Martin, UTM Police conduct “active shooter” training

Posted on August 1, 2014 by Steve James in Local News

Officers of the Martin and UTM Police Departments participated in training this week which has become extremely important to law enforcement across the United States.

Officers trained at all Martin area schools on the proper tactical methods in the event of an active shooter on campus.

The exercise took place at the Martin Primary and Elementary Schools Tuesday and at Martin Middle and Westview High Schools Wednesday.

The training gave officers the opportunity to become familiar with the layout of each school and train on various shooting scenarios to prepare them for any incident that might occur.

Rob, Emily and Lisa Burcham, of Santa Fe recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Emily will attend UT Martin in the fall. She 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). Fall semester classes begin Aug. 25 at the main campus and UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, McNairy County, Seiltner and Ripley. (Courtesy photo)
Bringing Back The Belt Buckle

Previous Next

Posted: Saturday, August 2, 2014 11:33 am | Updated: 11:44 am Sat Aug 2, 2014
By Cortin McGuire corbin@emporia.com | 0 comments

John Luthi worked more than 30 years for what he now wears around his waist.

The Gridley, Kan., native guided the University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo team to the 2014 National Men's Championship at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo., in June.

Along with a first-place plaque, Luthi received a glossy championship belt buckle, which he admitted to wearing during a phone interview.

"I'm actually wearing it. I figured if I worked 30 years to win that thing, I'll wear it," Luthi said laughing. "I may not wear it for everyday use, obviously."

The national title not only marked the first national championship for UT Martin in any sport, but it also ended a trend of complete Western dominance in the collegiate rodeo world.

Prior to UT Martin attaining the title with a score of 755 points, no school east of the Mississippi River had ever won the CNFR.

"Well that's huge," Luthi said. "I think it's just brought to the realization to people all over the United States that there is really tough rodeo in this part of the United States, too."

Luthi added that, like his coaching career, success at the CNFR required some breaks.

"Our kids competed well, we did draw some good animals," Luthi said, "but they took advantage of them."

After talking to a friend from back home, Luthi now draws the comparison of rodeo to working on a farm, which coincidentally he did growing up in rural Kansas.

"He said, 'rodeo is a lot like farming. You can do the best you can and plant the best crop you can, but if you don't get rain when you need it, you're still not going to raise a crop,'" Luthi recalled his friend telling him. "That's kind of the way with rodeo. If you don't draw the stock when you need it, you're still not going to win, no matter how good you are."

The championship wrapped up Luthi's 17th year at UT Martin, a public university with about 7,500 students located in the northwest section of Tennessee.

Luthi, the former Fort Scott Community College rodeo coach, said the journey from Kansas to Tennessee has been one of faith with a few fortunate breaks along the way.

After graduating from Kansas State University, Luthi, who competed in rodeos himself for 22 years, came to a crossroad decision in his life. His options included moving back home to help his father on the farm and rodeo professionally when he could, or pursue a rodeo coaching position, which were few and far between at the time.

In the end, Luthi's college roommate convinced him to return to Kansas State to work on his master's degree. It was at a rodeo late in the season when an opportunity unexpectedly presented itself for Luthi.

"My old rodeo coach from Fort Scott was there and he asked me what I was going to do next year. I told him 'probably go home and help dad on the farm and rodeo professionally,'" Luthi said. "He said, 'would you be interested in a job?'"

So Luthi sent in his résumé, and "about a month later, I had a job," he said.

If not for some financial incentive, though, the UT Martin opportunity may have never come to fruition. During his 16-year tenure at Fort Scott, Luthi confessed to moments where he thought of pursuing a different career.

"I'll never forget thinking 'man, I'm not going to do this anymore, this is going to be my last year, I'm going to do something different next year,'" Luthi said. "And then low and behold, they gave me a raise, so I thought 'well, I'll go one more year.'"

"I just kept doing that and next thing you know, I've been doing it for 33 years."

http://www.emporiagazette.com/
After interviewing for the UT Martin position, which Luthi said was only his second job interview ever, he decided with his wife that it was an opportunity they might regret turning down.

"We’d prayed about it and thought about it a lot. Some people thought we were crazy, but we just felt like that was what God was telling us to do," said Luthi, who accepted the UT Martin job in 1997. "So we took the step and found a lot of good people over here, and it’s been real good to us."

Seventeen years later, UT Martin has captured 13 Ozark Region titles — rodeo’s conference title equivalent — and has seen its streak of CNFR appearances rise to 41 years.

"I guess hindsight is always 20-20, but it turned out to be a good move," Luthi said. "We’ve had some real good teams in the past, just didn’t get the breaks at the right time and it didn’t work. We were real thankful that it worked out this year and we were able to bring a national title back to UT Martin."

With a little bit more luck, Luthi said he's confident his team has a shot to repeat next year, although he's not framing it in that respect.

"I’m not going to focus on what this team did and ‘we need to repeat’ or nothing. I’m just trying to get them to realize that it’s another year, a new day, and we’re going to go out and try to do the best we can," Luthi said. "The good Lord willing, everything falls in place, we got a shot to win a title. If not, we got to walk out of the arena knowing we did all we could do."

Either way, Luthi — the 2013 National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Coach of the Year — will walk out of the arena one of the most decorated college rodeo coaches in the country. He'll likely be wearing his gold-plated championship belt buckle, unless his "crops" get adequate rain to replace it.

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**SGC Student Receives Scholarship to UTM**

**MARTIN, Tenn. —** Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions. Jaynee Camille Collins, of Medina, daughter of Mike and Angela Turner and Kenneth Collins, will be a junior. She received the E. C. Crafton Memorial Award and the Wilson UTJC Award.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Gibson County Youth Attend Annual TN 4-H Roundup

For the 91st year, 4-H members from across Tennessee gathered at the University of Tennessee at Martin for State 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference. The annual event, which took place July 21-25, recognized the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members. Approximately 300 high school-age 4-H'ers from across Tennessee met for several days on the UT Martin campus. 4-H'ers competed in projects such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology, and photography for college scholarship money and trips to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. The theme for this meeting and for all 4-H programs in 2014 was “Tennessee 4-H: Geared for Greatness.”

Teens from all over Tennessee came together, competed in their project areas, learned life skills such as leadership and citizenship, made lifelong friends, and had a great time,” said Deborah Seward, Extension Youth Development Agent. “Roundup is one of the highlights for our 4-H program. Delegates who attend have spent years of work in their respective project areas.”

In addition to project competition, delegates participated in a number of other activities including the 4-H All Star Conference, Vol State Ceremony, the election of the 2015 State Council officers, and a service-learning project.

Delegates to the 2014 Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference worked with Nashville-based Operation Troop Aid (OTA) as their service project. The mission of Operation Troop Aid is to provide care packages for deployed U.S. service members with the revenue generated through professional concert promotions and public financial generosity. Roundup participants organized fundraising events in their counties and then worked to assemble the care packages for shipping at Martin.

Representing Gibson County at State 4-H Roundup this year was Jasmen Galloway and Malcolm Warren of Humboldt High School.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2014

Martin police conduct active shooter training

Officers of the Martin and University of Tennessee at Martin police departments recently participated in training which has become extremely important to law enforcement across the United States.

Officers trained at all Martin area schools on the proper tactical methods in the event there is an active shooter on campus.

An active shooter is defined as “an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area.” In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

The exercise took place at the Martin primary and elementary schools on July 29 and at Martin Middle and Westview High schools on July 30.

The training gave officers the opportunity to become familiar with the layout of each school and train on various shooting scenarios to prepare them for any incident that might occur.
The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies has announced three programs being offered in August, including:

**Reading clinic:**
UT Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering a reading clinic for students in grades 2-12 who need extra support and practice in reading. Three enrollment sessions are available: Aug. 27-Sept. 24 (no class Sept. 1), Sept. 25-Oct. 27 (no class Oct. 13-14) and Oct. 28-Nov. 24 on the UT Martin campus.

Experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center will teach the sequential and intensive course for reading improvement. Students will be individually tested to determine their specific levels of phonics and comprehension. Using results, students will be placed into a research proven course of study designed to build skills and to fill in any gaps that may exist in their reading skills and strategies.

Students will attend one-hour classes twice a week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The cost is $100 per session plus $25 for a personal workbook.

To register, please call ECOS at 881-7082. ECOS will provide the Program Director your name and number to contact you for an appointment for your child to be tested.

**Handgun carry course:**
UT Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering a handgun carry course Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the UT Martin campus.

The eight-hour course will present the student with the minimum requirements mandated by the state to obtain a handgun carry permit. The class will cover the use, operation and basic cleaning of a handgun. The first four-hour block will be devoted to classroom instruction and the written exam. The second four-hour block will be for firing-range instruction and the practical exam. The student must score a minimum of 70 percent on both the written and practical exam to successfully complete the course. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to apply for a Handgun Carry Permit from the State of Tennessee.

Terry Guthrie, state certified handgun instructor, will instruct the course.

The registration fee to attend is $75. The student must be 21 years of age and have no felony convictions. The student will need to bring a handgun, 50 rounds of ammunition appropriate for the handgun, a pen or pencil, paper and hearing and eye protection.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 881-7082 or register online at [http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree_registration.php](http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree_registration.php).

**Korean language and culture course:**
UT Martin will offer a Korean Language and Culture course for beginner and intermediate levels. The course will be offered from 5:30-7 p.m. for the intermediate class and 7-8:30 p.m. for the beginner class on Mondays, Aug. 25-Dec. 15 (no class on Sept. 1 or Oct. 13), on the UT Martin campus.

Jisun Collier will teach the class.

The course will introduce elementary writing, speaking, listening and reading skills in modern Korean language. It will also provide cultural background and experiences.

Advanced registration is required, and the textbook ("Korean Made Easy for Beginners" by Seung-eun Oh) is included. The Korean Class Gift Fund sponsors this course.

On Sept. 1, the annual Soybean Talent Show, sponsored by WCMT and the Westview High School Key Club, begins at 5 p.m. with the 8 and under age division and the junior division for ages 9 to 12.

At 7 p.m. the Mid-South Preliminary Division begins for contestants between the ages of 13 and 21 years of age, followed by the 22 and older age category.

Entry forms are available either online at the Soybean Festival website (www.tnsoybeanfestival.org) or from show coordinator Linda Ramsey at lramsey@utm.edu.

The Soybean Talent Show will be located at the Big Stage downtown. If it rains, it will be at the Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. There will be a keyboard available.

The entry fee is $25 per act and anyone can enter the solo, group or variety categories.

Awards will be given for the first and second place winners in each division. In the Mid-South Division, there will be an overall winner, as well as first, second and third place winner.

The overall winner of the Mid-South Division will be invited to participate in the Mid-South Fair Talent Show in September, which will be held at the DeSoto Center just outside of Memphis in Desoto, Miss.

The talent scout will invite other acts to participate in the Mid-South Fair as well.

All contestants should have their CDs, and it would be wise to sing without accompaniment since that isn’t allowed in the Mid-South Fair Competition. The deadline for entries is Aug. 29.

All contestants should check-in an hour before the show begins. All proceeds will benefit leadership training and service projects of the Westview Key Club.

For more information, contact Ramsey at 225-7729.
UTM bass anglers finish season ranked 17th in nation

Three-peat fame is often reserved for sports teams that win consecutive championships. But, the UT Martin bass anglers have achieved a significant three-peat of their own as the team earned a third consecutive top-25 Association of Collegiate Anglers national ranking posted at collegiate-bassfishing.com. The team finished 17th, which followed a team-best 10th place finish in 2013 and 22nd place finish in 2012.

Dylan Powley, a fifth year senior marketing major from Paris and team president, is pleased with the recently completed season, but he wants more when the team hits the college bass fishing circuit for his final year. Moving up is a challenge as competition increases among the more than 200 college teams listed in this year’s final rankings.

Bass fishing is a club sport at UT Martin and depends on sponsorships, donations and university support to compete. Although full tournaments are available for competition, college bass fishing’s main tournament schedule that most affects national rankings begins in the spring and continues through June. Top events happen in three main series: the FLW, the Association of Collegiate Anglers and the College Bassmaster. The ACA runs the team rankings, but all three college fishing circuits figure into the final point totals.

National rankings are determined by 30 events, with up to five tournaments key to earning major points.

Teams earn a point for each boat they finish ahead of in a tournament, while some events award double points. The UT Martin team’s first major tournament this spring was March 14-15 at the Collegiate Bass Fishing Open on Chickamauga Lake in Dayton, Tenn. The team didn’t finish high in the tournament standings, but Powley said the event set the tone for “(grinding) out finishes” in later competition.

Three months and five tournaments later, Powley and teammate Colin Bennett, a senior engineering student from Gleason, finished 75 out of more than 100 boats in the 2014 Carhartt College Bass Wild Card tournament at Pickwick Lake in Florence, Ala. Although not the finish wanted, the team managed enough points to secure a top-25 national ranking.

Highlights happened along the tournament trail, including the team’s winning its first collegiate bass tournament championship March 29 at the Tennessee Collegiate Bass Fishing Trail on Kentucky Lake. Powley and Hayden Smith, a sophomore engineering major from Dickson, won the tournament with a total catch of 18.5 pounds. “It really wasn’t a big tournament, but that was probably the best moment,” Powley said.

Another highlight came May 22-23 during the Boat (US) Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship on Pickwick Lake near Florence, Ala. Miranda Carlson, one of two female team members, qualified to fish and was the only female to compete out of 170 teams. Carlson, a sophomore at the University of Kentucky, is a natural resources management major from Greenbrier, fished with veteran team member Ryan Lackey, a graduate student from Parsons, and their boat earned valuable points in the tournament.

Looking ahead to his final season, Powley is optimistic about the team’s prospects for improving its national ranking. Key gradations from the previous team included 2013 Bassmaster Angler of the Year Graison Smith. Losing this kind of experience led to a younger roster for 2013-14 and heavier reliance on less-experienced team members.

“I was surprised. Usually freshmen, we get about two or three (on the roster) a year,” Powley said. “But we’ve got six or seven that really have stuck with it and seem very interested and are taking steps to become better fishermen and really get involved with the club. I think it’s headed in a good direction.”

Powley is seeing college fishing become more competitive, with freshmen team members at larger schools entering the sport with more experience and making an immediate impact. “In theory, I would only expect us to be better,” he said about the upcoming season, adding, “It only takes one or two (freshmen) though to really jumpstart a program or give it a new boost of energy.”

The team will also seek to increase sponsorships and fish more tournaments to improve point totals with the goal to achieve the team’s best finish ever.

Powley sees his years of involvement with the bass anglers team as an entryway into the outdoors industry. He comes from a family that fishes; his older brother works for Strike King Lure Co. and had an opportunity to purse fishing professionally. “I definitely want to get into the outdoor industry through this,” he said. “I feel like I made some connections.”

In the meantime, look for Dylan Powley and other bass angler team members to staff a booth Aug. 25 at the annual Student Organization Fair in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The event welcomes back students on the first day of fall classes and showcases opportunities for campus involvement. The team will be looking for a few good men and women to take college bass fishing to the next level at UT Martin.
SCHOOL SUPPLIES — Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Zeta Lambda chapter, from the University of Tennessee at Martin will host Backpack AKAtack on Saturday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Virginia Weldon Park in Martin for grades K-12. The sorority will donate school supplies to the children and youth of the local community to help prepare them for a successful school year. The giveaway will include pencils, pens, paper, folders, highlighters, coloring books, index cards and more. “One Million Backpacks” is a key initiative of the sorority’s current international program theme “Launching New Dimensions of Service.” Helping promote Saturday event are (from left) Derrickia Payne, Chantia Brown, Rashunica Holland and Charmella Trice.

UT Martin offers Microsoft Student Advantage program

University of Tennessee at Martin students will benefit from a new Microsoft Student Advantage program, according to a news release. Students can now download and install Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus desktop applications at no additional cost.

Applications offered by the program include: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote, Access and Publisher. The software is available online through UT Martin NetID accounts and can be installed on up to five devices. The ProPlus subscription will end when students leave the university. “We’re excited to provide UTM students the Microsoft ProPlus desktop applications at no additional cost,” said Amy Belew, UT Martin interim assistant CIO. “We hope this provides students with tools to improve their experience in the classroom. Anytime we can provide students with tools at no additional costs to them, we want to take full advantage of it.”

Students needing assistance and instructions for downloading and installing the Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus software can find information online or by calling the UT Martin Information Technology Services Help Desk at (731) 881-7900.
UTM hosts 10th Annual Drum Line Day

The 10th Annual Drum Line Tune-Up Day for high school marching bands is set for Saturday, Aug. 23, at 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. in the Band Room of the Fine Arts Building on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.

The schedule for the event includes working with individual school bands, split into seven groups. Groups one, two and three are: South Gibson County High School, led by Stephen Price; Liberty Tech High School, led by Ben Martin; and Huntingdon High School, led by Jill Bonds. These groups will perform from 8:30-11:20 a.m., followed by a door prize drawing and a lunch break from 11:30-12:30 p.m.

A group photo will be taken following lunch, and at 12:40 p.m., the UT Martin Marching Percussion Section will give a demonstration. From 1 - 1:30 p.m., guest artist Julie Davila will hold a marching percussion clinic. Another door prize drawing will be held, followed by the performances of groups four, five, six and seven.

The event is free and open to the public. For additional information, call the UT Martin Department of Music, 731-881-7402.

MARCHING BAND SEASON - The 10th Annual Drum Line Tune-Up Day for high school marching bands is set for 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saturday, August 23, in the Band Room of the Fine Arts Building on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus. Pictured are participants attending last year’s tune-up day.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE • AUGUST 6, 2014

The officers used the various schools in the City of Martin to do their training exercises.

Martin officers conduct training

Officers of the Martin and UTM Police Departments recently participated in training exercises, which has become important to law enforcement across the United States. Officers went to all Martin area schools for training on the proper tactical methods in the event there is an active shooter on campus.

An active shooter is defined as "an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims."

The exercises took place at the Martin Primary and Elementary schools on July 29, and at the Martin Middle and Westview High schools on July 30.

The training gave officers the opportunity to become familiar with the layout of each school and train on various shooting scenarios to prepare them for any incident that might occur.
UT Martin’s Dr. Tommy Cates is Recruiting at the Career Center during August
Adult Education Opportunities Available

By: Richard Rucker

On Thursday, July 31, Dr. Tommy Cates, UT Martin Executive Director of Extended Campus and Online Studies, was at the Somerville Career Center for a recruiting trip as UT Martin continues to plan for classes starting this Fall Semester in late August. Dr. Cates has announced that he will be recruiting locally each Thursday through August at the Career Center.

The Career Center is taking shape quickly as the Distance Learning Equipment ordered some time ago has arrived and UT Martin and local electronics specialists are busily outfitting the classrooms in the Career Center, Molly McCarley, Director of the Somerville Career Center, said that installation is presently proceeding according to plan, and she anticipates the classrooms will be ready as classes get underway in late August.

Dr. Cates also coordinated a meeting Thursday with Somerville Mayor Bob Turner, Fayette County Mayor Skip Taylor, Fayette County Higher Education Executive Committee Chairman Richard Rucker, Fayette Literacy and Fayette Adult Education Council Director Nancy Johnson, and Graduate Memphis Outreach Coordinator, Julieanna Walker. UT Martin will be partnering with the Graduate Memphis program which will be an enhancement of adult education opportunities currently available through the efforts of Nancy Johnson and her staff in Somerville.

Graduate Memphis is a program based in Memphis and funded by the Plough Foundation. It is a comprehensive college advising service to adults who have been out of high school for at least one year, regardless of previous college experience. Their target audience is adults who seek to obtain a technical certification and/or two and four year degrees.

They specialize in helping local employees return to college while remaining employed, partly by offering their services directly through participating employers, and by working to eliminate transportation barriers that may prevent students from traveling to higher education learning centers, such as the Fayette County Higher Education Center, which will be constructed on Highway 64 between Somerville and Oakland and will house UT Martin along with a community college and technical training institute after completion.

Somerville Mayor Turner said that he welcomed this new addition of Graduate Memphis into local higher education efforts already well underway as the community continues to prepare for the presence of UT Martin as an integral part of Somerville and surrounding towns and rural components of Fayette County.

Interested citizens are urged to monitor local higher education opportunities by visiting the FCHEC website, www.educatingfayette.com.
Handgun course set at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering a handgun carry course Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on campus.

The eight-hour course will present the minimum requirements mandated by the state to obtain a handgun carry permit.

The class will cover the use, operation and basic cleaning of a handgun. The first four-hour block will be classroom instruction and the written exam. The second four-hour block will be for firing range instruction and the practical exam.

The student must score a minimum of 70 percent on both the written and practical exams to successfully complete the course. Upon successful completion, students will be able to apply for a handgun carry permit from the state.

Terry Guthrie, a state-certified handgun instructor, will instruct the class.

The registration fee is $75. The student must be at least 21 years old and have no felony convictions. They will need to bring a handgun, 50 rounds of ammunition appropriate for the gun, a pen or pencil, paper, and hearing and eye protection.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082. Anyone may register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree_registration.php.

CROCKETT VISITS —
Arthur Hunt, associate professor of communications at UT Martin and a part-time David Crockett impersonator, stopped by Discovery Park of America Tuesday and entertained the guests in The Settlement with a short Crockett monologue. Hunt lives in Jackson and said he writes his scripts based on history found in Crockett’s biography and other historical works. His brief monologue was both educational and entertaining, a spokesman said. He was photographed in front of the doctor’s cabin sponsored by Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City.
Attending Registration

TREVOR BELTON, son of Virgie and Stephen Belton, of Halls, participated in the Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R.) at the University of Tennessee at Martin last week. The program is part of the fall registration. Trevor 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. Fall semester classes begin August 25th at the main campus and UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, McNairy County/Selmer and Ripley.

CROCKETT WAS THERE — Arthur Hunt, Associate Professor of Communications at UT Martin and a part-time David Crockett impersonator, stopped by Discovery Park of America Tuesday and entertained the guests in The Settlement with a short Crockett monologue. Hunt lives in Jackson and said he writes his scripts based on history found in Crockett’s biography and other historical works. His brief monologue was both educational and entertaining, a spokesman said. He was photographed in front of the doctor’s cabin sponsored by Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City in The Settlement on the 50-acre grounds of DPA in Union City.
Local high school student gets a jump on UT Martin Fall Registration

From left to right: Mitsy, Darby and George Boyd, of Adamsville, recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R.) at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Darby will attend UT Martin in the fall. She 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). Fall semester classes begin Aug. 25 at the main campus and UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, McNairy County/Selmer and Ripley.

Local Youth Attend Annual Tennessee 4-H Roundup

For the 91st year, 4-H members from across Tennessee gathered at the University of Tennessee at Martin for State 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference. The annual event, which took place July 21-25, recognized the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members.

Approximately 350 high school age 4-H’ers from across Tennessee met for several days on the UT Martin campus. 4-H’ers competed in projects such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology and photography for college scholarship money and trips to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. The theme for this conference and for all 4-H programs in 2014 was “Tennessee 4-H: Geared for Greatness.”

Teens from all over Tennessee came together, competed in their project areas, learned life skills such as leadership and citizenship, made lifelong friends and had a great time,” Kane Reeves, Madison County 4-H Agent.

"Roundup is one of the highlights for our 4-H program. Delegates who attend have spent years of work in their respective project areas."
Local Youth Attend Annual Tennessee 4-H Roundup

CONT’D FROM PAGE 1

Representing Madison County at State 4-H Roundup this year was Jalin Curry, Keyann Reaves, Amanda Fuller, Olive Tate and Malik Sampson of Northside High School, Devonte Bradley, Ekene Tharpe, Katlyn Griffis, Alexis Stokes, Austin Sun, Haleigh Smith and Isabelle O’Neal of Madison Academic High School, Kayla Gooch and Brandi Elder of Liberty High School, Devante Chaney of Jackson Central Merry Academy, Halle Barnes, Christian Griffis, Sade’ Strayhorn, Hanna Barnes and Bobby Healy of South Side High School and Randell Kendrick, Alex McCarver, Emma Kendrick, Wyatt Voyles, Arianna Bingham, Jerrica Voyles, Kaylee McKee, Henry Kilpatrick and Hannah Davis of West Tennessee Homeschool.

These 4-H member spent a year planning, teaching other and educating themselves on the topic of their interest. Once they arrive at conference, they compete with other member across the state in an interview to be named the State winner in their respective project area. Madison County had six state winner. The winners are as follows: Katlyn Griffis, Companion Animal-Level II, Haleigh Smith, Consumer Education/Economics, Level I, Devonte Bradley, Agriculture Leadership- Level II, Jalin Curry, Consumer Education/ Economics-Level II, Isabelle O’Neal, Companion Animal- Level II, and Bobby Healy, Electric-Level I. All the Level II winner received a $500.00 scholarship, silver bowl, a medallion and a trip to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, G.A. November 28- December 3, 2014.

Jalin Curry and Malik Sampson won the African American Scholarship for $300. This award is given to outstanding 4-H members that have exhibited leadership and participated in the 4-H program for an extensive period of years. Henry Kilpatrick also won the Arthur Wells Memorial Scholarship worth $500.00. Arthur Wells was a 4-H member in Hardeman County who lost his life to a drunk driver. This memorial was created to honor him and the work that he did in the 4-H program. These scholarship will help these young men as they pursue their college aspirations.

TSU Cooperative Extension is a unit of the TSU College of Agriculture and Human and Natural Sciences and UT Extension is one of four units in the UT Institute of Agriculture. To learn more about the programs we offer contact our office at 731-668-8543 or visit us at 309 North Parkway.
REED Center to hold Small Business Boot Camp

Small business loan opportunity to be offered in conjunction with course

The Jackson Sun

A four-week Small Business Boot Camp for aspiring entrepreneurs and new small business owners will be offered on Tuesdays in September at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center.

The REED Center, the Tennessee Small Business Development Center and the UT Federal Credit Union are boot camp sponsors, according to a news release from UT Martin. Sessions are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. each Tuesday starting Sept. 9 at the REED Center, which is located at 406 S. Lindell St. in Martin.

Topics will include best practices, writing a business plan, financing and making the pitch to a lender and marketing small businesses, according to a news release. Also, an attorney and an accountant will present legal and accounting information, and small business owners will discuss their experiences operating small businesses.

After boot camp graduation, participants can submit their written business plans to the Line12Fund loan committee, the release said. The Line12Fund is a microfund for business resources from UT Federal Credit Union. The microfund provides an alternate way for start-ups or businesses that don't have a traditional credit history to get a loan. Participants who are selected then can “pitch” their business plan to the Line12Fund committee, and if chosen, receive a loan up to $25,000.

The boot camp fee is $25 for the four-week event.

Registration will take place during the Launch Party and Member Appreciation Day on Aug. 28 at the UT Federal Credit Union, located at 103 Hurt St. in Martin. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. while supplies last.

Participants may register for the Small Business Boot Camp on a space-available basis up until the day of the first session. For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin REED Center at (731) 587-7333.

Ben Bunch attends state 4-H Roundup, conference

by Special to the Banner

August 11, 2014

For the 91st year, 4-H members from across Tennessee gathered at the University of Tennessee at Martin for State 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference.

The annual event, which took place July 21 through 25, recognized the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members.

Representing Bradley County at State 4-H Roundup this year was Ben Bunch, as well as Middleton. Bunch competed in the Project Achievement Competition for Computers/Technology.

Ben submitted portfolio in May and found out in June he had been selected to compete in the State Contest at Roundup. He prepared an exhibit and speech about his career in computers and technology. He won second place missing first by only one point.

Jennings Kelley, 2014 graduating senior who will begin attending Blount College later this month, was also a recipient of the Hamilton-Brown Scholarship of $500.

Approximately 300 high school age 4-H'ers from across Tennessee met for several days on the UT Martin campus. 4-H'ers competed in projects such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology and photography for college scholarship money and trips to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta.

The theme for this meeting and for all 4-H programs in 2013 was "Tennessee 4-H: Geared for Greatness."

Teens from all over Tennessee came together, competed in their project areas, learned life skills such as leadership and citizenship, made lifelong friends and had a great time," said Lynne Middleton, Bradley County 4-H Agent.

"Roundup is one of the highlights of our 4-H program. Delegates who attend have spent years of work in their respective project areas."

In addition to project competition, delegates participated in a number of other activities including the 4-H All Star Conference, Vol State Ceremony, the election of the 2015 State Council officers and a service-learning project.

Delegates to the 2014 Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference worked with Nashville-based Operation Troop Aid (OTA) as their service project. The mission of Operation Troop Aid is to provide care packages for deployed U.S. service members with the revenue generated through professional concert promotions and public financial generosity. Roundup participants organized fundraising events in their counties and then worked to assemble the care packages for shipping at Martin.

"Service-learning opportunities are a very important component of the 4-H program," said Steve Sutton, director, 4-H Youth Development.

"Each year, 4-H'ers statewide perform tens of thousands of hours of service at an estimated value of over $1 million. Through the service-learning projects, our 4-H'ers learn that they can really make a difference in their communities."

4-H is the youth development program for University of Tennessee Extension. 4-H teaches leadership, citizenship and service learning to more than 180,000 youth in the fourth through twelfth grades. 4-H also has more than 5,000 adult volunteers.

UT Extension is one of four units in the UT Institute of Agriculture.
STATEWIDE STANDOUTS FOR 4-H

3 from Madison Co. win scholarships, 6 win awards

By Nick McFerron
nmcferron@jacksun.com

On July 21-25, about 350 members of Tennessee 4-H met for the 91st State 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The annual event recognizes the outstanding project work and leadership achievements of senior high 4-H members.

Over the course of the event, students competed for college scholarships in projects on communications and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology and photography.

According to a news release from Madison County 4-H, the program teaches leadership and citizenship while providing the opportunity for the students to make lifelong friends.
4-H

Continued from Page B8

Devante Chaney of Jackson Central-Merry Academy; Halee Barnes, Christian Griffis, Sade Stayhorne, Hanna Barnes and Bobby Healy, of South Side High School; and Randell Kendrick, Alex McCarver, Emma Kendrick, Wyatt Voyles, Arianna Bingham, Jerri-ca Voyles, Kaylee McKee, Henry Kilpatrick and Hannah Davis, of West Tennessee Homeschool.

The students spent a year planning and educating themselves on a subject of their own interest and competed with students from across Tennessee to be named state winner in their topics.

Six Madison County students won state awards.


All the Level II winners received a $500 scholarship, silver bowl, a medallion and a trip to National 4-H Congress, which will be held Nov. 28 through Dec. 3 in Atlanta.

Curry and Sampson also won the $300 African-American Scholarship. The award is given to outstanding 4-H members who exhibit leadership skills and have spent many years in the program.

Kilpatrick won the Arthur Wells Memorial Scholarship worth $500. The award was created in memory of Wells, a 4-H member who was killed by a drunk driver.

“Roundup is one of the highlights for our 4-H program. Delegates who attend have spent years of work in their respective project areas,” said Kane Reeves, Madison County 4-H Agent.

Madison County 4-H sent 29 students to the event: Jalin Curry, Keyann Reaves, Amanda Fuller, Olive Tate and Malik Sampson, of North Side High School; Devonte Bradley, Ekene Tharpe, Katlyn Griffis, Alexis Stokes, Austin Sun, Ha-leigh Smith and Isabelle O’Neal, of Madison Academic High School; Kayla Gooch and Brandi Elder, of Liberty Technology Magnet High School.


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Soybean festival pageant set

The Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be held at the University of Tennessee at Martin Student Life Center on Sept. 1 beginning at 9 a.m.

The doors open at 8.

Entry fees are $35 per contestant. There will be a queen and four alternates named per age division, including side awards.

The deadline for entries is Aug. 25.

Gina Hampton, hair & make-up professional, and Christie's Photography will be onsite.

For more information or to obtain a registration form, visit the website www.tnsoybeanfestival.org or contact pageant director Debbie Yeager at (731) 587-3126.

Fourth Annual UT-Martin Youth Sports Extravaganza this Saturday

The Fourth Annual UT-Martin Youth Sports Extravaganza is this Saturday.

The annual event is sponsored by the Northwest Tennessee Fellowship of Christian Athletes and last year hosted over 300 children.

The event is open for boys and girls from Kindergarten through 8th Grade and is absolutely free.

Students can choose from sports, such as: football, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, rodeo and equestrian, cheerleading, and volleyball.

The Fourth Annual UT-Martin Youth Sports Extravaganza is this Saturday morning from 8:30 until 11:30, with registration beginning at 8:30 at the Elam Center.

For more information, contact Julie Simpson at 731-514-6180 or Sam Curtis at 270-627-1931.
Area UT-Martin fans can watch the university's rodeo team in their championship run this week on a national network.

The Skyhawks National Championship win in Casper, Wyoming will be replayed at selected times on Friday, Saturday and Sunday on ESPNU.

Considered the "Rose Bowl" of college rodeo, the 66th annual event was held from June 15th thru the 21st.

Coach John Luthi's Skyhawk squad became the first team east of the Mississippi River to capture a national rodeo championship.

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New Student Orientation at UTM-P

The University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center held a new student orientation on July 24. Students attending were from the following high schools: Riverside, Scotts Hill, Lexington, Perry County, Frank Hughes, Camden Central, Chester County, Gateway Christian and Lewis County. Financial Aid and Student Service offices from the main campus along with local Ayers Foundation Counselors presented tips on how to be successful in college. The students are excited about being a part of the UT Martin Parsons Center this fall with a predicated record enrollment. The center offers degrees in Nursing, Education, Social Work, Criminal Justice, Psychology, and Interdisciplinary Studies in addition to all general education and dual enrollment classes.
2014-15 UT Martin Student Ambassadors

The 2014-2015 UT Martin Parsons Center Student Ambassadors are from left to right: (row one) Bethaney Bass, Deidre McCaig, Amber Mitchell, Shelby French, Jessica Brownyard, Cheyanne Wood, Lauren Dickson, LaKrista Stoneburner, Brittnay Pul; (row two) Cierra Walker, Lauren Mooney; (row three) Aren Ragsdale, Greg McClain, and Joseph Hudgins. Not pictured are: Cary Haggard, Jami Hays, Kandi Montgomery, Ronnie Yeiser, Bryan McDonald, Deshea Mays, Brett Jordan, Lauren Hays, Autumn Ratliff, Rachel Wilsdorf, Renee Wilsdorf, Ashley Bumphus, Kylie Boutwell, and Zach Byrd. The ambassadors plan for numerous student activities throughout the year and to promote the university within their communities.

Jody Yager Receives Scholarship

Jody Yager, daughter of Joe and Patricia Yager of Moscow, is the 2014 recipient of the Dot Morton Scholarship offered by the Moscow United Methodist Church. Jody will be attending the University of Martin in the fall. Pictured are, left to right, Joyce Pulliam, Treasurer, Jody Yager, and James Teague, Chairman of the Church Board.
AG FINANCE — Richard Brock, owner and president of Brock Associates, was a presenter at the 13th annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference on Aug. 6 at UT Martin's Boling University Center. The conference provided practical information for lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners. Brock discussed the marketing outlook and associated risk management tools for producers and lenders. Listening in the foreground is Dr. Tom Payne, chairholder, UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, one of the conference sponsors. Other sponsors were the Tennessee Farm Bureau, CoBank, Carroll Bank and Trust and FarmerMac.

ACT prep course offered by UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering an ACT prep course for high school juniors and seniors, at 8-noon, on Saturdays, Sept. 13-Oct. 18, on the UT Martin campus.

The course will begin with students taking an off-record ACT test. The instructor will then provide feedback in specific areas. Students will learn how to complete test problems based on question frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test taking strategies. At the end of the program, students will take another off-record ACT exam. The instructor will meet one-on-one to provide a final study preparation for the real exam after receiving post-test data.

The registration fee to attend is $225. The registration fee includes two textbooks, two official, retired ACT tests and two sets of diagnostic reports.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082 or visit online to register or view additional non-degree courses available this fall: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
ACT Prep Course For High School Juniors And Seniors Offered By UT Martin Selmer Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering an ACT prep course for high school juniors and seniors, at 8 a.m.-12 p.m., on Saturdays, Sept. 27-Oct. 11, at the UT Martin Selmer Center.

This intensive 12-hour course offers detailed instruction in all four subjects covered on the exam and includes tips not commonly discussed in your average ACT prep courses. The course will begin with students taking an off-record ACT test. The instructor will then provide feedback in specific areas. Students will learn how to complete test problems based on question frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test taking strategies. At the end of the course, students will take another off-record ACT exam. The instructor will meet one-on-one to provide a final study preparation for the real exam after receiving post-test data.

Alex Beene, College and ACT Advisor for Fayette County Schools, will instruct the course.

The registration fee to attend is $99. The registration fee includes one textbook: "The Real ACT Prep Guide," which includes practice tests, explanations, strategies, reviews and a CD version with supplemental resources.) Number 2 pencils will be required. A calculator is not necessary, but if a student chooses to use one, it must be a calculator permitted by ACT. To verify that a specific calculator is permitted, visit http://www.actstudent.org/tac/calculator.html.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082, or to register online or view additional non-degree courses available this fall at the UT Martin Selmer Center, please visit our website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/selmer/.

Pharmacy Technician Program offered by UT Martin Selmer Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering a pharmacy technician program at 6:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 2-Dec. 16 (no class Oct. 14), at the UT Martin Selmer Center.

The comprehensive 50-hour course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and to 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, I.V. flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

The student tuition costs $1,199, which includes all supplies and textbooks.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082, or to register online or view additional non-degree courses available this fall at the UT Martin Selmer Center, please visit our website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/selmer/.

Phlebotomy Technician Program offered by UT Martin Selmer Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering a phlebotomy technician program at 5:30-9:30 p.m., Thursdays, Sept. 4-Feb. 26 (no class Nov. 27, Dec. 25, or Jan. 1), at the UT Martin Selmer Center.

The 90-hour 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 handling, practice and training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods. There is no outside externship rotation included with this program.

The student tuition costs $1,799, which includes all supplies and textbooks. Students will be receiving Phlebotomy Tech Certification through the National Healthcare Association (NHA). The NHA Certification Exam is given at the end of the course. The cost of the exam is an additional $105 (as of April 2011) and is paid directly to the NHA. The instructor will arrange for the registration and payment of the exam. NHA is accredited through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082, or to register online or view additional non-degree courses available this fall at the UT Martin Selmer Center, please visit our website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/selmer/.
UT Martin nursing students get 100 percent pass rate on exams
http://www.kfvs12.com/

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - University of Tennessee at Martin nursing graduates in the class of 2014 have achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their license exams.

The exam is the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

"This (100 percent pass rate) is especially exciting considering the difficulty of the exam," said Dr. Mary Radford, UT Martin nursing department chair. "We've taken significant steps to better prepare students for the test, and it has paid off. This result is a direct reflection of the hard work and effort of these graduates."

UT Martin's four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing program includes one year of academic prerequisites and three years of nursing courses, according to a news release.

According to the university, the BSN degree is offered at the Martin campus and the UT Martin Parsons Center.

An RN-to-BSN completion program is offered both online and at the UT Martin Ripley Center for students who have an associate degree or a diploma in nursing, the university said.

http://columbiadailyherald.com/1

Wolters places first in Tenn. Farm Bureau Collegiate Discussion Meet

University of Tennessee at Martin agriculture students Rachel Wolters of Culleoka, left, and Rachel Ralston, of Murfreesboro, placed first and second respectively in the Tennessee Farm Bureau Collegiate Discussion Meet on July 19 in Columbia. They are pictured with Lacey Upchurch, president, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation. Discussion Meet is a competitive event designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic. Wolters and Ralston will compete in the national competition later this year. (Jesi Ogg/UT Martin agriculture student, won the state contest last year. (Courtesy photo)
John Miles of Washington County has received the 4-H Vol State Award, the highest honor a Tennessee 4-H member may receive. The award recognizes 4-H members who have particularly outstanding records in project achievement, leadership and service in 4-H.

Miles received the award at the 91st annual Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference held July 21-25 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Miles is a senior at David Crockett High School, where he is an honor student, member of the Beta Club, Creative Writing Club and Chorus Audio Visual Team. He is Vice-President of the Washington County 4-H Honor Club, the Eastern Region 4-H All Star Deputy Chief, a 4-H Healthy Lifestyle Ambassador and a member of the Tennessee 4-H Performing Arts Troupe’s Technology Team.

Miles is the son of Clarence and Juanita Miles and the grandson of Sara Miles and Clarence and Lora Rice. He is a member of the New Victory United Methodist Church where he serves as assistant Sunday School Superintendent and is a member of the New Victory Youth Group.
2014 UTM nursing graduates achieve 100% NCLEX-RN pass rate

Posted on August 18, 2014 by Steve James in Local News

Nursing student Erica Glisson in the nursing simulation lab in Gooch Hall. (Photo by Nathan Morgan/UTM University Relations)

UT-Martin nursing graduates in the class of 2014 achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. The NCLEX-RN measures the competencies needed for individuals to perform safely and effectively as newly licensed, entry-level nurses.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing implemented a test plan and increased passing standard change in 2013 to the NCLEX-RN. With this change, the passing rate for first-time, U.S.-educated nurses decreased nationally by nearly 10 percent.

UTM nursing department chair, Dr. Mary Radford, says the department has taken significant steps to better prepare students for the test. The result is a direct reflection of the hard work and effort of the graduates.

UTM's four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing program includes one year of academic prerequisites and three years of nursing courses. The university’s BSN program is distinctive in offering three years of clinical nursing courses in a variety of health-care settings. This experience prepares graduates for entry-level registered nurse positions in primary, secondary and other health-care settings and for entry into advanced-degree nursing programs.

The BSN degree is offered at the Martin campus and the UTM Parsons Center. An RN-to-BSN completion program is offered both online and at the UTM Ripley Center for students who have an associate degree or a diploma in nursing.
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UT Martin plans retirement workshop in Bartlett

The University of Tennessee at Martin is sponsoring a retirement planning workshop later this month in Bartlett for people interested in learning about the six elements of estate planning.

The in-depth, six-hour course will be offered in two, three-hour sessions on Thursdays, Aug. 28 and Sept. 4 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Bartlett Performing Arts & Conference Center.

No specific products or investments are discussed in this educational course, which is offered through the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

Topics for the course will include:
- Creating your retirement
- Assessing retirement costs
- Evaluating income sources
- Investing for the future
- Protecting your health and wealth
- Receiving funds from your retirement plans
- Managing your estate distribution

Patrick McDowell, an investment advisor with the regional wealth management firm of Radian Partners, LLC, will be the instructor. Registration is $59 for two people and covers instructional materials, including a 134-page textbook.

To register, contact UT Martin at (731) 881-7082 or register online. Seating is limited.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, August 20, 2014

MAKING THE MOVE — Students moved into University of Tennessee at Martin residence halls for the start of fall semester 2013. This scene will be repeated many times on Thursday as the class of 2018 arrives just ahead of 2014 fall classes that begin Monday at UT Martin. Fall 2013 enrollment was 7,423 students.

UTM freshman class to arrive

The University of Tennessee at Martin will welcome the class of 2018 on Thursday as more than 1,100 freshman students arrive and move into residence halls.

The new students will participate in First-Year Initiative Welcome Weekend, an orientation program that prepares students for fall classes that begin Monday. After that, they will participate in the semester-long General Studies 101 class that prepares and positions first-year students to achieve academic and social success.

Final enrollment numbers will be official after the 14th day of classes in September.
The UT Martin Jackson Center invited prospective students to their Back to School Bash 2014 on Friday, August 15, 2014 to speak with advisors about degree programs, non-degree courses, financial aid scholarship information and youth classes. Food and music were on hand as well as eye exams, blood pressure checks and immunizations.
More than 1,100 freshmen moved on to the UT-Martin campus on Thursday afternoon, and school officials say this incoming class is one of a kind.

The class of 2018 boasts a record ACT average score of 22.8, which is up three percent from last year's class.

The new students will participate in the First-Year Initiative Welcome Weekend, which is an orientation program that prepares students to navigate the university environment.

Fall classes begin Monday, Aug. 25.
Weakley County Schools:
Meet this year's new teachers

Amy Tuck

While not new to the Weakley County School System, Amy Tuck, of Martin, has joined the staff of Martin Elementary School as School Counselor. For the past seven years Amy has served the school system as Director of the Coordinated School Health Program. Ms. Tuck, a certified school social worker, will graduate in December from UTM with her Master’s in Family and Consumer Sciences from UTM. She and her family live in Gleason. Her hobbies include spending time with family, crafting, cooking, hiking, and mission work.

Of her new responsibilities Snider commented: “I’m excited to serve our students and staff in an endeavor to help them develop healthier lifestyles and reach their personal goals.”

Trista Snider

Trista Snider returns to the Weakley County Schools system, not as a classroom teacher but, as the Director of Coordinated School Health. Ms. Snider obtained her Master’s in Family and Consumer Sciences from UTM. She and her family live in Gleason. Her hobbies include spending time with family, crafting, cooking, hiking, and mission work.

Of her new responsibilities Snider commented: “I’m excited to serve our students and staff in an endeavor to help them develop healthier lifestyles and reach their personal goals.”

Cole Shepherd

Greenfield native Jonathan Cole Shepherd, will teach Spanish to high school students attending Greenfield School. Shepherd holds an undergraduate degree and is currently working on a Master’s degree at UTM. When asked about his hobbies, Shepherd commented that he’s “not a half bad water skier” and that he enjoys, along with being a devoted father, Spanish, songwriting and playing guitar.

Taylor Ann Johnson

Taylor Ann Johnson, who hails from Jackson, will teach 6th & 7th grade Reading and Language Arts at Martin Middle School. Ms. Johnson earned a Bachelor’s degree from UTM, works in the nursery at 1st Methodist Church in Martin and includes reading, family time and playing/watching/coaching sports among the things she likes to do in her spare time.

Richard Coday

Richard Coday, a Greenfield native, has joined the Gleason School staff as 9-12 grade special education teacher. He obtained his Master’s from UTM and enjoys watching football.

Lori Wilson

Lori Wilson, who hails from Gleason, will teach 8th grade Reading and Language Arts at Gleason School. Ms. Wilson earned a Bachelor’s in Secondary Education English from UTM.

Robert L. McCall

Robert L. McCall, who has always called Greenfield home, will provide Physical Science and Chemistry Instruction for 9th-12th grade students at Greenfield School. McCall holds a Master’s degree in education from UTM and says his hobbies include playing music and identifying tree and wildflower species. He is also an active member and minister at Lighthouse Apostolic church.

Karen Mosley

Speech Therapy at Greenfield, Gleason and Martin Middle Schools will be provided by Karen Mosley, who has 21 years of experience. Sharon is Ms. Mosley’s hometown and she obtained a Master’s of Science degree from UT Martin. Mosley’s favorite free-time activities include reading, singing and church.
Nicki Moore, a native of Martin, will teach Math, Reading, Science and Social Studies at Martin Elementary School. A bachelor's level graduate from UT Martin, Moore says she enjoys DIY projects and creating home movies of her daughter, Maclin.

Nicki Moore

Dukedom native Elisabeth Tompkins has joined the Martin Primary School staff as a 1st Grade teacher. She obtained her B.S. degree earlier this year from UTM. Ms. Tompkins’s free time is spent enjoying time with family and friends as well as reading. Ms. Tompkins stated: “I’m so excited to be working in the county that I attended as a child!”

Elisabeth Tompkins

Dresden Middle School has added Eric Wilson to their staff as a 6th grade Math teacher. Wilson, who calls Martin his hometown, completed his Master’s of Science in Education in 2011 at UTM. Baseball, fishing and water sports are among Eric’s favorite pastimes.

Eric Wilson

Greenfield native Aaron Knott has joined the Martin Middle School staff as 8th grade English Language Arts teacher. He obtained his B.A. in Communications from UTM in 2000 and is currently working on his Master’s in Education. Mr. Knott enjoys playing, watching and coaching sports. He also enjoys watching movies, fishing and hunting.

Aaron Knott

Westview High School has added music teacher Chris Butner to the staff roster. Mr. Butner is from Halls. He received his B.M.M.E. degree from UTM and enjoys family, gaming, movies and music.

Chris Butner

Martin Middle School has a new Librarian. Cathy Kendall, a South Fulton, TN native, has joined the MMS staff in this capacity. Ms. Kendall holds a Master’s degree from U. T. Martin and lists reading and swimming as her hobbies.

Cathy Kendall

Brook Allen, an Adamsville native, will teach Kindergarten at Martin Primary School. Ms. Allen, who states she and her family love attending Westview High School activities, graduated from UTM in 2001 and counts traveling, shopping and spending time with family as her favorite hobbies.

Brook Allen

Mr. Butner is from Halls. He received his B.M.M.E. degree from UTM and enjoys family, gaming, movies and music.

Chris Butner

Mathew Humphrey

Chelsea Jones will teach 9th grade English at Dresden High School. Ms. Jones is from Tullahoma and earned her Bachelor's degree in Education at UT Martin. Jones will also serve as Co-head softball coach for DHS. She enjoys running and reading.

Chelsea Jones

Wes Morgan, will teach high school Math at Gleason School. Morgan holds a bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education from UTM. He enjoys going to the farmer’s market.

Wes Morgan

Mathew Humphrey will teach 9th-12th grade Ag. at Greenfield School. Mathew is originally from Bogota, TN, and received his Ag. Science degree from UT Martin.

Mathew Humphrey

(photo not available)
WELCOME BACK — Students are pictured moving into the University of Tennessee at Martin residence halls for the start of fall semester 2013. This scene will be repeated many times today, as the class of 2018 arrives at the university just ahead of 2014 fall classes that begin Monday.

Class of 2018 begins arriving today

The University of Tennessee at Martin welcomes the class of 2018 today, as more than 1,100 freshman students arrive in Martin and move into residence halls. The new students will participate in the First-Year Initiative Welcome Weekend, an orientation program that prepares students for fall classes that begin Monday.

After Welcome Weekend, students will participate in the semester-long General Studies 101 class that prepares and positions first-year students to achieve academic and social success.

Following today’s move-in, First-Year Initiative activities include a 5 p.m. opening ceremony Friday in the Elam Center, orientation sessions all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon, and a combination student organization fair and city of Martin merchants fair beginning at 5 p.m. on Monday, also in the Elam Center. The university’s Division of Student Affairs and the city of Martin will co-sponsor the fair.

Final enrollment numbers will be official after the 14th day of classes in September. Total enrollment will include students at the Martin campus and the university’s centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and McNairy County/Selmer. Fall 2013 enrollment was 7,423 students.
Students return to UT-Martin

Posted on August 25, 2014 by Steve James in Local News

The Martin and Weakley County economy got a boost this past weekend with the influx of several thousand UT-Martin students.

It was "move in" weekend for freshman and upper-classmen. University officials spent the weekend orientating new students to college life.

A special "get acquainted" time takes place this afternoon from 5 til 6:30 when businesses and new students get a chance to know each other at a "meet and greet time" in the Elam Center.

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige says Martin has always shared a special relationship with students who are very important to the economy and many who choose to live here after graduation and become permanent residents.

He says their economic impact is much larger than people know.

According to an economic survey, Mayor Brundige said the average student will spend about 10,000 a year in Martin.

UTM classes officially begin tomorrow.
New wing to open at UTM Parsons Center

Ribbon-cutting ceremony for nursing facility addition to be held Thursday

The University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center will officially open its West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday.

The event is set for 10:30 a.m. at the center, which is located at 975 Tennessee Ave. N. in Parsons. The public is invited to attend, according to a news release from UT Martin.

UT President Joe DiPietro, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, local and state elected officials and university nursing faculty members are expected to join Parsons Center students and others for the ceremony.

Dr. Kelli Deere, Parsons Center director, will lead the event. Initial funding for the expansion was included in the 2013-14 budget proposed by Gov. Bill Haslam and approved by the Tennessee General Assembly. A $1 million appropriation was made to build a 10,000-square-foot addition to the current facility, according to the release. The addition includes classrooms, a skills laboratory and a high-fidelity computerized simulation laboratory.

The expansion plans received a boost when the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation also made a $1 million commitment to the project.

The Parsons Center will have openings for up to 30 students annually for the program, the release said. BSN program graduates will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses and obtain licensure as registered nurses. The university recently announced that nursing graduates in the class of 2014 achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-RN.

"We are pleased to expand nursing education opportunities at the Parsons Center," Rakes said in the release. "The most recent nursing licensure examination pass rates reflect that UT Martin nursing graduates are among the best in Tennessee. This expansion will help to increase the number of highly qualified nurses for the region."

Nursing students at the Parsons Center will receive the same experience as students enrolled at the Martin campus.

The program works with health care facilities across the region to provide three years of clinical experience for its students. Similar programs at other institutions offer only two years of clinical experience, the release said.

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing recommended re-accreditation for the UT Martin Department of Nursing in June.

See OPENING, Page A6
Beasley Receives Scholarship to Attend UT-Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. – A Carroll County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions.

McKenzie Beasley, daughter of Missy Taylor, of McKenzie, will be a junior. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship. Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

UT Martin announces Summer Semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll

MARTIN, Tenn. — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2013 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Mary L. McCaslin, Dyer, TN 38330-4228, Highest Honors
Tabitha J. Causey, Humboldt, TN 38343-3566, Highest Honors
Heather L. Morris, Medina, TN 38355-8807, High Honors

Shneecka L. Jones, Milan, TN 38358-6363, Highest Honors
Emily S. Shelton, Milan, TN 38358-6292, High Honors
Natalie K. Taylor, Milan, TN 38358-5365, Highest Honors
Jeannie C. Mathis, Rutherford, TN 38369-9555, High Honors
Raechelle J. Bolden, Trenton, TN 38382-1608, Highest Honors
Justin C. Scott, Trenton, TN 38382-9480, High Honors

Gibson County students receive scholarships to UTM

MARTIN, Tenn. — Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions.

Brennan Cooper, of Dyer, son of Joy Cooper and the late Mike Cooper, will be a sophomore. He received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.

Kyndal Hayes, daughter of Tracy Reed Hayes and Tracy King Hayes, of Milan, will be a sophomore. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.

Eric A. Yates, of Milan, son of Dan and Jennifer Yates and Chris and Jennifer Carter, will be a freshman. He received the Elam Alumni Legacy Scholarship.
Students attend annual Farm Day at UT Martin

By SAMI MOBLEY
The Press

Every year, each fourth grade class in Weakley County takes a field trip to learn more about agriculture. Farm Day aims to educate children in the area on what agriculture is and what it means for our area.

There was a wide variety of farms represented and farmers in attendance Friday when the children attended this year’s Farm Day at the ag pavilion behind UT Martin.

The students who attended learned about row crops, tractors, beef cattle, hogs and swine, veterinarians, bee keeping, dairy, safety, horse carriers and management, and proper care of horses. There were animals and displays for the children to learn while having fun.

Shannon Rea, a hog, row crop and cattle farmer, was in attendance with Rea Farms.

“On the swine end of it, I was giving them the perspective the meat cuts that they eat every day with their families at home,” Rea said. “I tied that into what the swine do for us every day. They aren’t just there to eat slop and roll around in the mud, they’re a really smart animal. Basically, I’m just really glad to be a part of it.”

Farm Day was a fun way of teaching children how much agriculture influences the local community. Ranging from high-tech farming techniques to small beef cattle, the students left knowing that agriculture has a huge effect on everyone in Weakley County.
OPENING — Workers are putting the final touches on the new West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing at the UT Martin Parsons Center. A ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the expansion is set for Thursday.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open nursing wing

A ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday will officially open the new West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing at the UT Martin Parsons Center. The event is set for 10:30 a.m. at the center located at 975 Tennessee Avenue North in Parsons. The public is invited.

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, local and state elected officials and university nursing faculty members are expected to join Parsons Center students and others for the ceremony. Dr. Kelli Deere, Parsons Center director, will lead the event.

The Parsons Center will have openings for up to 30 students annually for the program. BSN program graduates will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses and obtain licensure as registered nurses. The university recently announced that nursing graduates in the class of 2014 achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-RN.

"We are pleased to expand nursing education opportunities at the Parsons Center," said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. "The most recent nursing licensure examination pass rates reflect that UT Martin nursing graduates are among the best in Tennessee. This expansion will help to increase the number of highly qualified nurses for the region."

Nursing students at the Parsons Center will receive the same experience as those students enrolled at the Martin campus. The program works with health care facilities across the region to provide three years of clinical experience for its students. Similar programs at other institutions offer only two years of clinical experience.
Local students receive scholarships

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions.

• Taylor Nicole Alderson, of Sharon, daughter of Jeff Alderson and Amy Wiley, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.

• Jennifer Renee King, daughter of Jerry and JoAnn Petty, of Sharon, will be a junior. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.

• Sloan Winters, of Martin, daughter of Todd and Susan Winters, will be a sophomore. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

Students kick off new semester at UT Martin

Chloe Joy (left), a communications major from Covington, and Sara Jane Ragain, a nursing major from Medina, pause on campus Monday during the first day of UT Martin fall classes. A freshman class of more than 1,100 students arrived last week.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN

Fall semester day and evening classes began Monday at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Here, students on the first day walk between the Boling University Center on the left and the Paul Meek Library.
FRESHMEN ARRIVE - Students are moving into UT Martin residence halls for the start of fall semester 2013. This scene was repeated many times last Thursday as the class of 2018 arrives at the university just ahead of 2014 fall classes that began August 25.

UT Martin freshman class arrives

The University of Tennessee at Martin welcomed the class of 2018 on Thursday, August 21, as more than 1,100 freshman students arrived in Martin and moved into residence halls. The new students participated in the First-Year Initiative Welcome Weekend, an orientation program that prepares students for fall classes that began Monday, August 25. After welcome weekend, students will participate in the semester-long general studies 101 class that prepares and positions first-year students to achieve academic and social success.

Following Thursday’s move-in, first-year initiative activities included a 5 p.m. opening ceremony Friday in the Elam Center, orientation sessions all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon, and a combination student organization fair and city of Martin merchants fair at 5 p.m., Monday, also in the Elam Center. The university’s Division of Student Affairs and the city of Martin co-sponsored the fair.

Final enrollment numbers will be official after the 14th day of classes in September. Total enrollment will include students at the Martin campus and the university’s centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and McNairy County/Selmer. Fall 2013 enrollment was 7,423 students.

Local students make UTM honor roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the summer 2013 chancellor’s honor rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Area students on the list include:

Tabitha J. Causey, Humboldt, highest honors
Heather L. Morris, Medina, high honors
Alan Youngherman, most recently district executive for the Boy Scouts of America, is the new director of the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer. He succeeds Deidra Beene who died in March following a long illness after serving as center director since 2001. He begins his new duties Sept. 2.

"I've always loved education," Youngherman said of his appointment. "I'd like to see the university continue and expand its successes here." He added that his long and varied business background will help him move the center forward.

Before his position with the Boy Scouts, Youngherman was co-owner and vice president of Stan's Home Center Inc. in Jackson and the Home Center Inc. in Lexington and Henderson. He was previously associated with McNairy County/Selmer Center from 2009-11 as an adjunct faculty member teaching geology.

Youngherman holds an associate degree in physical chemistry from Jackson State Community College, a bachelor's degree in earth science from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville and a master's degree with a major in economic geology from the University of Nevada, Reno - Mackay School of Mines.

Youngherman and his wife, Elizabeth, and two children live in Selmer.

UT Martin opened the McNairy County/Selmer Center in cooperation with McNairy County and the city of Selmer. UT Martin began offering lower division courses at the center in summer 1998.

In fall 2004, the center began offering courses leading to the Education K-6 degree. Then in fall 2008, the center offered courses leading to bachelor's degrees in history and social work. Four new classrooms were completed in fall 2009.

In addition to previous offerings, a major in criminal justice is now available, and a major in psychology is new for this fall semester. The center also offers a full rotation plan of general education courses, upper division courses and the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree.

Also available are non-credit classes, and the center can design training curriculums to meet the individual needs of local business and industry. The UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is the university's administrative reporting channel for the center.
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- Audrey D. Roy, Ramer, TN 38367-5156, Highest Honors
- Lauren E. Reed, Selmer, TN 38375-2238, High Honors

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

The Lauderdale Voice, Wednesday, August 27, 2014

UTM names honor students

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2013 Chancellor's Honor Rolls.

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Johnathon Miller of Halls, and Stephanie L. Smith of Ripley earned highest honors. Cassandra L. Morgan of Henning was named to the honors list.

Students learn from the best

Five students from the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center learned from many in the top of the forensic field during a recent intensive study at the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program.
UTM group learns much in 20-day study

The University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center welcomed five students home Aug. 2 from Oak Ridge, Tenn., where they completed a 20-day, intensive study with the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program.

This esteemed program was established in conjunction with the University of Tennessee and the Law Enforcement Innovation Center and offers state-of-the-art technological resources to participants.

Each of the five UTM Ripley Center students, Amanda Ford, Casey Lee, Nicole Hinsley, Johnathon Miller, and Melisa Richardson, received nine college credit hours for the program and subsequent projects completed. The students received local financial support from scholarship donors including Ripley Gas, Water and Wastewater and Ripley Bank.

The Forensic Academy began with an orientation at the academy July 14 after checking into apartments in Knoxville a day earlier. Lectures began early with Dr. William Bass, founder of the University of Tennessee’s Anthropology Research Facility, also known as the “Body Farm.” During the first week, students were instructed by Lee Croxton, Supervisor of the Criminal Investigations Training Section at Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Topics discussed included crime scene management, documentation with notes, photographs, and sketches, impression evidence, crime scene diagramming, and crime scene narrative writing. Hands-on activities for the week included multiple practicums as the students learned to handle their cameras, make a tire impression for comparison, and use dental stone when lifting footwear impressions.

“Week one was the most stressful, but learning to operate the cameras will benefit us regardless of the career path we choose,” Ford said.

The second week for the students included fingerprinting, DNA collection, and forensic anthropology instructed by Brian Cochran from the Boone County Sheriff’s Department in Kentucky and Tim Schade from the Knoxville Police Department.

Each student was given several opportunities to collect prints on porous and non-porous surfaces using techniques such as iodine and ninhydrin. Instructors also demonstrated the use of Blue Star and LCV (leucocrystal violet) to illuminate latent bloodstains.

Next, world-renown anthropologist Dr. Arpad Vass and Dr. Murray Marks, a specialist in forensic anthropology from the University of Tennessee, instructed methods of determining time since death, determining the age/sex/stature/ethnicity of a victim, and methods used to recover remains.

The students put their new skills to test at the U.T. Arboretum which houses a new facility called, “The Bone Yard.” This class is the first class to use this facility so it was a learning experience for both the students and instructors.

Richardson summed up her experience, “The bugs and snakes were the furthest thing from my mind that day. To learn and work under Dr. Arpad Vass, the best of the best, left me in awe. To hear, ‘Well done, Melisa’ from him... I was speechless.”

A Senior KBI agent, Cory Latham, and Texas Ranger Troy Wilson instructed the final week of bloodstains, blood pattern analysis, and shooting reconstruction. The students experienced lab activities that centered on ballistics, including trajectory and angles of impact, various means of determining causation of blood spatter, and determining the point of convergence to show where the event occurred. On Friday, Aug. 1, the students arrived at the U.T. Arboretum for one last time to process a crime scene as their final exam. Given just one hour to take notes and photographs, the students were sent back to the
National Forensic Academy graduates have continued their professional pursuits in the Criminal Justice system. Nicole Hinsley, a senior completing an Interdisciplinary Bachelor degree, began an internship at the Lauderdale County Justice Center with Jerry Little, a West Tennessee Probation Officer. Melissa Richardson has begun an internship with Lyle Jones the Juvenile Magistrate in Tipton County and adjunct professor for the UTM Ripley Center. Richardson is completing the final semester of her Interdisciplinary degree at UTM Ripley Center as well.

"The National Forensics Academy was a great experience and will be helpful if I decide to go to law school. The people I met were interesting and the experience too short," said Johnathon Miller who is pursuing a finance degree and has just begun an internship with the UT Martin Ripley Center where he will engage in research.

Amanda Ford began a position with the UTM Ripley Center as a Supplemental Instructor as she too embarks on her final semester before completing her Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Criminal Justice and Psychology.

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Amanda Ford began a position with the UTM Ripley Center as a Supplemental Instructor as she too embarks on her final semester before completing her Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Criminal Justice and Psychology.

Five Paris residents made the summer 2014 chancellor's honor roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Named with high honors are Nathan B. Hart, Cody A. Marshall, Miranda R. Miller and Michelle L. Watson.

Morgan E. Todd was named with honors.

Those named with high honors earned a GPA of 3.5-3.79 on a 4.0 scale.

Students listed with honors had a GPA between 3.2 and 3.49.
Weakley County students receive scholarships

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions. Scholarship recipients include:

* Taylor Nicole Alderson, daughter of Jeff Alderson and Amy Wiley, will be a freshman. She received the Charles and Bettye Moore Scholarship and the Maintenance Center Family Scholarship.
* Annabelle Reece Cormia, daughter of Ross and Susan Cormia, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Elam Alumni Legacy Scholarship and the E. C. Thurmond Memorial Scholarship.
* Katherine Jimenez, daughter of Manuel and Bibiana Jimenez, of McKenzie, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.
* Jennifer Renee King, daughter of Jerry and JoAnn Petty, of Sharon, will be a junior. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.
* Sloan Winters, of Martin, daughter of Todd and Susan Winters, will be a sophomore. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.

2014 UT Martin nursing graduates achieve perfect NCLEX-RN pass rate

Erica Gilsson, of Dresden, is a member of the UT Martin Bachelor of Science in Nursing class of 2014 that achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. The NCLEX-RN measures the competencies needed for individuals to perform safely and effectively as newly licensed, entry-level nurses.

University of Tennessee at Martin nursing graduates in the class of 2014 achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. The NCLEX-RN measures the competencies needed for individuals to perform safely and effectively as newly licensed, entry-level nurses.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing implemented a test plan and increased passing standard change in 2013 to the NCLEX-RN. With this change, the passing rate for first-time, U.S.-educated nurses decreased nationally by nearly 10 percent.

“This (100 percent pass rate) is especially exciting considering the difficulty of the exam,” said Dr. Mary Radford, UT Martin nursing department chair.

“We’ve taken significant steps to better prepare students for the test, and it has paid off. This result is a direct reflection of the hard work and effort of these graduates.”

UT Martin freshman class arrives

The University of Tennessee at Martin welcomed the class of 2018 last Thursday, as more than 1,100 freshman students arrive in Martin and moved into residence halls. The new students participated in the First-Year Initiative Welcome Weekend, an orientation program that prepares students for fall classes that began Monday, Aug. 25.

After Welcome Weekend, students will participate in the semester-long General Studies 101 class that prepares and positions first-year students to achieve academic and social success.

Final enrollment numbers will be official after the 14th day of classes in September. Total enrollment will include students at the Martin campus and the university’s centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and McNairy County/Selmer. Fall 2013 enrollment was 7,423 students.
UT Martin names locals to summer honor roll

UT Martin Names Local Students to Summer Honor Roll

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* Robert L. Gerttsch, Dresden, Highest Honors
* Hollie L. Townes, Gleason, High Honors
* Carl R. Whitlow, Greenfield, High Honors
* Megan A. Witherington, Greenfield, Highest Honors
* Pegeen J. Adams, Martin, Highest Honors
* Charles H. Alley, Martin, High Honors
* Sabrina D. Black, Martin, High Honors
* Ronald Hammer, Martin, Honors
* Chance E. Weldon, Martin, High Honors
* Hillary P. Jones, Union City, High Honors
* Cody D. Ricketts, Union City, Highest Honors

REED Center offers small business bootcamp

A four-week Small Business Boot Camp for aspiring entrepreneurs and new small business owners will be offered each Tuesday in September at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center. The REED Center, the Tennessee Small Business Development Center and the UT Federal Credit Union are boot camp sponsors.

Sessions are scheduled 6-8 p.m. each Tuesday night starting Sept. 9 at the REED Center located at 406 South Lindell Street in Martin. Topics include best practices, writing a business plan, finding and making the pitch to a lender and marketing small businesses. Also, an attorney and an accountant will present legal and accounting information, and small business owners will discuss their experiences operating small businesses.

After boot camp graduation, participants can submit their written business plans to the Line12Fund loan committee. The Line12Fund is a microfund for business resources from UT Federal Credit Union. The microfund provides an alternate way for startups or businesses that don’t have a traditional credit history to get a loan.

Participants who are selected can then “pitch” their business plan to the Line12fund committee, and if chosen, receive a loan up to $25,000.

The boot camp fee is $25 for the four-week event. Registration will also take place during the Launch Party and Member Appreciation Day on Thursday, Aug. 28, at the UT Martin Federal Credit Union located at 103 Hurt Street in Martin. Hotdogs, chips and drinks will be served from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. while supplies last.

Participants can register for the Small Business Boot Camp on a space-available basis up until the day of the first session. For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin REED Center at 731-587-7333.

Scholarships announced

Two local students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year, to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Taylor Hope Allen daughter of Scott and Amy Prather of South Fulton, and Mindy Alexandra Baker, daughter of Bobby and Tina Baker, both sophomores, were the recipients of the UTM Transfer Scholarship.

South Fulton residents on Chancellor’s Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievement of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin has been honored with publication of the Summer 2014 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls.

To be eligible, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit, and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Students may earn Honors status, 3.2-3.49, high honors, 3.5-3.79 or highest honors, 3.8-4.0.

From South Fulton, Marina G. Barclay and Lynnita F. Pierce achieved High Honors and Kayla E. Wade of South Fulton achieved Highest Honors.
UT Martin announces Honor Roll

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- Shelley K. Simpson, Campus Mall, High Honors;
- Britney N. Chandler, Dresden, High Honors;
- Mary L. McCaslin, Dyer, Highest Honors;
- Tabitha J. Causen, Humboldt, Highest Honors;
- Kathy L. Sewell, Jackson, High Honors;
- Heather L. Morris, Medina, High Honors;
- Shneecka L. Jones, Milan, Highest Honors;
- Emily S. Shelton, Milan, High Honors;
- Natalie K. Taylor, Milan, Highest Honors;
- Jeannie C. Mathis, Rutherford, High Honors;
- Samantha P. Clark, Sharon, High Honors;
- Rachel E. Bolden, Trenton, Highest Honors;
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- Heather N. Tillman, Decaturville, TN 38329-4256, Highest Honors;
- Raymond J. Yates, Dyersburg, TN 38024, Highest Honors;
- Cary B. Haggard, Parsons, TN 38363-5468, Highest Honors;
- UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.

ACT prep course offered by UTM Parsons

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering an ACT prep course for high school juniors and seniors, at 8 a.m.-noon, on Saturdays, Sept. 6-Oct. 4, at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

The course will begin with students taking an off-record ACT test. The instructor will then provide feedback in specific areas. Students will learn how to complete test problems based on question frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test-taking strategies. Students will also learn how to maximize their score in the allotted time. At the end of the program, students will take another off-record ACT exam. The instructor will meet one-on-one to provide a final study preparation for the real exam after receiving post-test data.

Mary Woodall, librarian at Lexington High School, will instruct the course.

The registration fee to attend is $225 and includes two textbooks, two official, retired ACT tests and a diagnostic report. Number 2 pencils will be required. A calculator is not necessary, but if a student chooses to use one, it must be a calculator permitted by ACT. To verify that a specific calculator is permitted, visit http://www.actstudent.org/faq/calculator.html.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082 or visit online to register or view additional non-degree courses available this fall at the UT Martin Parsons Center at http://www.utm.edu/departments/parsons/.
Nursing Success — Erica Glisson of Dresden is a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin bachelor of science in nursing class of 2014 that achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. The NCLEX-RN measures the competencies needed for individuals to perform safely and effectively as newly licensed, entry-level nurses.

UT Martin nursing graduates make the grade on license exam

University of Tennessee at Martin nursing graduates in the class of 2014 achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. The NCLEX-RN measures the competencies needed for individuals to perform safely and effectively as newly licensed, entry-level nurses.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing implemented a test plan and increased passing standard change in 2013 to the NCLEX-RN. With this change, the passing rate for first-time, U.S.-educated nurses decreased nationally by nearly 10 percent.

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UT Martin’s four-year bachelor of science in nursing program includes one year of academic prerequisites and three years of nursing courses. The university’s BSN program is distinctive in offering three years of clinical nursing courses in a variety of health care settings. This experience prepares graduates for entry-level registered nurse positions in primary, secondary and other health care settings and for entry into advanced-degree nursing programs.

The BSN is offered at the Martin campus and the UT Martin Parsons Center. An RN-to-BSN completion program is offered online and at the UT Martin Ripley Center for students who have an associate degree or a diploma in nursing.
At the college level

A number of students from Obion County have been honored for academic achievement at the University of Tennessee at Martin by being named to the Chancellor’s Honor Roll for the summer semester.

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

Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0). Among those recognized, listed by hometown, were:

- Obion — Tara E. Evans, honors.
- South Fulton — Marina G. Barclay, high honors; Lynnita F. Pierce, high honors; and Kayla E. Wade, highest honors.
- Troy — Taylor M. Turner, high honors.

Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin. They include:

- Taylor Hope Allen, daughter of Scott and Amy Prather of South Fulton, who received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.
- Mindy Alexandra Baker, daughter of Bobby and Tina Baker of South Fulton, who received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.
- Haley Cook, daughter of James and Sherry Cook of Troy, who received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.
- Elysia Duke of Hornbeak, daughter of Ralph Duke and Elysia Pierce, who received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.
- Chloe Smithson of Union City, daughter of Christine Hunt and Gary Smithson, who received the UTM Transfer Scholarship and the Chancellor’s Award.

UTM students benefit from software program

University of Tennessee at Martin students will benefit from a new Microsoft Student Advantage program. Students can now download and install Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus desktop applications at no additional cost. Applications offered by the program include: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote, Access and Publisher. The software is available online through UT Martin NetID accounts and can be installed on up to five devices. The ProPlus subscription will end when students leave the university.

Students needing assistance and instructions for downloading and installing the Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus software can find information online or by calling the UT Martin Information Technology Services Help Desk at (731) 881-7900.

Pratt receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

Twyla Kay Pratt, daughter of Trey and Pam Pratt, of Parsons, has been awarded a scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions. Pratt will be a junior. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship. Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Ribbon-cutting ceremony to open nursing wing at Parsons Center

A ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 28 will officially open the new West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing at the UT Martin Parsons Center. The event is set for 10:30 a.m. at the center located at 975 Tennessee Avenue North in Parsons. The public is invited.

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, local and state elected officials and university nursing faculty members are expected to join Parsons Center students and others for the ceremony. Dr. Kelli Deere, Parsons Center director, will lead the event.

Initial funding for the expansion was included in the 2013-14 budget proposed by Gov. Bill Haslam and approved by the Tennessee General Assembly. A $1 million appropriation was made to build a 10,000-square-foot addition to the current facility. The addition includes classrooms, a skills laboratory and a high-fidelity computerized simulation laboratory.

The expansion plans received an added boost when the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation also made a $1 million commitment to the project.

The Parsons Center will have openings for up to 30 students annually for the program. BSN program graduates will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses and obtain licensure as registered nurses. The university recently announced that nursing graduates in the class of 2014 achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-RN.

Nursing students at Parsons will receive the same experience as those students enrolled at the Martin campus. The program works with health-care facilities across the region to provide three years of clinical experience for its students. Similar programs at other institutions offer only two years of clinical experience.

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing recommended reaccreditation for the UT Martin Department of Nursing in June.
Marching band directors appreciate the sights and sounds of a top performing drum line. Aiming to be the best they can be for football halftime performances and band competition season, the Huntingdon High School Band was among seven bands participating Aug. 23 in the 10th Annual Drum Line Tune-Up Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event began at 8:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Building’s band room, with the Huntingdon band closing out the day’s performances in its second year at the event. Other bands participating were Liberty Tech, Stewart County, South Gibson, Munford, McNairy Central, and Waverly Central. Guest artist Julie Davila presented a marching percussion clinic and also provided individual instruction.

Jill Bonds directs the Huntingdon High School band. She is a Huntingdon High School graduate and in her third year at the school. Derek Cook is the band’s assistant director and is a UT Martin graduate. The band last won a state championship in 2005 and is coming off a third-place tie last November at the Division I State Marching Band Championship at Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro. The band’s 45 members are aiming even higher for 2014.

“As a group, we have decided to set the bar high this year and keep our momentum going from last competition season,” Bond said in an e-mail interview. “So in terms of competition, our goal is to finish in the top two at the Tennessee Division I State Band Championship. That would mean we are making gains in terms of placement.” In addition to competition goals, Bonds wants the band to be “the leader of school spirit,” both for the student body and the community.

Bonds’ major instrument is the clarinet, so having this kind of instruction available is important. “At Tune-Up Day, the students receive instant feedback and suggestions on how to improve technique,” she said. “Since it’s often difficult for us to get a percussion instructor at every rehearsal due to budget and our location, the students leave Tune-Up Day with a wealth of knowledge and work on implementing it throughout the season.”

Dr. Julie Hill created Drum Line Tune-Up Day in 2005 during her first year as a UT Martin faculty member. The associate professor of music and director of percussion studies saw the new event as a way to raise funds for her program and also reach out to high school bands in different communities.

“Our program hosts events throughout the year that focus on world music, contemporary music, chamber music and more,” Hill said via e-mail, estimating that her students perform annually for more than 5,000 people.

“Lastly, we actually help ‘tune up’ the groups by helping to fix any instrument or carrier problems they may have, as well as tune their drums if they need help with this,” Hill said. “Thus the name ‘Tune-Up Day’ has several different implications.”

The other event highlight is instruction by Davila, adjunct instructor of percussion at Middle Tennessee State University. Davila also performs with Hill as a member of the Caixa Trio chamber percussion ensemble. Hill describes her as “one of the best rudimental players I know,” adding, “She is friendly and efficient and can really help groups tremendously in a short amount of time. Students have a good time learning with her, and she provides the students and instructors with tools they can take back home and work on for years to come.”
Marching Mustang band members talked about their band experiences in the percussion studio just before working with Davila. Emily Coleman, an eight grader who plays marimba, said that percussion sections are “good for keeping tempo, and they add extra dimension to the music.” She sees the Tune-Up Day as excellent preparation for the band. “It’s good for helping with technique and just getting your music better,” Coleman said.

Ben Reiter, a senior percussionist, said that the Mustang football team has already taken notice of the band’s performance during last Friday’s opening home game with Obion County.

“I mean, I was talking to one of my football player friends earlier on today, and he was saying that last night we were really helping the football team up and getting them excited and getting their adrenaline flowing so they could play a little bit better,” Reiter said. “That was just when we were in the stands, and some of them heard us out on the field, too, during halftime.” The entire band will make the trip to Martin this Friday as Huntingdon plays Westview at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

Band members share similar goals and optimism for what this edition of the Marching Mustangs can accomplish. “I definitely want to win the state this year or at least get above third,” Reiter said, who believes the band is capable of putting last year’s finish. “Other than that, just do better with the music.”

Darius Bills, a freshman who plays the snare drums for the pep band among other percussion duties, likes his experience so far and appreciates how fellow musicians have supported him in his first year. “My hopes are just like getting higher than we did last year and becoming better as a band, as a group.”

All credit Jeff Bonds for her leadership and ability to help the band reach its potential. “Ms. Bonds is great,” Coleman said. “She really helps out a lot, and she’s really patient, and she’s a very good instructor.” Bills added, “Actually, like she slows down and takes her time, and like even if she has to keep us over, maybe like 30 minutes or an hour after rehearsal, she will do that just to help us.”

“I really like Ms. Bonds,” Reiter said. “… She really cares about us, and she’s always looking for ways to help improve the band, like asking us if we need anything, like new sticks, or the woodwind instruments if they need new reeds or anything like that. She’s always making sure we have everything we need to be good.”

Emily, Ben and Darius then joined their fellow band members in the band room as the final group to work with Davila. She demonstrated, encouraged and listened intently as she coached this important section of the Marching Mustangs to be the best it can be.

With high school football halftime shows underway and competition season just ahead, this tune-up session put the finishing touches on many hard hours of practice for these seven high school bands. Each left UT Martin, ready to take the field, entertain crowds and promote school spirit as only marching bands can do.

Two countians on Chancellor’s Honor roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2013 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

- Amy J. Wilkinson, Bruceton, Highest Honors
- Kendra L. Gilmore, McKenzie, Highest Honors
- McKenzian awarded UTM scholarship

A Carroll County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions.

- McKenzie Beasley, daughter of Missy Taylor, of McKenzie, will be a junior. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.
Dear Class of 2018,

I get it, you want to fit in. College can be a scary time when you’re new. I’ve been there. I still remember how stupid I felt when, after a month of class, I realized the “H” in 111H meant honors. Ouch. In the time that I’ve been at UT Martin, I’ve learned a few things that I want to share. Real truths, and not the sugar coated version that everyone tells you to make you feel better.

Reality check: the major you come in with may not be your major at the end of your education. You may adore social work right now, but you may get a year-and-a-half in, realize you’re horrible at math and can’t see yourself doing a million hours of community service a semester. So what do you do when you change your major? Talk to someone, anyone. I was so lucky to have become great friends with a professor who talked me through it. He convinced me it wasn’t the end of the world, because it wasn’t. The best thing you can do when you realize you don’t want your major anymore is to change it. Nothing good comes from forcing yourself to care while your grades drop, and you contemplate dropping out. Don’t know what you want to major in after that? Don’t worry! Get your first year courses out of the way, tour different departments, join a student organization or two, and think of what you enjoy doing. Your hobbies and interests should tell you what you should major in. And remember, a degree doesn’t mean a career. In the words of my adviser, “Your resume is what will get you a career. What you major in might not be what you end up doing for a career.”

Girl or boy, someone on campus is probably going to catch your eye. Most of you are still teenagers and that means your hormones are going crazy. You’re an adult now, you should be able to do what you want. College is your time to try new things. One such thing an adult does is date, right? Wrong. You’re here for an education first and foremost. Your schooling should be what is keeping you up late and losing sleep over. Love is an amazing feeling, but your first year should be spent establishing yourself on campus. There’s always time for love after you put down the books. Always remember why you’re really here.

My next tip isn’t knocking Greek life. Going Greek is an amazing opportunity that forms friendships for a lifetime. You meet people who will be standing next to you when you exchange your vows, and be there for the birth of your children. If you get a bid, take it! However, with that being said, you shouldn’t feel obligated to go Greek. There are so many opportunities for networking, friendships and events that it isn’t always necessary. If you’re still not sure, stop and think about if it’s truly worth your while. Why are you going Greek? Be honest with yourself and don’t make a commitment because you’re being pressured to. Think long and hard about if you really want to be a Brother or Sister. Remember, these people are looking for a lifelong commitment and you’re achieving nothing by going in halfway. It’s a financial and emotional investment, and extremely time consuming. If you don’t know, take a step back and give it some time. There will always be more Greek weeks to come.

Parties, parties and more parties. Read that sentence one more time, slowly. More parties than you’ll ever imagine. If you have an assignment due at 8 a.m. but get invited to the KA party the night before, guess where you should be? In your room working. You might not get to see John Doe rip his shirt off, dive off the balcony and land in a giant pool of puddling, but you will be making time that matters. A night of intoxication is not worth missing out on an assignment that could have earned you $1,000 a semester for good grades. So take a step back, breathe, allocate your time properly and tell your friends, “I’ll be at the next one,” because there will always be another.

Mom and Dad, can you just quit calling me? I’m at college now, I’m fine! I’m an adult and don’t need to tell you where I am 24/7. Everyone experiences the doting parents when you first come to college. I only live ten minutes from campus, but still get bombarded with calls my Freshman year. Yes, it is annoying. No, you aren’t dying. But one fact remains; you are their baby and you’re growing up. They no longer can crack open your bedroom door just to see you sleeping and know that you’re home. Cut them some slack, pick up the phone, and tell them you love them and miss them. It only takes a few minutes of the day to speak to them. By the time you’re an upperclassman, you’ll realize how much they love you and how much you love them.

College is a crazy time. It’s four years full of peer pressure, Greek life, student organizations, parties, coffee, overbearing assignments, sports, coffee and more coffee. You may feel like you don’t have enough time to do it all, so you get misguided and place your time where it shouldn’t be. But you don’t have to. Breathe. There will be a million opportunities thrown your way, and you need to be ready to accept them with open arms. Don’t waste your time in matters that will distract you from the light at the end of the title; your degree. You’re here to learn, earn your degree, build your resume, network and study until you drop. However, at the end of the day, when you put down the book and want to have some fun, do it. Have so much fun that decades from now you can sit at your big fancy job and smile, because you took your time and put in where it needed to go, and not just where you momentarily wanted it to go.

As an upperclassman, I promise you will be able to do it all and more. Be careful, don’t fall in with a crowd that will block your dreams, protect your heart, keep your eyes on the books, remember that there are always more parties, change your major if you hate it, call mom and dad, make friends with professors, and always remember that you are here for one reason first and foremost: your degree. Good luck, get enough sleep, invest in a Keurig, and never forget that you got into college and you can finish.
TENNESSEE SOYBEAN FESTIVAL

Disney Night, Guitar As Art contest among opening weekend activities

The 21st annual Tennessee Soybean Festival starts today and continues through Saturday, Sept. 6. With a plethora of events and free concerts all week, the festival offers something for everybody.

Here’s a look at events happening this weekend:

**Today**
- The festival’s first event begins at 6 p.m. with “Salute to Our Heroes,” a dinner at Pecan Grove Bed & Breakfast honoring the Martin Police Department, Martin Fire Department and Tennessee Highway Patrol.

**Friday**
- The Biodiesel Truck & Tractor Pull starts at 7 p.m.

**Saturday**
- Soybean Saturday includes two events: “Eat Out, Come On Out, Go Out” and Disney Night. The first is an all day event starting at 6 a.m. and including special food deals at participating restaurants. People are also encouraged to visit local businesses, many of which have special sales and great deals available throughout the day.

Disney Night, a new addition to the festival, is at 4:30 p.m. The free event will be held at Festival Park, where iconic Disney characters such as Belle, Snow White, Elsa, the Fairy Godmother and Cruella DeVille will greet the kids. Bring your family to take a Cinderella carriage ride, enjoy a fairy tale at Belle’s story time. **See Events, Page 2**

**NEW EVENT** — Katie Smith and Jason Stout are credited with creating the inaugural Guitar As Art contest and exhibition. (Photo by Nathan Morgan)
Events From Page 1

time, have a makeover at the Bibbity Boppity hair booth, take photos with all the characters, indulge in some Pirates Gold kettle corn and Elsa’s shaved ice – and much more. The Martin Community Band will begin playing classic songs from Disney movies at 7 p.m. A free showing of Disney’s “Frozen” begins at 8:30.

Sunday
• Acoustic guitars converted into 2D art will be featured in an exhibition opening at 2 p.m. in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building Gallery. Award presentations for the inaugural Guitar As Art Contest will follow at 2:45. The event is free and open to the public.

The exhibition will feature acoustic guitars altered by local artists using 2D media such as painting, mosaic, photo transfer and drawing. A $500 purchase prize will be given to the winning entry, and the guitar will be featured in print advertising for the 2015 Tennessee Soybean Festival. A People’s Choice Award will also be awarded.
• Rolling Thunder TN-6’s Salute to Military: Honoring POWs, MIAs and Veterans begins at 6 p.m. at the Martin Recreational Complex and will feature a missing man ceremony.
• A night of music and fireworks begins at 7 p.m. at the Martin Recreational Complex.

Bring your family, a quilt and picnic basket to enjoy an entertaining evening with Surf’s Up (a Beach Boys tribute band), followed by a spectacular fireworks celebration sponsored by Savant Learning Systems.

Monday
• The Little Miss Soybean Pageant begins at 9 a.m. in the UT Martin Student Life Center.
• The Sidewalk Chalk Contest is from 3–6 p.m. in front of Weldon Public Library.
• Registration for the Bicycle Rodeo begins at 3:30 p.m., with the event starting at 4 at University and Oxford streets.
• The 10th annual Soybean Talent Contest begins at 6 p.m.

Classes Underway
— Allison Beddingfield of Martin pauses on campus during the first day of UT Martin fall classes on Monday. Beddingfield is returning to the university to pursue K-6 licensure. A freshman class of more than 1,100 students began arriving Aug. 21 to participate in the university’s First-Year Initiative Welcome Weekend, an orientation program that prepares students to navigate the university environment. All day and evening classes began Monday.
David Belote:
The man behind the ‘bean magic’

By BRAD GASKINS
News editor

In one capacity or another, David Belote has been involved in planning the annual Tennessee Soybean Festival throughout its 21-year existence. For the last 12 years, he has served as the festival’s executive director, the man behind the bean magic.

He smiles each year when the festival begins after months of planning.

“It’s a great feeling. We’ve done a few of these,” he told The Press Wednesday night. “We’ve learned that it’s great to see good friends and the community coming out and enjoying all the festivities. The highlight for me is seeing people enjoy what we’ve put together.”

The Soybean Festival Committee, with Belote at the helm, has put together another stellar 10 days packed with events and attractions for all ages.

In putting together the musical lineup, the festival’s biggest problem each year is figuring out a way to top – or at least match – the previous year.

“It’s a constant concern. You’re dealing with an encore problem,” Belote said. “It has made it a little bit more of a challenge. We try to at least do as well as we did the previous year. What makes it work is that there’s really a lot of quality entertainment out there. We try to pick what we feel like are the best for our themes and our particular environment. We’ve been really fortunate. We have a really good lineup.”

See Belote, Page 2
Country music star Lee Brice headlines an impressive lineup of performing artists, which includes Little River Band, The Cadillac 3, Audio Adrenaline and We The Kings, among others.

"Over the years we've developed some good friends with the music agencies," Belote said. "They know we'll be calling about February or March. They let us know who is available and what can be worked out. We've been fortunate to have good relationships with some of these major agencies in the country that handle these acts. We've got a good thing going."

**TUESDAY NIGHTS**

One beneficial change that was made in the musical lineup within the last several years involves Tuesday night's performers. Prior to a few years ago, the festival seemed to lag somewhat heading into Tuesday, a full between the big opening weekend and the big finale a few days later. Organizers changed that by taking a different approach to booking Tuesday night's performers.

"Not much was happening on Tuesday night," Belote recalled. "We decided to see what music performers were out there, who is up and coming and zero in on some acts that have some airplay within the last six months and are moving on the charts. Sometimes you can hit the jackpot when one of those songs starts churning pretty good. It may be a Top 20 song at the time we book them and a Top 10 song by the time the festival rolls around."

The Cadillac Three is this year's Tuesday night act. Dustin Lynch performed in 2013.

"We've hit the jackpot on that last couple of years," Belote said. "Some of it is luck. Some of it is playing your cards right. At the end of the day, it's our own hometown folks being creative and making some good things happen."

**BEHIND THE SCENES**

"We have been able to do some things behind the scenes that really make for a good festival. It takes a few years to do that," Belote said. "We have all the electricity that we need in all the right places now. That includes the stage area, out at the park and in the street fair area to accommodate the rides. We've been more than fortunate to lean on the expertise of some of the people at UT Martin to help with all of the lighting and technical aspects. We've created better staging areas."

**BUSINESSES BENEFIT**

The festival brings a lot of people to Martin, which creates a perfect opportunity for local businesses.

"With that in mind, we're hoping that people get creative with that and use that to their advantage with their business and market some of that," Belote said. "I'm all for folks who want to use the festival to enhance their businesses. You've also got people in the market to raise funds for good causes. There's been a lot of good input as we've moved through this last decade."

**WEATHER WOES**

Once the festival starts, weather is always Belote's biggest concern.

"Some years we have great weather. Some years we sit and watch the radar nonstop once the festival starts," he said. "I think we're going to be doing a lot of radar watching this year."

The weather has been mostly kind to the festival throughout the years. A parade a few years ago was rained out, but it took place a couple days later. Rain also shortened a Grand Funk Railroad concert a few years back, but weather has never caused a show to be completely called off.

"In 21 years, we haven't lost a show," Belote said. "We've always gotten them in."

Staging upgrades have been made for this year, with an improved canopy over the main stage to keep the equipment dry.

"You've got to work with it and work around it," Belote said of the weather. "Once the festival is here, that's our greatest challenge."

**PAGEANT TURNOUT**

The Little Miss Soybean Festival Pageant is taking place Monday instead of Saturday - a change from previous years. Organiz-
ers worried moving the pageant to Labor Day may have caused a drop in participants, but that hasn’t been the case.

“We’ve already equaled the number of contestants we had last year,” Belote said, adding that Debbie Yeager, has done a great job organizing this year’s event.

CITY SUPPORT

“There's a lot of Martin city employees who really step up during this time. They're the real heroes behind the scenes. They're out in the park making things happen. They're putting this tent up, taking that bag of garbage somewhere. They're making sure the streets are clean for the next day. They're moving bleachers here and there for the next event. It takes a real team to do some of the more intricate things that the average Soybean Committee member can't do. They are on call and they're ready. They step up. That's a testament to them and also the leadership of Mayor Randy Brundige.”

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

“I love the whole thing,” Belote said of the festival. “I don’t get bent out of shape about anything. We try to do our best to solve all the problems before it starts. Once it starts, you just let it roll. It's just a great 10 days. It goes by so fast. I love every second of it.”

He also thanked everybody who has had anything at all to do with preparing for this year's festival.

“At the end of the day, there’s just a lot of good people in Martin, Tennessee, who love the festival,” he said. “There’s a handful that love making it happen. That's the real joy — working with those folks. There’s a lot of people who have worked really hard.
UTM NAMES LOCAL STUDENTS TO SUMMER SEMESTER CHANCELLOR’S HONOR ROLL

MARTIN, Tenn. — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2013 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).


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

MADISON COUNTY STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND UT MARTIN

MARTIN, Tenn. -- Two Madison County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions.

Kaley Janie Blankenship, daughter of Randall and Jennifer Blankenship, of Beech Bluff, will be a senior. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.

Desiree Lynell Pavlick Ewer, of Jackson, daughter of Robert Pavlick and Lillian Rice, will be a senior. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
UT Martin Names Local Students To Summer Semester Chancellor's Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2013 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY ENTERPRISE, RIPLEY, TENNESSEE, AUGUST 28, 2014

UT-M Honors Area Students

Local students named to the Chancellor's honor roll for the summer semester include Johnathon Miller, of Halls, with highest honors; Cassandra L. Morgan, of Henning, honors; and Stephanie L. Smith, of Ripley, highest honors.

Students selected to receive scholarships for the 2014-2015 semester include Rachel Leeann Collins, a UT-M senior, daughter of Roger and Mary Savage, of Ripley, the Bank of Halls Scholarship; Michelle Rashene Lee, who will be a freshman, daughter of Michael Lee and Leavata Lee, Alex Haley Scholarship; Stephanie Leigh Smith, a sophomore, daughter of Steve and Charlene Pilcher, of Ripley, the Ripley Gas, Water, and Wastewater award; and Jenny Lynn Vaughan, daughter of Stephanie and Joe Arthur and Jody and Sandy Benjamin, a UT-M senior, the Ripley Gas, Water, and Wastewater award.
New nursing wing officially opens at UT Martin Parsons Center

By Bud Grimes
UT Martin

Jessica Brownyard has a lot to say about the UT Martin Parsons Center.

Brownyard spoke at the July 2013 announcement of the center's new West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing.

On Thursday, she spoke again at a ribbon-cutting ceremony that officially opened the expansion. Sometime in the future, she can say that she's among the first to graduate from the center's new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program housed in the facility.

Brownyard joined University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, Jim and Janet Ayers of the Ayers Foundation, local and state elected officials and others to celebrate the expansion's completion. The 30-minute program later moved from the Parsons Center's main entrance to the new nursing wing, complete with its own entrance and a large water fountain to welcome students and visitors.

Ribbon was cut at the entrance, and a reception and tours followed. The official opening of the wing came as the Parsons Center has reached an all-time enrollment record of 325 students for fall semester.

Kelli Deere, center director, welcomed the overflow crowd and recognized the partnership among the UT Martin Parsons Center, the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation and the state of Tennessee for making the expansion possible. She specifically thanked Gov. Bill Haslam and the Tennessee General Assembly for supporting the project, which was completed by TLM Associates, of Jackson, and Quinn Construction, of Parsons.

Initial funding for the expansion was included in the 2013-14 state budget, and a $1 million appropriation was made to build a 10,000-square-foot addition to the center. The projectreceived added support when the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation also made a $1 million commitment to the project. The addition includes classrooms, a skills laboratory and a high-fidelity, computerized simulation laboratory.

Rakes also expressed appreciation to all who made the project possible. He reminded the audience that the university is bringing a high-quality BSN program to the center as he told of 2014 nursing graduates achieving a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

"We feel fortunate to partner with this community, this region of the state, certainly with West Tennessee Healthcare," Rakes said. "We appreciate the relationships with our legislators, and we don't take it for granted because it doesn't happen automatically."

DiPietro compared the new nursing wing to the time when he and other University of Illinois veterinary science faculty
members moved to a new large animal hospital. He recalled that the move "changed how we felt about ourselves. It changed how we were able to train our students. It changed the spirit of the organization to focus on getting even better." He sees the expansion "having the same potential impact for the Parsons Center.

DiPietro kept the focus on students and introduced Brownyard, who was accepted to begin the nursing program this fall.

"I never thought that in my wildest dreams that I would get to graduate from the UT Martin Parsons Center," Brownyard said. "And now I will get to be one of the first ever to graduate from the new BSN program."

She thanked Jim and Janet Ayers and the Ayers Foundation for helping her "through every single semester of college" and said, "This new addition gives so many students the hope that one day that they can graduate while still staying close to home and saving a little bit of money."

Herbert Alexander Jr., chairman of the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation board, talked about the nursing program's future impact on the region. He also acknowledged the Ayerses for challenging the foundation "to step up and commit to the largest project that we've ever tried to accomplish."

A surprise ending to the program came when Jo Ann Ayers Lynn, sister of Jim Ayers, and Rakes unveiled a bust of the businessman and philanthropist.

"This is a wonderful honor that, I promise you, I don't deserve," a grateful Ayers said. Janet Ayers followed her husband to the podium a short time later and said, "Jim, you are deserving of a lot of attention and a lot of recognition..." but added that one person can't achieve things alone.

"It is a whole community that comes together to make things like this (the Parsons Center) happen," she said.