Rötger;
- Martin: Hunter Thomas Vincent; Elizabeth Erin Gipson; Sheena Leigh Pitcher; Emily Ellen Stooksberry; Elizabeth G. Unger; Jessica Nicole Greer; Kyle Andrew Thweatt; Jennifer Lee Calhoun; David Paul Dunn; Nathaniel Lee Hammond; Justin O'Brien Hickman; Sara Anne Mitchell; Candace Michelle Dean; James Conrad Eisterhold; Brady Steven Legens; Kayla Ann Cazenave; Heather Michelle Clark Sowell; April Rivers; Ashley Brooke Via; Thomas Hinton Hester III; Cory Stanley Davis; Punam Patel; Robert Casey Unger; Rachel Elizabeth Wilkinson; Megan Leigh Witherspoon; Brent Tyler Harris; Walter Rawls Harris; Charlie Ryan Nichols; Audrey Ellen Osment; Charlie Wayne McIntosh; Rex Harold Stoker; Christopher Michael Burress; Marlena Denise Landry;
- Sharon: David J. Long; Amber Nicole Carson.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Gleason: Una Edith Baker;
- Greenfield: Candice Mitchell;
- Martin: Andrew Goad; Bethany Chandler; Jean Little; Gayle A. McFarland;
- Palermsville: Rebecca Childress; Benjamin Milbrath.

Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, was the commencement speaker. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.
UT faculty member earns recognition for recycling efforts

Dr. Angie MacKewn has a passion for recycling, and her volunteer recycling work for the University of Tennessee at Martin and surrounding area has earned her a Love Community Service Award from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. MacKewn, of Greenfield, an associate professor of psychology, was selected from a group of Tennessee higher-education nominees. She received the award April 29 at a THEC reception in Nashville.

Awards went to five faculty/staff members and five students who excel in volunteer work and community service activities. The Tennessee General Assembly created the recognition programs for faculty, staff and students at public and private two- and four-year post-secondary institutions in 1991. In 1993, the General Assembly funded the program by presenting $1,000 cash awards to future recipients. The awards are named for the late Tennessee Rep. Harold Love, who sponsored legislation to create the recognition program.

"Angie joined the UT Martin faculty almost seven years ago, and during her time here, she has taken a lead role in educating people about recycling and waste minimization," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. "Recycling previously existed at the university, but through the hard work of Angie and many others, recycling efforts have greatly expanded in recent years. She is a true volunteer in every sense as she translates her passion for recycling into action."

MacKewn's volunteer work has gone beyond participating in recycling events. She and others worked to move the university's recycling facility to a larger building three years ago. Since the move to the former National Guard Armory building on Moody Street in Martin, the number of items accepted for recycling has expanded to include items such as plastics, glass, scrap metal and cell phones. The recycling percentages for UT Martin have grown to nearly a 35 percent rate per person.

MacKewn has also been part of several grants to place recycle bins in K-12 schools, hold sustainability conferences at UT Martin and expand the recycling facility. She was successful in obtaining a Tennessee Department of Transportation litter grant award and worked with Dennis Kosta, the university's custodial manager, to obtain three consecutive Walmart community environmental grants and a growing-gardens grant to place several garden plots near the residence halls. For three years running, MacKewn has led the university's participation in "Recyclemania," an international competition among colleges and universities in Canada and the U.S.

MacKewn also helps to organize Earth Week activities and Earthfest, a community celebration of the earth and sustainable practices. Events include live music, food, competitions among scouting groups for their recycling efforts, a "swap cycle" in which people swap out goods for free, a recycle run and recycled art contests. The university's recycling facility also schedules monthly "recycle days" where volunteers collect recycling from area residents who drop off materials at the university's recycling facility.

"I'm extremely fortunate to work with such great people at UT Martin who support recycling," MacKewn said. "Their efforts are making the campus and community more sustainable."

MacKewn's recognition brings the total to 26 students, faculty and staff members from UT Martin recognized by the THEC Love Community Service Awards programs.

Siblings among UTM graduates

Gentry, left, and Casey Unger, Martin siblings, received degrees in dietetics and biology, respectively, and were among graduates at the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony Saturday. Gentry will begin an internship, and Casey will pursue a degree in Spanish and plans to attend medical school. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Simek, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.
LEGO Camps ‘build’ young engineers, scientists

Youthful engineers will have a chance to play and learn at LEGO camps planned by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies, June 21-25, on campus.

Early Simple Machines, for ages 5-7 will be offered from 9-11 a.m. Students will build simple models such as a seesaw, rolling vehicle, spinning top and raft. By playing with and manipulating the models, they experience pulleys, levers, gears, and wheels and axles, while exploring energy, buoyancy and balance. Students work in teams of two or three students.

Simple and Powered Machines, for ages 8-12, will be offered from 2-4 p.m. Students will build and explore machines and mechanisms, investigate motorized machines, calibrate and capture wind and study gearing mechanisms. The activities will enable students to work as young scientists, engineers and designers and provides them with settings, tools and tasks that promote design technology, science and mathematics. Students will involve themselves in real-world investigations and problem-solving. They will make assumptions and predictions, design and make models. They will observe the behavior of these models, reflect and redesign and then record and present their findings. Students will work in teams of two or three students.

Space is limited. The registration fee is $140 and includes LEGO camp T-shirt. To register, call 731-881-7082 or 731-881-7081 or go to www.utm.edu/departments/ecee/kidcollege.php.

Harris is local UT Martin graduate

Brent Harris, of Martin, was among graduates participating in the University of Tennessee at Martin spring commencement ceremony Saturday. He received a degree in communications/broadcasting. He is pictured with Elizabeth Watts, his grandmother; Bud and Pam Harris, his parents, of Martin; Anne Alford, his girlfriend, of Dresden; and Doris and Gene Harris, his grandparents. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes presided over the exercises, and Dr. Jan Slimk, University of Tennessee interim president, conferred degrees.

Faculty inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

Sherry Denise Jones, lecturer of psychology, and Dr. Eric Ray Walker, assistant professor of plant science, 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.
Internship/Workshop program helps students gain international experience

The University of Tennessee at Martin Center for International Education (CIE) has announced the first group of recipients of the federally funded International Education Internship/Workshop Scholarship Program. This program is poised to help students gain practical international project experiences and make them more marketable post-graduation.

"The CIE was entrusted these external funds to help our students experience and report practical international educational experiences," said Dr. Malcolm Koch, CIE executive director. "We are pleased to see such a cross-discipline group of students in this pilot group, and look forward to their personal and professional success."

Selected students will participate in one of four international education internship/workshop experiences: Work Projects/Internships for Regional Business/Industry projects with an international component, Promotional Work Projects for the CIE, Traditional Student to International Student Mentor Program or Travel-Study/Study-Abroad Ambassador Program.

Students in each of the four areas signed "international education agreements" committing them to various tasks and detailed reporting. Much of the reporting of these real-world experiences will be demonstrated in student-to-student channels, and will be monitored by internationally focused faculty and staff.

"This program is a great match for my students in fashion merchandising," said Dr. Sue Byrd, UT Martin professor of textiles, clothing and merchandising. "My students are required to complete an internship, and those tied to this cohort are interning in businesses that buy products from international vendors. This program challenges them to document and discuss the pros and cons of using international vendors, and to consider carefully the ethics involved when American suppliers are left out."

"In addition to agreement deliverables, all students in the pilot group are completing pre- and post-test international competency surveys," said Koch. "It is anticipated this program will demonstrate these direct experiences will not only give students marketable job skills, but will change their long-term views on globalization."

The CIE program is a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Center for International Education is led by Dr. Malcolm Koch, and serves the UT Martin campus community. The CIE is a part of the College of Business and Global Affairs. For more information on this or other internationally focused programs, contact Lorrie Jackson, administrative specialist, at 731-881-1023.
Number 3
Alayna Owens is the daughter of Lisa Morgan and James Owens. She is ranked third out of the one hundred and three students in her class. Alayna is president of SkillsUSA and Mu Alpha Theta. She was also part of the 2009-2010 Annual Staff. Alayna has done a lot of different community service projects. She was on the Relay for Life committee in 2009. She has attended three mission trips with World Changers and plans to attend another this summer. She also participated in building a local Habitat for Humanity house. Alayna currently works part-time at E.W. James in Martin. Alayna’s future plans include attending college at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She is undecided about her major, but is looking into the medical field.

Number 4
Sierra Lorene Kirk is the daughter of Michael and Rhonda Kirk. She is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. Sierra is an editor of the 2009-2010 yearbook and has been a Most Likely to Succeed by the senior class. She has been a high school cheerleader. Sierra plans to attend The University of Tennessee at Martin this fall majoring in psychology.

Number 7
Colleen Elizabeth Perkins is the daughter of Ronald and Deborah Perkins of Dresden. She ranks 7th in the 2010 Graduating Class of Dresden High School. Colleen was chosen by the Dresden High School faculty as this year’s DAR Good Citizens Award winner. She has received the “A Average” Award each year while in high school. During her four years at Dresden High School, Colleen has participated in numerous school and community activities. Colleen has been active in many clubs at Dresden High School, including the FFA, the Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, the Interact Club, the Science Club, the Spanish Club, the D Club, and the DHS Student Council. Colleen has held officer positions in many clubs. This year she has served as president of both the FFA and the Beta Club. Throughout her high school, Colleen has participated in FFA Career Development Events where she has placed in both District and West Tennessee events. Colleen received the State FFA Degree at this year’s Tennessee State FFA Convention. Colleen played basketball her freshman and sophomore years. Throughout high school, Colleen has participated in 4-H events and has won Public Speaking awards. She was chosen to attend the Tennessee State 4-H Congress as a freshman. Colleen was a member of the 2006-2007 Weakley Youth Leadership where she was co-chairman of the group’s community service project. Colleen was selected to attend S.C.O.P.E. (Student Congress on Policies in Education) and Ethical Leaders Conference. Colleen represented Dresden High School FFA at the prestigious 2009 Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. In 2009, Colleen was chosen to attend Volunteer Girls State sponsored by the American Legion where she was elected Agriculture Commissioner. In addition, she represented Dresden as the 2009 Iris Festival Hostess Princess. Colleen attends Lebanon Church of Christ. After graduation, Colleen plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin where she plans to major in Agriculture Business.

Number 8
Candice Nicole McAlister is the daughter of Cindy Bright and John McAlister. She ranks 8th in the 2010 Senior Class at Dresden High School, and has maintained an A-average. Candice is attending UT Martin in August to pursue a degree in nursing. After receiving her degree, she wants to work with cancer patients. Along with her nursing career, she wants to take part in missions and politics.

Number 9
Jeffrey Reid is the son of Jerry and Ruth Reid. He ranks 9th in his 2010 graduation class. Jeffrey has maintained a 95 and above average each of his high school years. He has been a member of Beta, DECA, and FFA all four years. During his sophomore year, he was a class officer. His teachers voted him to receive the Student Council Outstanding Student Appreciation Award his junior year and following that year he was a Boys State Delegate. Jeffrey is also a member of Mu Alpha Theta math honors organization. He received appreciation certificates in numerous subjects including biology, business, English, history, and Spanish. Recently, the Woodmen of the World presented him with a plaque and check after he was chosen to receive the American History award for his school. In Who’s Who, he was voted Mr. Senior and Most Likely to Succeed. Jeffrey has attended Oak Grove Baptist Church all of his life. He has been employed at E.W. James and Sons Supermarket since the fall of 2008. After graduation, Jeffrey plans to attend The University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall with a major in pre-pharmacy.
Number 3

Megan Burcham is the daughter of Timothy and Joan Burcham. She was active in cheerleading, National Honor Society, Beta Club, Anchor Club, HOSA and FCE. Honors and awards she received were three times UCA National Champion, Miss Martin, two times Most Valuable Cheerleader, U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete award and two times UCA All-American. She plans to attend the University of Tennessee-Martin and major in English.

Number 4

Julie Reddick is the daughter of Tom and Barbara Reddick. She was active in band, jazz band, Spanish Club, Beta Club and National Honors Society. Honors and awards she received were UT-Martin Chancellor’s Scholarship, Hope Scholarship, Tennessee Scholars, Field Commander Awards: 1 third place, 2 second place and 2 first place. She plans to attend the University of Tennessee-Martin to major in biology, followed by attending medical school to specialize in cardiology.

Number 5

Libbi Wilson is the daughter of Brad and Becky Wilson. She was active in President of Student Council, Anchor Club, Beta Club, FCCLA, FCA, National Honor Society, School Announcer and Junior Class President. Honors and awards she received were Top 10 all four years, Tennessee Scholars, American Legion Auxiliary, Volunteer Girls State Delegate, and member of National Honors Society. She plans to attend the University of Tennessee-Martin and majoring in Early Childhood Development.

Number 8

Amy Belote is the daughter of David and Dawne Belote. She was active in soccer as a freshman, HOSA, Beta, National Honor Society, BPA, Anchor Club, Science Fair, Top Ten, Youth Leadership of Weakley County and FBLA. Honors and awards she received were DAR Award for Westview, first place in Regional Public Speaking contest for HOSA and was fourth place at State for HOSA. Honorable mention at Weakley County Science Fair, first place at Westview Science Fair; second place writing award for the Teaching Assoc. She plans to attend the University of Tennessee-Martin and major in biology, then attend medical school and become a family doctor.

Number 9

Brandt Gibson is the son of Michael and Edie Gibson. He was active in band, jazz band, Beta Club, French Club, Scope, FBLA and BPA. Honors and awards he received were National Honors Society, Science Fair and Chancellor’s Award Scholarship. He plans to attend the University of Tennessee-Martin and major in biology and attend medical school.

Number 10

Kyeongmee Kim is the daughter of Jong Kyu Kim. She was active in Mu Alpha Theta and National Honor Society, Science Fair and FCA. Honors and awards she received was TMTA Math competitions. She plans to attend the University of Tennessee-Martin and major in pre-med.
Number 3
Preston Daniel Frazier is a 4-year member of the Beta Club, Science Club, G Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (President - 11th Grade), a 3-year member of the Student Council (Secretary - 12th Grade), and a 2-year member of the Spanish Club. Preston was a S.C.O.P.E. Delegate and a member of the First State Bank Youth Leadership. He was a member of the GHS Golf Team for 3 years and a member of the GHS Bulldog Basketball Team for 5 years. Preston volunteered with Gleason’s Youth League Basketball (4 years). Preston is a member of the First United Methodist Church in Gleason and very active in the MYF Youth Group. Awards include: Citations Award (4 years); TN Scholar; Voted by his peers “Most Likely to Succeed” in the Who’s Who: Most Improved & Best Free Throw Percentage (10th Grade); Best 3 Point Percentage (11th Grade); Bulldog Award and Best Free Throw Percentage (12th Grade); J.T. Moore Achiever Award; and The Dudley Sanders Award. Preston has been awarded the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship, Dean’s Scholarship, and the Daresen Owen Scholarship presented by the AMA Insurance Group. Preston is attending the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall and will major in Accounting. Preston is the son of Randy and Terry Frazier.

Number 6
Taylor Marie Stout is the 17 year old daughter of Troy and Janene Stout. She recently graduated 6th in her class from Gleason High School with honors. Taylor received the Tennessee Lottery Scholarship and the Derek Hagler Scholarship. She plans to attend UTM in the fall and wants a degree in psychology. Taylor is an active member of First United Methodist Church in Gleason, where she is very active in the youth group. She has received several honors as a student of Gleason High School. She has been in the Top 10 of her class all four years. She was a member of the G-Club, Science Club, FCA, Student Council and elected Vice-President of her senior class. She was a 4-year starter of the Lady Bulldogs Basketball Team and 5-year starter of the Lady Bulldogs Softball Team. She was elected Most Athletic and Miss Senior by her peers. She has received All-District and All-Region Honors as an athlete at Gleason and Class A State Champions in 2007.

Number 7
Kelly Lynn Hatley is the daughter of Jeff and Marsha Hatley, sister of Kasey Hatley, granddaughter of the late Robert Edward McDaniel and Shirley McDaniel, Elbert and Felicita Hatley and the late Madge Tatro. Kelly has been active in the following: GHS Cheerleader, FCCLA, Beta Club, FCA, Science Club, Spanish Club, G-Club, Student Council and Class Officer, Weakley County Youth Leadership Graduate, Trinity Hands of Worship, Relay for Life, Samaritan’s Purse, White Christmas. She is a member of Gleason First United Methodist Church and an employee of Calvís Restaurant in Gleason. She was chosen as Girls State alternate, 2009 Homecoming Royalty - Senior Maid, and voted “Most Likely to Succeed” for Who’s Who by her peers. She has been awarded the following: Top Ten (4 years), Character Counts (4 years), UTM Dean’s Scholarship, UTM Leaders in Residence Scholarship, and the Tennessee Scholars HOPE Scholarship. Kelly will be attending UTM in the fall where she plans to major in Early Elementary Education with a minor in ESL.

Number 3
Mallory Kay Robinson is the daughter of Greg and K.K. Robinson. She and her family attend First Presbyterian Church in Greenfield. She finished third in her class with a GPA of 97.714. Throughout high school, she has been involved in many school and community activities. Mallory has been a member of the Beta Club for four years and served as Secretary her senior year. She has also been in Youth for Christ for four years and served as Secretary her senior year. As a freshman, she was a member of FBLA and was a regional winner. She has been on the basketball and tennis teams for four years as well. In basketball, she made the All-District and All-Academic teams as a senior. In tennis, she made All-District as a sophomore, junior, and senior, was district singles runner-up as a junior, and won district and region doubles as a senior. She is a graduate of Weakley County Youth Leadership. She was voted Who’s Who Most Athletic, was top magazine sales as a junior, served on her school’s yearbook staff for two years, and was Freshman and Senior Homecoming Maid. She is also Secretary of her senior class. Mallory has been involved with various community activities such as Relay for Life and Fire Prevention Week. She plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall.
UT MARTIN TO OFFER EKG AND PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN PROGRAMS OFFERED IN SELMER

From STAFF REPORTS

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering EKG Technician and Phlebotomy Technician programs at the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer this summer.

The 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. This 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. Additionally, students will practice with equipment and perform hands-on labs including introduction to the function and proper use of the EKG machine, the normal anatomy of the chest wall for proper lead placement, 12-lead placement and other clinical practices. The course will be offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, June 21-Aug. 11. There will be no class on July 5. The cost is $999 including textbooks and lab supplies.

The 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 course will be offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 1-Aug. 31. The cost is $1,599 including textbooks and lab supplies.

For more information on these courses, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7081 or go online to http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.

UT Martin’s Economic Impact

From STAFF REPORTS

The University of Tennessee at Martin brings at least $388.5 million annually in income to the state of Tennessee and supports more than 3,800 jobs, according to a study released today. The study by the Center for Business and Economic Research at UT Knoxville also found the university generates an estimated $15.1 million in state and local tax revenue each year.

"As one of Tennessee’s two public universities west of the Tennessee River, UT Martin continues to play a vital role in the economic, educational and cultural landscape of Tennessee," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. "Boasting one of the highest graduation rates among four Tennessee public institutions, UT Martin represents one of the best buys in the South."

UT economists, led by CBER director Bill Fox, analyzed data from fiscal year 2008 to estimate the economic impact of the UT System overall and the individual impact of the campuses in Knoxville, Martin, Chattanooga, the Health Science Center in Memphis and the Space Institute in Tullahoma. The economic impact studies focused on direct employment and income data.

The university's payroll for FY 2008, including salary and benefits for 2,152 full-time and part-time faculty and staff, was $53.9 million. The effect of payroll spending was $107.8 million and accounted for approximately 762 additional jobs.

The $16.3 million UT Martin spent on goods and services in the state led to $10.5 million in income for the state and the creation of 256 additional jobs. Students spent approximately $47.7 million, accounting for $20.2 million in income and 674 jobs. The study did not include visitors attending non-athletic events. And that is likely a conservative estimation of UT Martin's impact, according to the study.

"There are significant qualitative benefits from the UT System that, though difficult to quantify, may be as important as or more important than the quantitative effects described above," the study states. These qualitative impacts include benefits from an educated workforce, distinguished research projects and increased community engagement through an array of activities. In addition, faculty, staff and students impact their communities through involvement in churches, charities and other organizations.

"The university also enhances the culture of each community through the arts, athletics and continuing education opportunities," said Rakes. "UT Martin provides enhanced access through university centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer as well as offering a menu of online programs for working adults. This access serves to build a better-educated workforce in Tennessee."
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

Several Dyer 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:
- Newbern - Adam Tyler Johnson, Samuel Lawrence White, Adam Earl Uitendaal, Brittany Jill Smith, Mallory J. Atkin, Hunter Johnson Smith and Dustin Kyle Parker.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dyersburg - Sarah Conrad and Emily Young
- Newbern - Paula Wampler

EARNS SCHOLARSHIP — Cameron Graham, a 2010 Union City High School graduate, was recently awarded a four-year ROTC Scholarship to the University of Tennessee at Martin. It was a very competitive scholarship, with only five four-year scholarships available for the top applicants. The presentation of the scholarship was recently made at UCHS' awards program by Capt. Jeff Crawford from the Skyhawk Battalion. Graham plans to major in criminal justice, with a minor in military science, at UT Martin. Upon graduation, he will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. While at UCHS, Graham lettered in football, track, tennis and golf. He was a Kiwanians Student of the Month, president of Skills USA and a Tennessee Scholar Graduate. He is the son of Rob and Vicky Nettles of Union City.
UT Martin Dean’s List includes many from OC

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

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

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

The honorees, listed by hometown, include:

- Homebeck — Jeffrey A. Alexander, honors; Ashley R. Baldwin, honors; Drue R. Bartlett, highest honors; Jacob R. Bloodworth, honors; Holly L. Hopper, highest honors; Ashley R. Mobley, honors; Heather R. Stover, high honors; and Justin M. Stroud, honors.
- Kenton — Kristin A. Chicka, high honors; Kerry D. Duck, honors; Jessica D. Drolet, honors; Jacob L. Eldredge, honors; Candace M. Elgin, honors; Tiara M. Forbes, high honors; David C. Holleman, highest honors; Amanda J. Nichols, highest honors; Caleb M. Poole, honors; Katie Sanders, honors; and Mallory C. Walker, highest honors.
- Marion — Mary L. Haynes, highest honors; Autumn H. Kopp, honors; and Adam L. Smith, highest honors.
- Rives — Madalyn L. Harris, highest honors.
- South Fulton — Dustin T. Allen, honors; Kimberly L. Bates, highest honors; Audrey E. Casey, honors; Kelly R. Crawford, high honors; Ashley N. Cuffin, honors; Jessica K. Curtis, honors; Juneth A. Embrey, honors; Alex C. Gammon, highest honors; Keri L. Gillison, high honors; Kyle D. Greer, honors; Levi G. Griffin, highest honors; Colton T. Harris, highest honors; Tianda V. Harris, highest honors; Margaret A. Hickman, highest honors; Damar K. Hitt, honors; Kassie L. Hughes, honors; Kyle A. Jackson, highest honors; Melissa R. Jackson, highest honors; Allison T. Jones, highest honors; Tammy G. Malray, highest honors; Melissa L. McCartney, highest honors; Holly R. McClanahan, highest honors; Jon W. Meachum, high honors; Andrew H. Moore, highest honors; Nikki L. Pergande, highest honors; Joshua L. Potts, high honors; Anna M. Seratt, high honors; William B. Sissom, highest honors; Jonathan W. Smith, honors; Amanda J. Wall, highest honors; and Jing Yu, high honors.
- Troy — Delainia D. Cary, honors; Kara M. Cox, honors; Heather E. Grossner, highest honors; Rebecca W. Kendal, highest honors; Ashley M. Monroe, honors; Amanda R. Morrow, honors; Casey L. Norris, honors; Justin D. Preuet, honors; Shelley M. Richey, highest honors; Mason B. Storey, honors; Katelin A. Turner, high honors; Kristen E. Ward, honors; Wesley R. Yates, honors; and Jacob J. Zeller, highest honors.
- Union City — Emma C. Adams, high honors; Sharia N. Armour, high honors; Kelsey D. Arnold, highest honors; Elizabeth A. Barnes, high honors; Denise N. Bell, highest honors; Stephanie A. Bing, honors; Shane M. Bradberry, highest honors; Brandon D. Burke, honors; Mena L. Bush, high honors; Jonathan L. Byrd, highest honors; Luz E. Ciruelo, high honors; Beatrix S. Cropper, highest honors; Dustin S. Crowell, high honors; Aby T. Croce, highest honors; Matthew L. Davis, highest honors; Lisa A. Downey, highest honors; Joel M. Elrod, honors; Dana M. Elliott, highest honors; Tremayne A. Emmerson, honors; Joshua B. Ferrell, honors; Adam M. Gammon, highest honors; Ian E. Garrigan, highest honors; Jenni A. Gilbert, honors; Ardi D. Glenn, highest honors; Bradley J. Gregg, highest honors; Jon T. Humel, honors; Jennifer D. Harper, high honors; Andrew J. Henderson, honors; Bradley T. Henderson, highest honors; Christopher D. Hendon, high honors; Karyn D. Hill, high honors; Hollee S. Holman, honors; Courtney L. House, highest honors; Lindsey B. Hughes, highest honors; Jessica R. Isbell, highest honors; Jennifer L. Johnson, high honors; Andrew S.
Obion County native overcomes near-fatal accident, earns degree

UNION CITY (AP) — Jamie “Trey” Hamilton III, a 1997 graduate of Obion County Central High School, completed work on his second college degree May 15 from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Earning two college degrees is quite an accomplishment for anyone, but it is especially so for Hamilton, who could not even open his eyes four years ago — much less attend class — because of a terrible boating accident that left him in a coma.

In 2002, he earned his first degree at UT Martin in international studies with a minor in Spanish. His second degree proved to be much more challenging.

On Nov. 13, 2005, he hit his head on the aluminum step of the boat in which he was a passenger after the boat hit a tree at high speed. He was transported to Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City and then airlifted to the Vanderbilt Trauma Center in Nashville, where he had to be revived.

A few days later, a trachea tube was placed in his throat and a feeding tube was sewn into his stomach. Shortly after that, a shunt had to be placed in Hamilton’s skull to relieve the pressure from the swelling in his brain. Doctors diagnosed him as being in a persistent vegetative state with very little hope of recovery.

A few days after, doctors discovered the shunt had caused him to develop two different bacterial infections. As efforts were made to treat these infections, he developed a staph infection.

Finally, the infections were cleared and he was moved from the Trauma Center to a long-term care unit in Milan. On Dec. 15, 2005, Hamilton miraculously awakened from the coma he had been in for 32 days.

However, the road to recovery would not be easy as he would have to relearn everything from walking and talking to eating.

“Coming out of or awakening from a coma is not like Hollywood would have one believe,” said his father, Jamie Hamilton Jr. “It is very different. A coma is a nightmare of the worst kind.”

The younger Hamilton stayed at Milan’s NHC HealthCare for three more months before he was well enough to return home. He enrolled at Health Quest in Union City to begin rebuilding the muscles and regaining the 39 pounds he lost during the coma.

A month later, he entered the Center for Comprehensive Services in Carbondale, Ill., which helps patients who have experienced traumatic brain injuries. During this time, he was often found helping and encouraging other patients, though he was far from a full recovery himself.

Throughout his “re-education” and even today, the 31-year-old Hamilton said his entire left side continuously experiences a tingling feeling as if a muscle is about to wake up, yet never does. He still suffers from short-term memory problems. Also, he said he has double vision because his eyes do not line up correctly anymore, making it harder to read.

Finding ways to compensate for this has been hard, especially at the college level.

Jeff Rogers, a professor of geography at UT Martin, taught Trey both before and after his accident.

“One of the most remarkable aspects of Trey’s recovery has been the awakening of his intellectual curiosity,” he said. “He is an individual with many significant, often philosophical, questions about our culture and society. He tried to use his time at UT Martin, through his coursework and participation in student organizations, to answer some of these questions.”

On Sunday, Hamilton began his job as a park ranger for the Department of the Interior in the Smoky Mountains, utilizing his new degree in geoscience.

His injury and long recovery were not easy for him or his family. His experience should serve as an inspiration for all to, as Hamilton himself puts it, “Endeavor to persevere.”

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE — Sgt. Cole Turner Champion of Huntington, a University of Tennessee at Martin student, was guest speaker at the 10th annual Memorial Day Commemoration at UT Martin. Area veterans in attendance were recognized. The UT Martin Department of Public Safety and members of the Martin Police Department also honored area veterans with a gun salute. Also taking part were (from left) Lt. Col. Angela Odom, UT Martin professor of military science; UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes; Cpt. Daniel Evans of Jackson, Tennessee Army National Guard officer recruiter, who served as master of ceremonies; Staff Sgt. Chuck Sadler of Union City, Tennessee Army National Guard recruiter, who gave the invocation and benediction; and Dr. Robert Mancusi, assistant professor of music, who performed the national anthem.
Trustees outline ideal for new UT president

Relationship builder needed

By Megan Boehnke
KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE — Sweeping budget cuts and looming layoffs have University of Tennessee trustees and administrators looking for a president who can talk to citizens and build relationships with lawmakers.

The message: To emerge from the recession stronger, Tennessee needs to keep investing in higher education.

It will be up to the new president to persuade taxpayers and lawmakers that the state should spend its limited funding on its university systems, and that continuing deep budget cuts could dim Tennessee’s future.

Communication with people around the state is the No. 1 skill many trustees say they’ll insist on when they select a UT president this fall.

The system is poised to lose $12 million in state appropriations when the new budget year begins in July 2011, the same time stimulus funding runs out.

“In a changing world, the role, to me, is to be that advocate, and there’s no better voice than the leader of the land-grant institution for that,” said Interim President Jan Simek. “There has to be a forceful and cogent voice for higher education in the state.”

Stakeholders noted other important presidential qualities, such as transparency and accountability. But with state money dwindling, most remained focused on political relationships and higher education advocacy as priorities.

With one of the nation’s lowest bachelor degree rates among adults, Tennessee is especially vulnerable to the recession, which has shown a need for workers to be able to adapt and learn new skills, said Jim Murphy, vice chairman for UT’s Board of Trustees.

“It’s higher education that’s going to play a major role in preparing people for that, and we have to get that message across, because that’s what is going to convince people to give private money and why the legislature gives public money,” Murphy said.

Tennessee ranks 43rd in the country, tied with Nevada, for citizens older than 25 who have bachelor’s degrees, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2008 estimates.

Priority changes

Although getting a college degree hasn’t been a top priority for Tennesseans, the state is poised to change that attitude and create a platform for a new president to campaign on behalf of college education, said Robert Novak, senior vice president for programs and research at the Association of Governing Boards in Washington, D.C.

“High school and college degree education has become a real priority in Tennessee, and it’s a really good platform for a new president to become the chief spokesman for the system and includes advancing the agenda on degree completion,” Novak said.

When Gov. Phil Bredesen signed a comprehensive bill in February to restructure higher education funding to encourage graduation rates and make community college credits easier to transfer, Tennessee made headlines in the education world.

UT-Knoxville also has a plan to become a Top 25 research university; that plan will be unveiled at next month’s Board of Trustees meeting.

But the push to reach those goals comes at a time when the university is trying to do more with less.

Although lobbying the legislature and the business community has always been a vital part of the presidency of any public university, it’s not surprising to see a university place more emphasis on it in a time of financial strain, he said.

“The state is still usually the biggest funder of a public institution,” Novak said.

“The relationship has been a constant for university systems, and the system executive is usually chief spokesperson for the system when it comes to appropriation times. That can go for congressional leaders, as well.”

Novak and others, including UT board vice chairman Murphy, said that the job could be done by someone with a background in the private sector, but voices on the campuses said they are hoping for experience as an academic administrator.

Chancellors Jimmy Cheek and Tom Rakes, from UT-Martin, said they were looking for a president who has been a dean, provost or vice president at a major land-grant university and who would have a broad understanding of the university’s mission.

“The biggest piece we’re interested in is somebody coming back with some working knowledge of higher education and a working knowledge of what higher education is facing now,” Rakes said.

Contact Megan Boehnke at 865-342-6432 or boehnkm@knoxnews.com.
UNION CITY -- Jamie "Trey" Hamilton III, a 1997 graduate of Obion County Central High School, completed work on his second college degree May 15 from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Earning two college degrees is quite an accomplishment for anyone, but it is especially so for Hamilton, who could not even open his eyes four years ago -- much less attend class -- due to a terrible boating accident that left him in a coma.

In 2002, he earned his first degree at UT Martin in international studies with a minor in Spanish.

His second degree proved to be much more challenging.

On Nov. 13, 2005, he hit his head on the aluminum step of the boat in which he was a passenger after the boat hit a tree at high speed. He was transported to Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City and then airlifted to the Vanderbilt Trauma Center in Nashville, where he had to be revived.

A few days later, a trachea tube was placed in his throat and a feeding tube was sewn into his stomach. Shortly after that, a shunt had to be placed in Hamilton's skull to relieve the pressure from the swelling in his brain. Doctors diagnosed him as being in a persistent vegetative state with very little hope of recovery.

A few days later, doctors discovered the shunt in his brain had caused him to develop different bacterial infections. As efforts were made to treat these infections, he developed a staph infection.

Finally, the infections were cleared and he was moved from the Trauma Center to a long-term care unit in Milan. On Dec. 15, 2005, Hamilton miraculously awakened from the coma he had been in for 32 days.

However, the road to recovery would not be easy as he would have to relearn everything from walking and talking to eating.

"Coming out of or awakening from a coma is not like Hollywood would have one believe," said his father, Jamie Hamilton Jr. "It is very different. A coma is a nightmare of the worst kind."

The younger Hamilton stayed at Milan's NHC HealthCare for three more months before he was well enough to return home. He enrolled at Health Quest in Union City to begin rebuilding the muscles and regaining the 39 pounds he lost during the coma.

A month later, he entered the Center for Comprehensive Services in Carbondale, Ill., which helps patients who have experienced traumatic brain injuries. During this time, he was often found helping and encouraging other patients, though he was far from a full recovery himself.

Throughout his "re-education," and even today, the 31-year-old Hamilton said his entire left side continuously experiences a tingling feeling as if a muscle is about to wake up, yet never does. He still suffers from short-term memory problems. Also, he said he has double vision because his eyes do not line up correctly anymore, making it harder to read. Finding ways to compensate for this has been hard, especially at the college level.

Dr. Jeff Rogers, a professor of geography at UT Martin, taught Trey both before and after his accident.

"One of the most remarkable aspects of Trey's recovery has been the awakening of his intellectual curiosity," he said. "He is an individual with many significant, often philosophical, questions about our culture and society. He tried to use his time at UT Martin, through his coursework and participation in student organizations, to answer some of these questions."

On Sunday, Hamilton began his job as a park ranger for the Department of the Interior in the Smoky Mountains, utilizing his new degree in geoscience.

His injury and long recovery were not easy for him or his family. His experience should serve as an inspiration for all to, as Hamilton himself puts it, "Endeavor to persevere."
Instead of participating in activities most teens would, local shooters have a totally different routine.

To Ethan Cook and others, shooting sports are refined and a type of an art form.

Because of this success, a new crop of talented youngsters is quickly rising in the sport.

Cook, Andrew Richards and Kayleigh Fountain are the only three participants of the Blue Water Buffels who have accomplished the lofty task of becoming a distinguished expert — the top level a young shooter can achieve.

"It took a lot of time and practice," Richards, a Port Huron Northern sophomore said of the expert level, which requires precision accuracy.

"But it was well worth it. I would say. You have to really be into it. This is not something you can do every couple of weekends. I shot a couple of times a week."

One Goal in Mind

The common goal of young shooters such as Cook and Richards is to place at local and national competitions.

Each would like to earn college scholarships.

This isn't an uncommon path, it's actually one that several local shooters have already taken.

Katie Bush received a full scholarship from Morehead State University (Ky.) after she graduated in 2008 from Marysville High School.

"It's much more challenging than the high school level," said Bush, who continues to shoot air rifle and 22 caliber small bore.

"There are top shooters from all around the country in college. Our school was in the middle of the pack, but we do pretty good."

Bush has participated in the sport for seven years, and is currently at the level that younger marksmen hope to get to.

Her advice to them: "Keep practicing daily," she said. "Make sure you keep their grades up. Grades are really big to coaches."

Alexis, the son of Jarvis, who is currently on a full scholarship at the University of Tennessee at Martin, agreed with Bush.

"I would tell young shooters not to give up. Don't stop practicing. Go to as many competitions as you can. Meet as many people as you can in the sport.

"If you want to get better, you have to practice at least four times a week."
STUDENT LAUDED — Jessie Curtis (center) of South Fulton was recently recognized as a faculty scholar at the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Nell Gullett, professor of finance, and Dr. Ernest Moser, dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs.