Santa’s Village Celebrates 30 Years

MARTIN - The legacy of Santa’s Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected through its 29 years. Those donations, totaling $1,091,953, have been distributed to area residents who need them.

Santa’s Village will mark its 30th anniversary, Dec. 11-14, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment. To date, 288,211 people have attended Santa’s Village.

The fantasyland provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas. It is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 13; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 14, the event will feature the “Enchanted Forest” which is scenes depicting the holidays, MTD model train display, amusement rides, vendor booths and wagon rides on Friday through Sunday. Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and a petting farm will add to the festivities. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event to date include: Zaxby’s, Casey’s General Store, Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods and Savant Learning Systems. As part of the event each year, WCMT sponsors a can caravan for canned food donations collected at the schools.

“Santa’s Village is a wonderful, family-oriented holiday event and we encourage people to come out and visit. We give special thanks to the sponsors and volunteers who contribute time and money,” said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director. “A couple of additions this year for Saturday are: Curious George will be on hand from 1-4 pm and a Talent Contest will take place from 4-6 pm. Also, there will not be a professional photographer so we would like to remind visitors to bring their own camera to get that special picture of their little one visiting with Santa.”

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

25 YEARS OF SERVICE — UT Martin employees were honored for their university service Nov. 18 during the annual Service Awards Luncheon at the Boling University Center. University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes were among those who attended the event and participated in the recognition program. Honored for 25 years of service were (seated, from left) Robbie Hillmans, management, marketing and information systems; Mary Baker, development; and Dr. Lynn Alexander, humanities and fine arts; (standing, from left) Dr. Dan Pigg, English and modern foreign languages; Dr. Rick Thomas, chemistry and physics; Hogan Courtney, HVAC; and Dr. Bill Davis, accounting, finance, economics and political science. Recognized but not attending were Ken Packer, international programs and international admissions; and Jim Nance, Paul Meek Library.
20 YEARS OF SERVICE — UT Martin employees were honored for their university service Nov. 18 during the annual Service Awards Luncheon at the Boling University Center. University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes were among those who attended the event and participated in the recognition program. Honored for 20 years of service were (seated, from left) Cindy Gaylord, Paul Meek Library; Janice Lee, equity and diversity; Virginia Grimes, WestStar Leadership Program; (standing, from left) Dr. Paula Gale, agriculture, geosciences and natural resources; Butch Dowty, athletics administration; and Dr. John Schommer, mathematics and statistics. Recognized but not attending were: Debbie Ammons, Honors Programs; Dr. John Collins, biological sciences; Dr. Deborah Gibson, health and human performance; Dr. Stephanie Kollisch, SACS Accreditation; Jerris Kosta, physical plant administration Dr. Mike McCullough, management, marketing and information systems; and Tracey Mires, extended campus and online studies.

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE — UT Martin employees were honored for their university service Nov. 18 during the annual Service Awards Brunch at the Holland McCombs Center. University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes were among those who attended the event and participated in the recognition program. Honored for five years of service were (seated, from left) Holly Dethloff, development; Dana Hagan, physical plant administration; Debbie Travis, custodial services; and Carrie Arant, agriculture, geosciences and natural resources; (standing, from left) DiPietro; Mark Ellegood, building services; LeAnne Perry, academic records; Ryne Rickman, sports information; Joe Henderson, student affairs; Tim Boyd, custodial services; Benny Quintero, custodial services; and Rakes. Recognized but not attending were Jeffrey Watson, custodial services; Jerry Forsythe, Parsons Center; Teddy Smith, building services; Kevin McMillan, intercollegiate athletics-women’s basketball; Jacob Pentecost, information technology services; Ben Moore, care of grounds; Cindy Cooper, housing; Stephanie Hayslett, Student Health and Counseling Services; Mickey Griffin, HVAC; Vickie Pflueger, institutional research; and Ann Stafford, mathematics and statistics.
10 YEARS OF SERVICE — UT Martin employees were honored for their university service Nov. 18 during the annual Service Awards Luncheon at the Boling University Center. University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes were among those who attended the event and participated in the recognition program. Honored for 10 years of service were (seated, from left) Dr. Amy Yeung, music; Dr. Becky Cox, educational studies; Doug Bloodworth, information technology services; Dr. Mohammad Obadat, engineering; Dr. Misanaw Getaneh, chemistry and physics; Sharon Waterfield, child and family grant programs; and Jennifer Stroh, Boling University Center; (standing, from left): Brian Stubblefield, information technology services; Brad Burkett, physical plant administration; Dr. Dawn Wilkins, biological sciences; Dr. Beverly Hearn, educational studies; Dr. Kurt Gorman, music; Dr. David Carithers, English and modern foreign languages; Bart Belew, intercollegiate athletics; Tony Warmath, student life; and Tammy Stanford, admissions. Recognized but not attending were: Debi Adcock, student affairs; Dr. Mickey Dunlap, mathematics and statistics; Kevin Gallimore, HVAC; Jamie Hamilton, building services; Janie Hamilton, custodial services; Dr. Chuck Hammond, English and modern foreign languages; Dr. Ashley Kilburn, management, marketing and information systems; David Klinkefus; custodial services; Avery Lawson, building services; Susan Lemond, accounting, finance, economics and political science; Dr. Paula Moore, accounting, finance, economics and political science; Sam Richardson, Paul Meek Library; Gordon Sanders, intercollegiate athletics-track; Diane Shaw, visual and theatre arts; Dr. Mark Simmons, music; Courtney Sowell, information technology services; and Dr. Denise Williams, management, marketing and information systems.
15 YEARS OF SERVICE — UT Martin employees were honored for their university service Nov. 18 during the annual Service Awards Luncheon at the Boling University Center. University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes were among those who attended the event and participated in the recognition program. Honored for 15 years of service were (seated, from left) Cheryl Brunon, academic records; Sharon Robertson, Student Services and Student Mentoring Center; Rebecca Baker, physical plant administration; Linda Luther, nursing; Amy Belew, information technology services; and Petra McPhearson, finance and administration; (standing, from left) Finis Halkias, Boling University Center; Dr. Michelle Merwin, behavioral sciences; Dr. Bob LeMaster, engineering; Joe Estes, warehouse; Pete Gibson, HVAC; Dr. Jeff Hoyer, communications; Dr. Cahit Erkal, chemistry and physics; and Pat Austin, business affairs. Recognized but not attending were: Shannon Deal, Student Health and Counseling Services; Dr. Ginny Esch, educational studies; Quentin Klinkefus, custodial services; Lane Last, visual and theatre arts; Debra Rubio, Margaret Perry Children’s Center; Tim Williams, HVAC; and Ken Zimmerman, visual and theatre arts.
Dead Week Takes Toll on College Students

By PARKER FRANKLIN / aprf@wku.transcript.com

With just two weeks to go before the semester ends for most universities in our region, students are preparing for final exams. However, in order to get there, they’ll first have to power through what’s known as dead week.

Typically just before final exams are administered, dead week is the time when term projects, papers, and more are all due.

Murray State Provost Jay Morgan says he’s encouraging staff to let students breathe a bit.

“Just today, a memo was sent out to all of our academic deans letting them know to talk to their faculty about trying to limit some of the work this week,” Morgan said.

“And really, that’s to protect the student.”

MSU Senior Tyler Payne suffers from chronic anxiety, something he says the stress of dead week exacerbates.

“It’s an awful time for me. I’ve had trouble sleeping,” Payne said.

Most other schools in our region don’t officially recognize dead week, with a couple exceptions.

The University of Tennessee at Martin gives students an extra day off before Thanksgiving to complete projects and study for exams.

FHSU professor publishes book, working on two more

Dr. Connie Eigenmann

FHSU University Relations

Dr. Connie Eigenmann, an associate professor of communication studies at Fort Hays State University, recently published “Electronic Communication in Developing Countries.” It culminates more than 10 years of living and researching in the Sultanate of Oman, the Peoples’ Republic of China, Pakistan and Thailand.

“The idea for the book came when I gained access into a difficult-to-reach culture in the Middle East, the Omani women,” said Dr. Eigenmann. “This was the first research reflecting how electronic usage did not change entirely, but strengthened, the tight tribal communication patterns in place.”

The 170-page paperback contains more countries, appendices, CIA maps and communication facts, statistical tables, figures, and an index. Research in Vol. 1 includes mixed methods of quantitative data collected between 2002 and 2014.

Collection methods include traditional survey, electronic survey, social networking site disbursement and translation in face-to-face interviewing of non-literate respondents. Internal research and board criteria in various institutions were met.

The research reflects the collaboration with several colleagues: Dr. Scott Robson, chair of the Department of Communication Studies, wrote the introduction and was co-author of Chapter 8 on Thailand; Dr. Pelgy Vaz, professor of sociology, was the co-author of Chapter 1 on her Fulbright trip to Brazilian favelas and contributed to the data collection of India, Chapter 3; Xinchen “Evelyna” Hou, a graduate student majoring in communications, was co-author of Chapter 6 on South Africa; and undergraduate research experience students Nickolas Kinder, Garnett special student majoring in political science, and Melissa Guiboa, a junior majoring in nursing, Dr. Trisha Capansky of the University of Tennessee-Martin co-authored Chapter 7 on South Sudan and wrote the Further Direction chapter.

Volumes 2 and 3 of the three-part series are currently in the works and are to be published in 2015 and 2017. Current work in the COMM 601, Persuasion 602 Intercultural Communication, and 800 Contemporary Theories in Communication taught by Eigenmann are producing more country-specific research.
Holiday concert planned for Thursday at UTM

A “Holiday at UTM” concert will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Refreshments will be served at 6 p.m., followed at 7 by the concert, sponsored by the university’s Department of Music.

Tickets are $15 for anyone age 12 and older or $5 for students ages 6 to 11; children younger than 6 will be admitted free of charge. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling (731) 881-7402.

Featured performers will include the New Pacer Singers, the Wind Ensemble, the Jazz Band and the University Singers. Faculty chamber performances will also be presented.

The event will be recorded by WLJT-DT and broadcast at a later date, according to a spokesman.

Santa’s Village to mark 30th anniversary

The legacy of Santa’s Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys collected through its 29 years. Donations totaling $1,091,958, have been distributed to area residents in need.

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Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin.

Additional sponsors of the event to date include: Zaxby’s, Casey’s General Store, Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods and Savant Learning Systems.

As part of the event each year, WCMT sponsors a can caravan for canned food donations collected at the schools.

“Santa’s Village is a wonderful, family-oriented holiday event and we encourage people to come out and visit. We give special thanks to the sponsors and volunteers who contribute time and money,” said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director. “A couple of additions this year for Saturday are, Curious George, on hand from 1 - 4 p.m. and a Talent Contest from 4 - 6 p.m. Also, there will not be a professional photographer so we would like to remind visitors to bring their own camera to get that special picture of their little one visiting with Santa.”

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
UTM named among ‘America’s 100 Best College Buys’ for 9th year

The University of Tennessee at Martin is listed for the ninth consecutive year among “America’s 100 Best College Buys,” a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc. UT Martin is one of three public Tennessee higher education institutions listed.

“Throughout the economic difficulties that America has experienced in the last decade, the University of Tennessee at Martin has continued to provide the high-quality educational opportunities and low costs that drive opportunity for students and fuel prosperity for the communities of Tennessee,” said Lewis Lindsey Jr., IRE president.

To be considered for the designation “America’s 100 Best College Buys,” an institution must be an accredited, four-year institution offering bachelor’s degrees. The institution must also offer full residential facilities, including residence halls and dining services.

Additionally, the institution must have had an entering freshman class in fall 2013 with a high school grade point average and/or SAT/ACT score equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen. Also, the out-of-state cost of attendance in 2014-15 for three quarters or two semesters must be below the national average cost of attendance or not exceed the national average cost by more than 10 percent.

UT-Martin Selected For National Grant

UT-Martin has been selected as one of 24 institutions to receive a U.S. Department of Education grant.

The “Teacher Quality Partnership” grant will assist the university with improved teacher education and teacher retention.

UT-Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, Jerald Ogg, said the grant places emphases on the three components of teaching, service and research, and will allow the university to work collaboratively with local school systems to improve education.

The $3.3 million dollar grant will be distributed over a five year period, and will include a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Center for Teaching and Learning on the campus.

Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes said the funding will now enable UT-Martin to expedite the national and state accreditation process for teachers that all nationally accredited programs are required to follow.
The entire Greek community was urged to unite and comfort the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha. Afterward, Phillips’ fraternity brothers spoke with The Pacer, the university newspaper, about the young man’s giving nature.

“I couldn’t have had a greater privilege than to have Kellen as a pledge brother,” Aaron Lowery of Trenton told The Pacer. “He was always there for me, through the good and the bad. When you hear about a guy giving someone the shirt off his back, that was Kellen. I’m so thankful for the time I had with him and he will be truly missed.”

Harrison McCord, who is from Jackson, told The Pacer that Phillips “had such passionate love for his brothers.”

A candlelight vigil Wednesday night paid tribute to a University of Tennessee at Martin student who was found dead in a shed at his off-campus residence Tuesday.

Kellen Phillips, 20, of Savannah was a junior biology major and a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at UT Martin.

He also worked at Final Flight Outfitters in the Midway community between Union City and Martin.

The candlelight vigil was held outside the University Center, where members of Pi Kappa Alpha, joined by other members of the Greek community, formed a circle to pay tribute to their fraternity brother.

At a memorial ceremony a short time later inside the University Center ballroom, the entire Greek community was urged to unite and comfort the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha.

Public Safety Class At Ripley Center

A public safety class will be held from 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 18th, in the lecture hall at UT Martin Ripley Center. Officers of the Ripley Police Department will demonstrate and discuss proper ways to react when approached by police authorities in any situation. This free class is sponsored by Life Choice Ministries Boys and Girls E.C., which is founded by Mary Lockett Beard.

For more information, call 731-635-7775.
LSA’s Holiday Art Bazaar, a 3-day event, begins today

The League of Striving Artists’ Holiday Art Bazaar presents the opportunity for you to purchase handmade gifts for your friends and family just in time for the holidays as well as support your local artists on campus.

A wide selection of items will be available for students, alumni, and professor of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Located in the Fine Arts Building Gallery, the event will take place today from 8-9 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Some proceeds will go to the student art organization, The League of Striving Artists, to support their service projects for the 2015 year.

All proceeds will support the growth of local artists. Cash, check and charge for purchases are available.

HELPING OTHERS — A portion of the proceeds from the Holiday Art Bazaar will go to the League of Striving Artists, which did more than 2,000 hours of combined service in 2013. For their charitable efforts, the LSA received the Student Organization of the Year Award and the Gold Service Award. LSA members on hand to accept the awards were Addy Wood, Melanie O’Neil, Danielle Osbourne, Amber Gentry, LSA advisor Jason Stout, Miranda Rutan, Desiree Wheeler and Mary Katherine Day. The bazaar begins Thursday and runs through Saturday at UT Martin.
UT Martin employees were honored for their university service Nov. 18 during the annual Service Awards Luncheon at the Boling University Center. University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes were among those who attended the event and participated in the recognition program. University retirees honored were (seated, from left) Stephanie Mueller, Student Services and Success Mentoring Center, 24 years; Judy Kerley, business affairs, 42 years; and Jan Wainscott, housing, 26 years; (standing, from left) Darlene Shanklin, English and modern foreign languages, 31 years; Elwood Doss, music, 11 years; and Mary Sue Hatchel, financial aid and scholarships, 27 years. Recognized but not attending were Candy Goad, Student Services and Success Mentoring Center, 29 years; Mac Kester, housing, 18 years; Jeff Luther, paint shop, 11 years; Kathy Marcus, extended campus and online studies, 29 years; Vernon Parker, care of grounds, 15 years; Elaine Robey, business affairs, eight years; Glenda Veatch, Margaret Perry Children’s Center, 33 years; Judy Woodard, financial aid and scholarships, 22 years; and Jeff Ziegler, post office, 19 years.

45 YEARS — UT Martin employees were honored for their university service Nov. 18 during the annual Service Awards Luncheon at the Boling University Center. University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes were among those who attended the event and participated in the recognition program. Honored for 45 years of service were Lesley Martin, custodial services, and Sandra Brackett, academic records.
UTM gets $3M grant for teaching program

Improved teacher education and teacher retention are goals for a Teacher Quality Partnership grant recently awarded to the University of Tennessee at Martin by the U.S. Department of Education. UT Martin was one of 24 U.S. institutions to receive the grant.

The TQP program provides resources to partnerships among colleges and universities, high-need local educational agencies and high-need schools to prepare teachers to teach in high-need schools and support them in their first critical years. Research has demonstrated that teachers are the single most important element in improving student learning and achievement.

"What I like about this particular grant is that it includes emphases on all three components of the UT Martin mission—teaching, service, and research," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "With so many of our (UT Martin) students coming from rural West Tennessee, this is a tremendous opportunity to work collaboratively with the local school systems to provide quality, data-driven education to our region."

The $3,324,314 grant will fund the Teacher Preparation Reinvention for Optimizing Continuous Improvement for Effectiveness and Student Success.

"The national and state accreditation process for college and university teacher education programs has been completely restructured, reflecting new higher expectations for teacher education faculty and graduates," said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. "This funding will enable UT Martin to expedite the process involving the use of outcomes-based instruction that all nationally accredited programs are required to follow."

The grant will support the transformation of the university’s Teacher Education Program over the five years of funding to include mechanisms to engage and collaborate regularly with local school systems for mutually agreed upon goals, feedback and improvement.

See Grant, Page 2
GRANT

FROM PAGE 1

Higher admissions standards will also be required for teacher education program candidates, and student teaching will be reconfigured to a yearlong clinical experience.

Additionally, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Center for Teaching and Learning will be developed on the UT Martin campus. A fifth-year program will be created to transition mathematics and science majors into highly qualified mathematics and science teachers.

Dr. Betty Cox, chair, UT Martin Department of Educational Studies, sees the grant both improving teacher education and ultimately teacher retention as well.

"Education has been one of UT Martin's most sought-after majors for many years with 150 to 200 students graduating from the teacher education program each year," Cox said. "Most of these graduates are employed to teach in the mostly rural school districts in West Tennessee.

"This award will enable our faculty to realign our curriculum with new standards and to collaborate more intentionally with our local school systems. This grant will not only update our curriculum, but also infuse professionalism into our program through mentors."

Research indicates that many new teachers leave the field within five years of employment, Cox added, so "this is a critical component for our students and graduates to have confidence in themselves as educators and to make a difference in student achievement."

One of the identified challenges for West Tennessee schools is recruiting highly qualified teachers in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. To address that need, this award will enhance the STEM Center for Teaching and Learning and tailor a licensure program to recruit highly qualified mathematicians and science teachers into the education field.

Dr. Gail Stephens, dean of the university's College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, said that the grant would benefit both schools and the university.

"Rural school systems encounter unique impediments as compared to their urban peers in terms of limited resources for teachers and students," Stephens said. "UT Martin is uniquely poised to provide a point of collaboration among and between our education studies faculty and our local school systems to focus on issues that will result in better student outcomes and a stronger curriculum for our education graduates.

"It truly is a win-win opportunity for UT Martin and our region."

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GRANT — Improved teacher education and teacher retention are goals for a Teacher Quality Partnership grant recently awarded to the University of Tennessee at Martin by the U.S. Department of Education. UT Martin was one of 24 U.S. institutions to receive the grant. Tammie Patterson, educational studies faculty member at the UT Martin Parsons Center, is pictured in one of the center's classrooms. Dr. Betty Cox (not pictured), chair, UT Martin Department of Educational Studies, sees the grant both improving teacher education and ultimately teacher retention as well. "Education has been one of UT Martin's most sought-after majors for many years with 150 to 200 students graduating from the teacher education program each year," Cox said. "Most of these graduates are employed to teach in the mostly rural school districts in West Tennessee."

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THE JACKSON SUN • THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 2014

The Messenger, Union City Tennessee, Monday, December 8, 2014

‘Holiday at UTM’

A “Holiday at UTM” concert will be presented at 7 p.m. today in the Harriet Fulton Theatre, located in the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Refreshments will be served at 6 p.m., followed by the concert at 7, which is sponsored by the university’s Department of Music.

Tickets are $15 for persons 12 and older, $5 for students ages 6 to 11, and children under 6 years of age will be admitted free. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling 731-881-7402.

Featured performers include the New Pacer Singers, the Wind Ensemble, the Jazz Band and the University Singers.

Faculty chamber performances will also be presented.

The event will be recorded by WLJT-DT and broadcast at a later date.

UTM graduation set for Saturday

Ohio Valley Conference commissioner Beth DeBauche will deliver the fall commencement address Saturday at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Commencement exercises will begin at 11 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The ceremony will include both summer and fall graduates, and more than 600 students are eligible to participate.

The event is open to the public, but those unable to attend can watch a live commencement webcast, courtesy of the OVC Digital Network, at http://www.ovcdigitalnetwork.com/watch/?Live=2089.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises and be joined by Dr. Keith Carver.

(See Page 6, Col. 5)

UTM... (Continued from Page 1)

executive assistant to UT President Joe DiPietro, to confer degrees. UT Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Professor Dr. Nell Gullatt will be the mace bearer and the processional marshals will be faculty senate president Dr. Brian Donavan, faculty senate vice president Dr. Roberto Mancusi, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration Nancy Yarbrough and vice chancellor for university advancement Andrew Wilson.

Professor of music Dr. Elaine Harris will perform the processional and recessional music and the Rev. Dr. Lee Clements of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin will offer the invocation.

Ms. DeBauche, playing piano, and assistant professor of music Dr. Elizabeth Aleksander, playing clarinet, will offer special music following the invocation.

A reception will be held in Skyhawk Fieldhouse immediately following commencement.

Ms. DeBauche was named OVC commissioner July 29, 2009, and began her duties that September.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Relay For Life team is hand-painting Christmas ornaments for the Christmas Tree of Hope located in the UTM University Center. Purchase an ornament in honor of, or in memory of, someone who has battled cancer. At the end of the semester, take the ornament home or give it to the person it honors.

For more information, contact Linda Ramsey at 731-225-7729.

There’s a regular monthly meeting of the Alzheimer’s Support Group tomorrow morning at 10 at the Pennyrile Area Development District Office in Hopkinsville. For more information, contact Miranda Hunt at 270-886-9484.

Datebook: December 8 - Christmas Tree Sale, Painted Ornaments, Alzheimer’s Support

By KALA DURF KELP@JOURNALL.COM 10:42 AM DEC. 8, 2014

The Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree sale continues in Paducah at the Farmer’s Market Pavilion. Trees are available Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from Noon to 5, as well as weekday evenings from 4 to 8. Proceeds help provide local families with a week’s worth of groceries.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Relay For Life team is hand-painting Christmas ornaments for the Christmas Tree of Hope located in the UTM University Center. Purchase an ornament in honor of, or in memory of, someone who has battled cancer. At the end of the semester, take the ornament home or give it to the person it honors.

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http://wkms.org/
Thunderbolt Radio-UTM Can Caravan collects over 3,000 cans for We Care Ministries

Thunderbolt Radio and the UTM Student-Athlete Advisory Council collected over 3,000 cans from local schools Tuesday for We Care Ministries.

UTM student athletes from the women's basketball, rodeo, and golf programs, as well as representatives from the Student-Athlete Advisory Council participated in this year's caravan.

The Can Caravan collected 505 cans from Gleason, 355 from Greenfield, 1,323 from Martin Elementary, and 858 from Martin Primary, totaling 3,041 cans.

McKenzie FFA Competes At UTM Livestock Event

The McKenzie FFA recently competed in the West Tennessee FFA Livestock Career Development Event held on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The team placed 4th in its district. The team consisted of (l to r): Riley Toombs, Hannah Anderson, Erica Coleman, Chris Cowen, Ellie Roditis, Haley Bostwick, and Aaron Hilliard.
Santa's Village opens Thursday at ag complex

Christmas is coming soon, and that means Santa's Village is, too.

The 30th annual event is scheduled 6-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The event offers a winter wonderland for all ages to explore and an opportunity for visitors to help meet the needs of the less fortunate in the area.

Admission to Santa's Village is free, but donations for $5 worth of nonperishable food and/or toys are encouraged and appreciated.

This year's event features visits with Santa, a petting farm, amusement rides, arts and crafts, an enchanted forest with thousands of lights, live entertainment, and weather permitting, horse-drawn wagon rides Friday through Sunday. Curious George will also be on hand from 1-4 p.m. Saturday.

Murray State, UTM to hold commencement ceremonies Saturday

Both UT-Martin and Murray State will hold commencement ceremonies Saturday.

Graduation ceremonies at Murray State begin Saturday morning at 10:00 with new MSU President Bob Davies presiding over the ceremony.

873 graduates will participate in the winter commencement at Murray State.

UTM's commencement ceremony will begin Saturday at 11:00 for more than 600 graduates.

OVС Commissioner Beth DeBauche will delivery the UTM commencement address to this winter's graduates, with UTM Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes presiding over the ceremony.
Commercial Bank promotes two and hires one

Two employees have been promoted recently at Commercial Bank, and a new worker has been hired.

Lola Teague has been promoted to customer service officer and Miranda Moon promoted to assistant trust officer. Leann Oliver has been hired as a loan officer.

Teague, a graduate of Henry County High School, Jackson State Community College and Lambuth University has continued her education by taking numerous banking classes through the Tennessee Bankers Association.

Teague joined Commercial Bank in May 1997. She works at the downtown Paris office in new accounts during the week and serves as the manager at the Mineral Wells location on Saturdays.

"We appreciate what Lola Teague has done for the bank the past seventeen years," said Mott Ford, the bank's CEO. "The same work ethic that made her a basketball star at each of her schools is evident in her work at Commercial Bank. A tremendous team spirit prevails. We look forward to watching Lola continue her successful career with Commercial Bank and Trust Company."

Moon graduated from Southern Trust School in 2010 and has been an employee of the trust department at Commercial Bank since 2004. She was hired in 1999.

Oliver graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2006. She joins Commercial Bank after working in agricultural lending for the previous six years. She is originally from Lexington.

"We appreciate what Miranda has done for the bank the past fifteen years, and are excited about her promotion with the bank," Ford said. "Leann brings added experience to our lending staff, and we look forward to having her as part of the Commercial Bank lending team."

Commercial Bank has 10 locations in Paris, Memphis, Jackson and Union City.

Santa’s Village Dec. 11 - 14

Santa’s Village, the 30th annual event, is scheduled 6-9 p.m., Dec. 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 13; and 1 - 5 p.m., Dec. 14 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. Admission is free, but donations for $5 worth of nonperishable food and/or toys are encouraged.

This year’s event features visits with Santa, a petting farm, amusement rides, arts and crafts, an enchanted forest with thousands of lights, live entertainment, and weather permitting, horse-drawn wagon rides Friday through Sunday.

Santa’s Village co-sponsors are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors include: Zaxby’s, Casey’s General Store, Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza, First State Bank, MTD Products, Tyson Foods and Savant Learning Systems.

For more information, contact the Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
UT Martin Leadership Team Tours Fayette County

By: Richard Rucker

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, along with his senior leadership team from UT Martin, traveled to Fayette County November 26th to meet with local leaders, discuss plans for the proposed higher education center soon to be under construction in Somerville, and tour potential sites for the center's location.

A luncheon was held at the Career Center on the Somerville Court house Square, where distance learning and live classrooms are available through UT Martin and will soon complete its first semester of course offerings.

Following the luncheon, officials from UT Martin were given an update on the local efforts to establish the higher education center and UT Martin staff discussed with local leaders various issues and strategies for going forward. Attending the luncheon and discussion included State Senator Dolores Gresham, State Legislator Leigh Wilburn, Fayette County Mayor Skip Taylor, Somerville Vice Mayor Ronnie Neill, Executive Committee members Marlin Mosby and Richard Rucker, Career Center Director Molly McCarley, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, UTM Provost and Vice Chancellor Jerald Ogg, UTM Vice Chancellor Nancy Yarbrough, UTM Vice Chancellor Andy Wilson, UTM Assistant Vice Chancellor Charley Deal, and UTM Physical Plant Director Tim Nipp.

UTM Chancellor Tom Rakes told the group that UT Martin expects the local higher education center to become an integral component of UT Martin's very successful off-campus centers which currently are located in Jackson, Selmer, Ripley, and Parsons.

Senator Dolores Gresham and State Legislator Leigh Wilburn offered their continued support through the Tennessee Legislature and assured the group that they are anxious to provide whatever help the legislature may be able to offer as the higher education center is established. UTM's Charley Deal gave an update on local funding potentials and members of the Executive Committee discussed the status of local efforts currently underway which will identify the specific site and proceed toward construction in the near future.

UT Martin Executive Director of Off Campus and Online Studies Tommy Cates is currently completing the course offerings for the Spring 2015 Semester at the Somerville Career Center. For more information concerning the Spring Semester course offerings and admission information, please consult www.utm.edu or call the local Executive Committee Chairman Richard Rucker at 901-833-2209.

The next Executive Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 10th, at 10 a.m. at the Career Center on the Somerville Square.
UTM receives $3.3M grant

Improved teacher education and teacher retention are goals for a Teacher Quality Partnership grant recently awarded to the University of Tennessee at Martin by the U.S. Department of Education. UT Martin was one of 24 U.S. institutions to receive the grant.

The TQP program provides resources to partnerships among colleges and universities, high-need local educational agencies and high-need schools to prepare teachers to teach in high-need schools and support them in their first critical years. Research has demonstrated that teachers are the single most important element in improving student learning and achievement.

"What I like about this particular grant is that it includes emphases on all three components of the UT Martin mission — teaching, service and research," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "With so many of our (UT Martin) students coming from rural West Tennessee, this is a tremendous opportunity to work collaboratively with the local school systems to provide quality, data-driven education to our region."

The $3,324,314 grant will fund the Teacher Preparation Reinvention for Optimizing Continuous Improvement for Effectiveness and Student Success.

"The national and state accreditation process for college and university teacher education programs has been completely restructured, reflecting new higher expectations for teacher education faculty and graduates," said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. "This funding will enable UT Martin to expedite the process involving the use of outcomes-based instruction that all nationally accredited programs are required to follow."

The grant will support the transformation of the university's Teacher Education Program over the five years of funding to include mechanisms to engage and collaborate regularly with local school systems for mutually agreed upon goals, feedback and improvement.

Higher admissions standards will also be required for teacher education program candidates, and student teaching will be recon-figured to a yearlong clinical experience.

Additionally, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Center for Teaching and Learning will be developed on the UT Martin campus. A fifth-year program will be created to transition mathematics and science majors into highly qualified mathematics and science teachers.

Dr. Betty Cox, chair of the UT Martin Department of Educational Studies, sees the grant both improving teacher education and, ultimately, teacher retention.

"Education has been one of UT Martin's most sought-after majors for many years with 150 to 200 students graduating from the teacher education program each year," Dr. Cox said. "Most of these graduates are employed to teach in the mostly rural school districts in West Tennessee. "This award will enable our faculty to realign our curriculum with new standards and to collaborate more intentionally with our local school systems. This grant will not only update our curriculum, but also infuse professionalism into our program through mentorships."
UTM Student Association hosts fund drive

By David Fisher
david@dresdenenterprise.com

On Wednesday, November 26, members of the Non-Traditional Student Association (NTSA) at the University of Tennessee at Martin stopped by Santa's Helpers to donate a total of $907 collected from faculty and students during a recent fund drive at the school.

The money will help make Christmas a little brighter for local youngsters.

Mrs. Lou Ann Powers, founder and director of Santa's Helpers, said, "We had several children that asked for some things we didn't think we were going to be able to get for them. When they only ask for one thing, you hate to turn them down and get them something they didn't ask for."

The retired first grade school teacher stated the money would allow Santa's Helpers to purchase some of the items they previously didn't think they would be able to afford.

"The parents have been pretty nice about not putting down real expensive toys (on the application forms)," Mrs. Powers said. "We have some children who ask for clothes. So now, we'll have money to buy new clothes for those who didn't ask for a toy."

Mrs. Lou Ann Powers, founder and director of Santa's Helpers, accepts a check from members of the Non-Traditional Student Association (NTSA) at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Hutcherson takes part in leadership summit

Halls High School student Maddie Hutcherson attended the Rising Star Leadership Summit on Nov. 20-21 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit, sponsored by the university's West Star Leadership Program, is for selected West Tennessee high school juniors and seniors involved in leadership roles within their communities or schools. The program includes leadership team building, motivational speakers and university tours designed for specific academic interests. Also pictured is Charley Deal, executive director of West Star, and Virginia Grimes, West Star coordinator.

Six Obion Central band students named to UTM Honor Band

Six Obion Central band students were selected to the UTM Honor Band last night during a Christmas performance by the Obion Central Concert Band and Choir.

Those named to the UTM Honor Band program include: Taylor Heathcock (flute), Cecilee Morris (clarinet), Katie Kerr and Alli Priest (French horn), Tucker Pounds (trumpet), and Zack Langford (trombone).

Those selected to the UTM Honor Band were recommended by band director Jonathan Byrd as outstanding instrumentalists.

Next month, the 36th annual UTM Honor Band Festival will welcome over 350 students from West and Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky for two days of learning and performing.

The UTM Honor Band will perform January 24th, at the Fine Arts Building.

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/
HONORED — Pam Nash (center), CEO of the Exchange Club Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, received the Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Alumni Award at the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program 25th Anniversary Celebration on Nov. 6 at Discovery Park of America in Union City. Pictured with Nash are Charley Deal, WestStar executive director and UT Martin vice chancellor for alumni relations, and Peggy Daniel, of Selmer, wife of the late Jimmy Daniel, for whom the award is named.

UTM commencement webcast

December commencement exercises can be viewed on a live webcast at 11 a.m., Saturday at UT Martin.

Commencement will be held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, with more than 600 students eligible to participate. Beth DeBauche, commissioner for the Ohio Valley Conference, is the commencement speaker.

The live webcast can be viewed at http://www.ovcdigitalnetwork.com by selecting “UT Martin Commencement” from the menu.
ATTEND CONFERENCE — Among students from Westview High School attending the recent Young Writers Conference at UT Martin were (from left) Jackson Kelly, Gian Garma, Harrison Capps and Cooper Gilliam. The one-day conference was for writing enthusiasts in grades 9-12. UTM faculty taught the various workshops.

Young Writers Conference held at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently hosted the Young Writers Conference. The one-day event was for writing enthusiasts in grades 9-12. The conference offered a series of writing workshops taught by UT Martin faculty and visiting poet and writer Leslie LaChance. Students attended hands-on workshops in writing poetry, fiction, non-fiction, songwriting, literary and film analysis, writing resumes and letters of application.

Students had the opportunity to read works created during the conference, or other original writing created at home or in school. Throughout the day students created pieces of writing, connected with other young writers from the region and learned from outstanding writers and teachers of writing. Other events included a luncheon, a keynote address by Leslie LaChance and an open-mic reading for students.

LaChance teaches literature and writing at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, Tenn. Formerly on the faculty at the University of Tennessee at Martin, LaChance was one of the founders of the UTM Young Writers Conference. Her poems have appeared in a number of periodicals, and Toadlily Press published her collection, How She Got that Way, in 2013 in the chapbook quartet Mend & Hone. She is an assistant editor with Sundress Publications and a founding editor of Mixitini Matrix: A Journal of Creative Collaboration.

The UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages sponsored the conference with help from the West Tennessee Writing Project.
SANTA'S VILLAGE SET FOR DEC. 11-14 AT UT MARTIN

MARTIN, Tenn. -- Christmas is coming soon, and that means Santa's Village is, too.

The 30th annual event is scheduled 6-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13; and 1-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The event offers a winter wonderland for all ages to explore and an opportunity for visitors to help meet the needs of the less fortunate in the area.

This year's event features visits with Santa, a petting farm, amusement rides, arts and crafts, an enchanted forest with thousands of lights, live entertainment, and weather permitting, horse-drawn wagon rides Friday through Sunday. Curious George will also be on hand 1-4 p.m. Saturday.

Santa's Village co-sponsors are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors include: Zaxby's, Casey's General Store, Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza, First State Bank, MTD Products, Tyson Foods and Savant Learning Systems.

For more information, contact the Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
MADDIE HUTCHERSON, center, Halls High School student, attended the RisingStar Leadership Summit, November 20th and 21st, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit, sponsored by the university's WestStar Leadership Program, is for selected West Tennessee high school juniors and seniors involved in leadership roles within their communities or schools. The program includes leadership team building, motivational speakers and university tours designed for specific academic interests. She is pictured with Charley Deal, right, executive director of WestStar, and Virginia Grimes, left, WestStar coordinator.

Murray State, UT-Martin commencement ceremonies tomorrow

Both UT-Martin and Murray State will hold commencement ceremonies tomorrow.

Graduation ceremonies at Murray State begin at 10:00 tomorrow morning with new university president Bob Davies presiding over the ceremony.

873 graduates will participate in tomorrow's commencement at Murray State.

UTM's commencement ceremony begin's tomorrow morning at 11:00 for more than 600 graduates.

OVC Commissioner Beth DeBauche (duh-BUSH) will delivery the UTM commencement address, with UTM Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes presiding over the ceremony.
Webcast of UTM commencement planned Saturday

December commencement exercises can be viewed on a live webcast at 11 a.m. Saturday at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Commencement will be held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, with more than 600 students eligible to participate.

Beth DeBauche, commissioner for the Ohio Valley Conference, will be the commencement speaker.

The webcast can be viewed at www.ovcdigitalnetwork.com by selecting "UT Martin Commencement" from the menu.

UT Martin commencement exercises are open to the public. Tickets are not required to attend.
Discovery Park of America in Union City provided the backdrop Nov. 6 for the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 25th anniversary celebration. Approximately 200 program alumni and guests re-connected and mingled amid Dinosaur Hall exhibits as they celebrated a leadership program that includes 710 graduates since its beginning. From left: Charley Deal, WestStar executive director and UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations; Dr. Bob Smith, president emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania; Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator; and Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus. Smith and Dunagan are former WestStar executive directors.
From left: Henry Lewis, of Eads, WestStar Class of 1990; Della Ligon, of Brownsville, WestStar Class of 2003; Evelyn Robertson, of Whiteville, WestStar Class of 1997; Andrea Bond Johnson, of Brownsville, WestStar Class of 2010; Charley Deal, WestStar executive director; Gill Petty, of Jackson, WestStar Class of 1995; Harold Nance, of Alamo, WestStar Class of 2002; Anne Banks, of Brownsville, WestStar Class of 1997; Mary Jones, of Covington, WestStar Class of 2001; and Jerry Woods, of Jackson, WestStar Class of 2002.
The WestStar Class of 2011 was honored with the Loving Cup Award for the highest WestStar Alumni Association participation. Representing the 2011 class were, from left, Lindsay Frilling, of Union City; Frank McMeen, of Jackson; Teresa Sanders, of Jackson; Lisa Carlton, of Brownsville; and Michael Harper, of Lexington.
From left: Hughes Clardy, WestStar Class of 1999; Danny Walden, WestStar Class of 1996; and Steve Guttery, WestStar Class of 2009, all of Dyersburg.

Ted Moore, WestStar Class of 2001; his wife, JoRica; and their guest, Peggy Daniel, all of Selmer.

Bradley Owens, WestStar Class of 2014, and his wife, Alicia, of Medina.

Henderson Mayor Bobby King, WestStar Class of 2010, and his wife, Teresa, of Henderson.

John Clark, WestStar Class of 1994, and his wife, Janie, of Sharon.

Alyssa and Jake Bynum, of Dresden. Jake is a member of the WestStar Class of 2014.
Four faculty members at the University of Tennessee at Martin were awarded Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Awards for the 2014-2015 academic year. Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history; Dr. Paula Gale, professor of agriculture; Dr. Kurt Gorman, professor of music; and Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, will spend the spring 2015 semester participating in a variety of academic research and advancement opportunities.

Barber will produce the first chapters of a new book titled *A Hard Rain Fell: SDS and Why It Failed*. The work will focus on the history of the American New Left’s collapse and analyze the resulting anti-colonial revolution’s impact on the United States. He will conduct his research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which serves as the central archive for the Students for a Democratic Society.

Gale will conduct research in the field of soil microbiology at Kansas State. This research will give her experience in cutting-edge techniques to improve and maintain soil health. Gale hopes to bring this new information back to the classroom and keep her students at the forefront of relevant research.

Gorman will expand his doctoral dissertation, which focuses on the introduction of the trumpet to chamber music composition in 1900. His initial survey included 1,200 compositions for trumpet with wind, strings, percussion, keyboard and electronics, and he intends to conduct additional concentrated analysis of musical scores and musicological research in this area.

Hill, president-elect of the Percussive Arts Society, will spend her leave co-authoring a collection of new musical audition études for middle and high school percussion students. This collection will initially be used for regional and state auditions in Tennessee, but Hill hopes to ultimately provide the works to state music associations across the country.

The UT Martin Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Program is designed to enable participants to become more effective teachers and scholars by engaging in a variety of academic renewal experiences. Tenured faculty members with six or more years of full-time service at UT Martin are eligible to apply for a one-year leave at half salary or a half-year leave at full salary.

Awardees are chosen by the Faculty Research and Development Committee.
Gibson County Retired Teachers award scholarship

The Gibson County Retired Teachers Association (GCRTA) recently awarded a $500 scholarship to future teacher, Anna Santaniello. Santaniello, a junior at the University of TN Martin, graduated from Gibson County High School in 2012, and is majoring in special education. At UTM, she is active in Alpha Omicron Pi, intramural sports, and the University Alumni Council. She has been active in community service by participating in Special Olympics, Relay for Life, RIFA, and inner city missions in Tennessee and Kentucky. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Nick Santaniello of Medina.

GCRTA awards a scholarship each year to students who have graduated from a public high school in the county, are enrolled in a teacher education program, and have completed their sophomore year in college.

Local students attend leadership summit

GIBSON COUNTY STUDENTS ARE RISINGSTARS — MARTIN, Tenn., Dec. 9. - Madalynn Anderson, a Gibson County High School student, and Olivia Coffman, a Milan High School student, attended the RisingStar Leadership Summit, Nov. 20-21, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit, sponsored by the university’s WestStar Leadership Program, is for selected West Tennessee high school juniors and seniors involved in leadership roles within their communities or schools. The program includes leadership team building, motivational speakers and university tours designed for specific academic interests. Also pictured is Charley Deul, WestStar executive director.
OVC commissioner offers ‘life lesson’
to UT Martin graduates

COMMENCEMENT — Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner Beth DeBauche delivered the commencement address Saturday at the University of Tennessee at Martin. More than 600 summer and fall semester students were eligible to receive degrees during the ceremony.

Gail Rosson, Colin Johnson and Madison Seratt come from different hometowns and backgrounds, but each shared the same excitement on receiving their bachelor’s degrees Saturday from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

They were among more than 600 summer and fall semester students eligible to receive degrees during the 11 a.m. commencement ceremony in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner Beth DeBauche delivered the commencement address.

Rosson, a non-traditional student from Scotts Hill, has good business and accounting skills, but not having a college degree limited employment chances. That will no longer be a problem as she received a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree, which she began in fall 2008 by taking courses as she could along the way. “Oh, I’m excited,” she said as she waited in the commencement lineup. “I have waited a long, long time for this.” She credits Jim and Janet Ayers and the Ayers Foundation for providing the financial support needed for her to attend college.

The foundation’s investment in Rosson paid off as she graduated with academic honors.

His mother, Denise, several siblings and other family members, joined Skyhawk cross-country team member Colin Johnson, from Clarksville, as he graduated with a philosophy degree. He is considering the ministry or maybe joining the Air Force and becoming a military chaplain. “I’m excited,” he said outside of the Elam Center before commencement. “I’m one semester late, so I’m excited to be done, to push through.” He came to UT Martin on an athletic scholarship and values the experience. “It (cross-country) meant a world to me. That’s what brought me here for sure, because I have a great coach, Coach (Gordon) Sanders.”

Seratt, of Dyersburg, who was accompanied by her mother, Gina, and boyfriend, Josh Davis, a 2013 UT Martin graduate from Henderson, received a degree in psychology and will pursue a graduate degree in speech pathology. “I’m very excited. I’ve worked hard, but I’m very, very excited,” she said in the Elam Center concourse before the ceremony. Seratt credited her instructors and her Zeta Tau Alpha sorority sisters for making her college experience complete.

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UTM
FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, welcomed the standing-room-only crowd and introduced DeBauche, who began her duties as OVC commissioner in September 2009. The Notre Dame School of Law graduate is the seventh full-time commissioner in the OVC’s 66-plus year history and one of just nine females to lead an NCAA Division I Conference in 2014-15. The commencement ceremony was available on the OVC Digital Network, which was created after DeBauche became commissioner.

“Your family and friends are so excited to be here today, because they’re so immensely proud of you and what you’ve accomplished, and so very enthusiastic about what your future can hold,” she told the soon-to-be graduates. She recognized several class accomplishments and also noted UT Martin student athletes’ recent academic success, including the softball team’s receiving an OVC Team Academic Achievement Award. She also highlighted the national champion men’s rodeo team and the regular season and conference championships for Skyhawk women’s basketball.

DeBauche then shared four life lessons that she’s learned over the years, the first of which is having big dreams and being open to life’s surprises. “If you think about sports, you don’t hear true champions saying, ‘Gosh, I hope to finish middle of the pack this season.’ Everybody wants to be a champion, and I wish that for you as well,” she said.

After graduating from law school, DeBauche said that she expected to practice law in a medium-size general firm in the Midwest. “I always had an interest in sports and a private dream that maybe I could work somewhere in the sports industry,” she said. “But for a variety of unfounded reasons, I didn’t have the courage at the time to pursue my dreams.”

She eventually pursued the career path she wanted, thanks to support from others, personal courage made possible by that support, and “a whole bunch of good fortune.”

“What I wish for you is that as you go through life, that you have the courage to follow your dreams, to listen to your heart, have the confidence to take leaps of faith when they are necessary and the security to let life unfold before you,” she said.

Next, she urged the audience to “don’t be your own worst enemy” and to “make sure that you’re your own MVP.” She said, “Oftentimes in my own career, I saw opportunities or have been exposed to the potential to do things, but I was the one holding myself back.” DeBauche called this “a story of failure,” not for what she gained or lost, but because she was afraid to act and didn’t take the actions needed to pursue what she wanted.

“What I say to you is make sure that you get in the game and that you are an active participant in your life.” She advised each person to play on strengths, be aware of weaknesses and avoid waiting on perfection to the point of being paralyzed by indecision. “I think Voltaire’s proverb ‘perfect is the enemy of the good’ can actually be true many times in life,” she said.

In her third lesson, she advised the class to enjoy life’s journey. She gave the example of athletes practicing repeatedly to achieve success. “… Find a way to enjoy the process, find a way of enjoying the steps through your life,” and a person will be both happier and more successful, she said. “It’s the day-to-day friendships, the laughter, the challenges and the struggles that make your accomplishments all that much more rich,” she added.

“I encourage you … to enjoy the moment, to have gratitude for the things that you have, and while you maintain your dreams, make sure you enjoy life in the process.”

Lastly, she advised each person “to make sure that you’re true to yourself and that you have a good foundation.” She noted that she works “with and for highly competitive people,” and is responsible to different constituent groups. “If I didn’t have a strong sense of self and my values, I couldn’t do this job,” she said. “And if I ever waiver from my convictions, I won’t be in this position for very, very long.

“I have to be true to myself, and I suggest you will have to be true to yourself as well.”
MARTIN- Holden Stanfill (left) and Christian Nunnery, McKenzie High School students, attended the RisingStar Leadership Summit on November 20-21 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit, sponsored by the university's WestStar Leadership Program, is for selected West Tennessee high school juniors and seniors involved in leadership roles within their communities or schools. The program includes leadership team building, motivational speakers and university tours designed for specific academic interests. Also pictured is Charley Deal, WestStar executive director.
Retired teachers award scholarship

The Gibson County Retired Teachers Association (GCRTA) recently awarded a $500 scholarship to future teacher, Anna Santaniello.

Santaniello, a junior at the University of Tennessee Martin, graduated from Gibson County High School in 2012 and is majoring in special education. At UTM, she is active in Alpha Omicron Pi, intramural sports, and the University Alumni Council. She has been active in community service by participating in Special Olympics, Relay for Life, RIFA, and inner city missions in Tennessee and Kentucky.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Santaniello of Medina.

GCRTA awards a scholarship each year to a student who has graduated from a public high school in the county, is enrolled in a teacher education program, and has completed the sophomore year in college.

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Young and old alike from across the region visited Santa’s Village to enjoy the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas provided by the fantasyland.

The winter wonderland, which celebrated its 30th anniversary over the weekend, is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The four-day event, held Dec. 11-14, featured a variety of family holiday entertainment, including: the “Enchanted Forest” which provided scenes depicting the holidays; MTD model train display; amusement rides; local entertainment; a petting farm; vendor booths; wagon rides; an appearance of Curious George; a Talent Contest; and a visit by Santa.

“Santa’s Village had yet another fantastic year,” said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director.

According to Kirby, the number of visitors at this year’s Santa’s Village was 17,517, which was the second highest number ever. The highest was in 2012 when 17,810 people attended.

Admission to the larger-than-life attraction was a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys. These items make the holidays a little brighter to those less fortunate.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin.

“Santa’s Village would not be possible without the sponsors and volunteers who contribute time and money,” Kirby said.
Above Photo: Youngsters enjoy viewing animals close up at the petting zoo.

Above Photo: A view of the Enchanted Forest shows the many multi-colored Christmas lights and decorations. Some of the holiday scenes were mechanized, including a talking snowman and reindeer.

Right Photo: Four-year-old Sophie Barber, daughter of Stephanie Adams and Bradley Barber of Gleason, sits on Santa's knee, as Santa's elves look on. The elves are (l to r): Ragan Rushing, Karly Ogg, Maddy Vincent and Carli Stricklin (not pictured).
OVN commissioner offers ‘life lessons’ to UTM grads

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They were among over 600 summer and fall semester students eligible to receive degrees during the ceremony in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner Beth DeBauche delivered the commencement address.

Ms. Rosson, a non-traditional student from Scotts Hill, has good business and accounting skills, but not having a college degree limited employment opportunities. That will no longer be a problem since she received a bachelor of interdisciplinary studies degree, which she began in fall 2008 by taking courses as she could along the way.

"Oh, I’m excited," she said as she waited in the commencement lineup. "I have waited a long, long time for this."

She credited Jim and Janet Ayers and the Ayers Foundation for providing the financial support needed for her to attend college. The foundation’s investment in Ms. Rosson paid off as she graduated with academic honors.

Johnson, a Skyhawk cross-country team member from Clarksville, was joined by his mother, several siblings and other family members as he graduated with a philosophy degree. He is considering the ministry or joining the Air Force and becoming a military chaplain.

"I’m excited," he said outside of the Elam Center before commencement. "I’m one semester late, so I’m excited to be done, to push through."

He came to UT Martin on an athletic scholarship and values the experience. "It (cross-country) meant a world to me. That’s what brought me here for sure, because I have a great coach, Coach (Gordon) Sanders.”

Ms. Seratt, of Dyersburg, who was accompanied by her mother and boyfriend, Josh Davis, a 2013 UT Martin graduate from Henderson, received a degree in psychology and will pursue a graduate degree in speech pathology.

"I’m very excited. I’ve worked hard, but I’m very, very excited," she said in the Elam Center concourse before the ceremony.

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Ms. DeBauche shared four life lessons she's learned over the years, the first of which is having big dreams and being open to life's surprises.

"If you think about sports, you don’t hear true champions saying, 'Gosh, I hope to finish middle of the pack this season.' Everybody wants to be a champion, and I wish that for you as well," she said.

After graduating from law school, Ms. DeBauche said she expected to practice law in a medium-size general firm in the Midwest.

"I always had an interest in sports and a private dream that maybe I could work somewhere in the sports industry," she said. "But for a variety of unfounded reasons, I didn’t have the courage at the time to pursue my dreams.”

She eventually pursued the career path she wanted, thanks to support from others, personal courage and "a whole bunch of good fortune."

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"If I didn’t have a strong sense of self and my values, I couldn’t do this job," she said. "And if I ever waiver from my convictions, I won’t be in this position for very, very long.

"I have to be true to myself and I suggest you will have to be true to yourself, as well.”

600 students were eligible to participate.

AT GRADUATION — Among the students who participated in fall commencement Saturday at the University of Tennessee at Martin were (from left) Diyana Fisher of Dyersburg, Drae Turner of Union City, Bria Brown of Memphis and Derrickia Payne of La Grange. More than 600 students were eligible to participate in commencement, which featured Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner Beth DeBauche as keynote speaker.
Congratulations to Kali "Sharp" McNeal, who recently graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Social Work. She graduated with honors by obtaining a 3.34 GPA and was a Cum Laude graduate. She will begin her career as a Family Advocate at the Exchange Club Carl Perkins Center. She is the sister of Chester L. Sharp Sr. Pictured with her is her husband, Leon McNeal, and her parents, Chester and Stephanie Sharp, of Humboldt, TN.
New book details UT Martin’s football draft picks

It wasn’t long after Lawrence Lofaro graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin that he started talking about writing a book. In fact, he wanted to write his first book by the time he was 30 years old.

A lot has happened since then, but at the age of 51, Lofaro can now say he has written his first book and plans for the second book are underway thanks to Red Streets Media, a full-service marketing company near Fulton, Ky.

“I think just about anybody can say they are going to write a book,” Lofaro said. “The best advice I got was from newspaper columnist and author Lisa Smartt and a former English professor at UT Martin, Margrethe Alschwede. Lisa said the best thing I could do was sit down and write it. And Margrethe told me not to be afraid to write.”

A lot of times, page counts or word counts are intimidating, Lofaro said. “When I had Dr. Alschwede in class she asked for a 10-page essay and we (me and my classmates) all freaked out. It was the first week of class.

“I learned a long time ago in the world of journalism, from Dr. Robert Nunamaker and the late Hal Lester, just tell the story and don’t worry about the length. I will admit when the publisher asked for 75,000 words I was a little intimidated,” Lofaro said.

Why did that first book take 21 years you might be asking yourself? “I was afraid,” Lofaro said. “I didn’t know what to write about or what people would read. I had a friend suggest we write an interracial romance novel, and then I remembered what I learned in a public speaking class from Dorothea Northon. She sat me down in the middle of a persuasion speech because she could tell I never sold a used car in my life.

“Then I had a friend suggest I use my time as editor of the Weakley County Press as the background for a novel. When I was ready to write the novel, she wasn’t ready and I decided I had too many good times and learning experiences as the editor of The Press that I wasn’t ready to share them,” Lofaro said.

“After 12 years as the sports information director at UT Martin and several restless nights because of an unexpected illness, an idea came to me,” he said.

“I was getting several phone calls from former classmates who played football and several alumni who I had met through the years. Everyone was concerned and wanted to know how I was doing. Finally someone called and said I want to come to Martin will you plan a reunion for our fraternity (Phi Kappa Tau),”

The fraternity reunion was a success and the idea for the book was born in June.

“I wanted to write about the guys from UT Martin who were drafted to play in the National Football League,” Lofaro said. “I knew Emmanuel McNeil and Fred Thomas and some of the others but I didn’t know all the guys. I was fascinated by William MacKall and John Burch’s statistics. McNeil and I had become good friends. I knew Jerome Reinhart. In fact, I knew all the guys from 1988 and Montori Hughes. I had no idea who Julian Nunamaker, Mike Crangle or David Williams were,” Lofaro said. “Now I do. I knew my friend, Gary Capers caught a touchdown pass in the Tangerine Bowl, but I never knew Gordon Lambert or Joe Taffoni.”

Lambert, better known to many as Pig, played in the first Liberty Bowl in Atlantic City, N.J. He will be at this year’s Liberty Bowl when West Virginia plays Texas A & M for the first time in school history in Memphis.

Taffoni played for the Cleveland Browns and the New York Giants and probably had the most success NFL career of all the UT Martin players.

“When I was finished writing the book, I was disappointed that three of the guys were not in the university’s Hall of Fame,” he said. “But I can honestly say I know the rest of the story on a lot of the guys.”

Lofaro will sign copies of “Drafted” at the Looking Glass on Lindell Street from 5-7 p.m. in conjunction with Noel Night in downtown Martin, where the shops and stores will stay open late for Christmas shopping. Copies of “Drafted” are $10 each.

Red Streets Media, owned by John and Misty Cruce Watts, is a full service marketing agency that specializes in social media, radio and television commercials, extensive marketing evaluations and consultations, logo designs, pamphlets, flyers, training videos, phone systems and promotional items.

Red Streets Media also assists in book cover designs, self publishing, full service social media, press releases, video production for book trailers, audio books and promotional items (swag).

While a student at UT Martin, Cruce interned for Lofaro in the Office of University Relations.
FACULTY AWARDS — Four University of Tennessee at Martin professors recently received Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Awards to conduct personal research during the 2014-15 academic year. Those receiving awards include (from left) Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history; Dr. Paula Gale, professor of agriculture; Dr. Kurt Gorman, professor of music; and Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music.

UT Martin faculty members receive awards to pursue research interests

Four faculty members at the University of Tennessee at Martin were awarded Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Awards for the 2014-15 academic year. Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history; Dr. Paula Gale, professor of agriculture; Dr. Kurt Gorman, professor of music; and Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, will spend the spring 2015 semester participating in a variety of academic research and advancement opportunities.

Barber will produce the first chapters of a new book titled "A Hard Rain Fell: SDS and Why It Failed." The work will focus on the history of the American New Left's collapse and analyze the resulting anti-colonial revolution's impact on the United States. He will conduct his research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which serves as the central archive for the Students for a Democratic Society.

Gale will conduct research in the field of soil microbiology at Kansas State. This research aims to give her experience in cutting-edge techniques to improve and maintain soil health. Gale hopes to bring this new information back to the classroom and keep her students at the forefront of relevant research.

Gorman will expand his doctoral dissertation, which focuses on the introduction of the trumpet to chamber music composition in 1900. His initial survey included 1,200 compositions for trumpet with wind, strings, percussion, keyboard and electronics, and he intends to conduct additional concentrated analysis of musical scores and musicological research in this area.

Hill, president-elect of the Percussive Arts Society, will spend her leave co-authoring a collection of new musical audition etudes for middle and high school percussion students. This collection will initially be used for regional and state auditions in Tennessee, but Hill hopes to ultimately provide the works to state music associations across the country.

The UT Martin Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Program is designed to enable participants to become more effective teachers and scholars by engaging in a variety of academic renewal experiences. Tenured faculty members with six or more years of full-time service at UT Martin are eligible to apply for a one-year leave at half salary or a half-year leave at full salary.

Award recipients are chosen by the Faculty Research and Development Committee.
NEW GOAL — There's a new basketball goal at the Martin Recreation Complex, thanks to a generous donation from UT Martin's Shape Club. The goal is located on the west side of the park and includes a newly paved court that will soon be lined. Among those taking part in the official ribbon cutting were Laura Taylor, Amy David, Curt McAdams, Destiny Davis, athletic coordinator Adam Reddick, Shape Club president Kate Kucherenko, Abbey McDaniel and Shape Club advisors Andrea Stevenson and Josh Greer.
UTM’s Bell named All-American

Skyhawks linebacker Tony Bell, who recently wrapped up his senior season at UT-Martin, has been an All-American linebacker by the Associated Press and College Sports Madness.

It’s the second straight year Bell has garnered All-American status. The 6-1, 200-pound Memphis native was named as a second team All-American by College Sports Madness and a third team honoree by the Associated Press.

For his career, Bell accumulated 237 tackles, 45 tackles for loss, a school-record 22.5 sacks, seven forced fumbles, six fumble recoveries and a pair of interceptions.

A two-time All-OVC first team honoree, Bell helped the Skyhawks to 26 overall victories over his four-year career.
Three UT Martin students get Meek Leadership Awards

Three students were honored at the UT Martin fall commencement exercises for their outstanding commitments to community service and leadership.

Amy Belote, of Martin; Constance Bonds, of Gates; and Amber Thompson, of Arlington, each received Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Awards during commencement exercises Dec. 13, according to a news release.

The Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award is given to graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. Paul Meek served as UT Martin chancellor from 1934-67. The award originally was established and funded by the three Meek children to honor their parents' longtime commitment to the university.

Belote majored in organismal biology. She served as director of the university's Relay for Life campaign during her junior and senior years and was instrumental in raising $26,000 for the American Cancer Society — a new record, the release said. Belote also participated in the Medical Horizons Program at Quillen College of Medicine in Johnson City in 2012. She was selected from 500 applicants and received hands-on experience in medical rotations. She currently works at the Discovery Park of America in Union City.

Bonds majored in psychology. She served the University of Tennessee system as a student council member on the presidential search committee, was active in UT Martin's Black Student Association and participated in many election campaigns by promoting candidates and helping her fellow students register to vote in Weakley and Obion counties.

Thompson majored in cell and molecular biology and intends to attend medical school, according to the release. She served as president of the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Eta Sigma honor society and helped that organization contribute 2,500 canned goods to the Rotaract Can Sculpture Contest to benefit WeCare Ministries. She also served as both executive director and logistics chairwoman for the UT Martin Up 'til Dawn organization.

All three received bachelor of science degrees at the fall commencement.
Eleven countians receive degrees from UTM

Eleven Henry County residents received degrees during the recent fall commencement ceremony at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Students receiving graduate degrees included Kathy Lorene Webb of Mansfield, and Taren P. Hatcher and Lisa Marie Wade, both of Paris.

Students receiving undergraduate degrees included Zachariah Shayne Carper, Katherine Elise Dicus and Emily Michelle Ford, all of Henry; and Toni Ruth Belasic, Paige Alea Elizondo, Kristel Marie Frazier, Gary Shane Shepherd and Morgan Elisabeth Todd, all of Paris.

UTM to offer hybrid MBA program

The University of Tennessee at Martin will launch a new format for students seeking master's degrees in business administration, beginning with the fall 2015 semester.

The new hybrid option features online coursework combined with face-to-face contact with faculty members on five Saturday meetings a semester, according to a news release. The format gives students the flexibility to begin any semester and work at their own pace with limited trips to campus.

The hybrid program, like the online option, consists of 38 credit hours with only six hours of undergraduate prerequisites. The program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the release said.

Full-time students may finish in a year and half, with some courses offered completely online and others in the hybrid format.
Santa's Village: A snapshot from the 30th annual holiday extravaganza held Dec. 11-14 at UT Martin’s ag complex.
Santa's Village: A snapshot from the 30th annual holiday extravaganza held Dec. 11-14 at UT Martin's ag complex.

UT Martin extended campus offers reading clinic

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer three reading clinic sessions on Jan. 14–Feb. 11, Feb. 12–March 23 and March 24–April 27 on the UT Martin campus. Sessions can be scheduled from 3-7 p.m. twice per week. Students will meet for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Students will participate in an intensive reading improvement course taught by experienced professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center. The clinic is for students in grades 2–12 who need extra support and practice in reading. Students will be individually tested to determine their specific phonics and comprehension levels and placed into a course of study designed to build skills and fill gaps in their reading abilities.

Each session is $100, plus a $25 workbook needed for the class. For more information about the reading clinic sessions or to register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php or call the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 881-7082.
LEADERSHIP AWARDS — Amy Belote of Martin, Constance Bonds of Gates and Amber Thompson of Arlington received Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Awards during UT Martin’s fall commencement exercises Dec. 13 for their commitments to leadership and community service. Pictured are (from left) Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs, Belote, Bonds and Thompson.

UT Martin honors Amy Belote with Meek Leadership Award

Amy Belote of Martin was one of three students honored at the UT Martin fall commencement exercises for outstanding commitments to community service and leadership.

Belote, Constance Bonds of Gates and Amber Thompson of Arlington each received Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Awards during commencement exercises Dec. 13.

The Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award is given to graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin.

Paul Meek served as UT Martin chancellor from 1934-67. The award was originally established and funded by the three Meek children to honor their parents’ longtime commitment to the university.

Belote majored in organismal biology. She served as director of the university’s Relay for Life campaign during her junior and senior years and was instrumental in raising $26,000 for the American Cancer Society — a new record. She also participated in the Medical Horizons Program at Quillen College of Medicine in Johnson City in 2012. She was selected from 500 applicants and received hands-on experience in medical rotations. She currently works at the Discovery Park of America in Union City.

Bonds majored in psychology. She served the University of Tennessee system as a student council member on the presidential search committee, was active in UT Martin’s Black Student Association and participated in many election campaigns by promoting candidates and helping her fellow students register to vote in Weakley and Obion counties.

Thompson majored in cell and molecular biology and intends to attend medical school. She served as president of the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Eta Sigma honor society and helped that organization contribute 2,500 canned goods to the Rotaract Can Sculpture Contest to benefit WeCare Ministries. She also served as both executive director and logistics chairperson for the UT Martin Up ‘til Dawn organization.

All three received Bachelor of Science degrees at this semester’s commencement.
GRADUATES — More than 600 were eligible to participate in fall commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Dec. 13 at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Local students graduating included (from left) Laura Croom of Greenfield, Ben Rollins of McKenzie and Taren Hatcher of Greenfield. Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner Beth DeBauche as keynote speaker.

100 PERCENT PASS RATE — The 2013-14 class of UT Martin dietetic interns achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the Registered Dietitians Examination. University officials joined the students for a photo to recognize the achievement. Pictured are (from left) Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; Dr. Sue Byrd, chair, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; interns Emily Turbeville, Nolensville; Chelsea Guetherman, Brentwood; Hannah Christiansen, Memphis; Kristen Hagarty, Weddington, N.C.; and Denise Bell, Union City. Also pictured is Dr. Todd Winter, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
Local Residents Receive Degrees From UT-Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Atwood – Stephen Marshall Miller;
- Bruceston – Elijah Dylan Castell; Mason Randall Pinson; Tasha Nicole Webb;
- Hollow Rock – Jade Nicole Douglas;
- Huntingdon – Tracy LeAnne Hayes Barrett; Benjamin Lloyd Carter; Robert Everett Eskew; Noah Jay Pierce; Tyler Brian Simpson;
- McKenzie – Luke Wesley Anderson; Cara E. Chadwick; Kristy Teresa Kalinowski; Jamie Devon Mills; Kristen Dee Mitchell; Matthew Connor Moore; Shabree Deval Payne; Benjamin Tyler Rollins; Andrew T. Watts;
- McMiddlesville – Jacob Mark Abel; Xavier Martel Cunningham;
- Trezevant – Lindsey Kay Springer.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Hollow Rock – Jern LaRanda Thrarpe;
- Huntingdon – Lindsay Reid Anderson; Jessica L. Todd;

Local residents earn degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Bradford – Natalie Anneliese Alexander; Gordon A. Counts; Emily Laura Cunningham; Candace Renee Jennings; Jordan Rae McDade;
- Dyer – Gary W. Anderson; Kayla McCoy Barkley; Sherry René Dodson; Mary Louise McCaslin; William Clayton Morris; Samuel Thomas Reed;
- Humboldt – Tabitha Jean Causie; Kenisha K. Champion; April Michelle Gonzales; Cassidy Mya McKinnie; Tamara Shree Moore-Buford; Nathan Andrew Powers; Jonathan Andrew Rice; Kali Renee Sharp;
- Idlewild – Matthew Robert Bryan;
- Medina – Katy Reynolds; Michelle Nicole Scott;
- Milan – John Boyd Browning; Kelsey Leann Daniels; William C. Fuller; Wendi Michelle Goodwin; Gwendolyn Nichelle Harman; Ashley Nichole Mathes; William Dalton Gibson McCurry; Brent Allen Ramsey; Simon M. Saputo; Emily Sara Shelton;
- Zachary A. Sutton; Natalie Kay Taylor; Karen Kaye Threadgill; Jennifer Lynn Timmons; Latoya Doral White;
- Rutherford – Amanda Paige Burruss; Heather Nicole Griffin; Jeannie Carol Mathis;
- Trenton – Raechelle Jenene Bolden; Peyton E. Bunn; Amanda Michele Geater; Niki Lynn Hensley; Kirby Nicole Lancaster; Lindsay Nichole Moore; Brian Alan Pipkin; Jared Hunter Whitby.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Bradford – Kendra Ruth Pollard;
- Dyer – John William Paramore;
- Medina – Deborah J. Sheehan;
- Milan – Coy L. Hazlewood; Adrienne Leigh Rainey;
- Yorkville – Callie Dawn Tharpe Coats.
Local dietetic interns earn 100% pass rate
Brentwood's Chelsea Guetherman and Nolensville's Emily Turberville, were among the 2013-14 class of UT Martin dietetic interns who achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the Registered Dietitians Examination.
University officials joined the students for a photo to recognize the achievement.
Pictured from left to right: Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; Dr. Sue Byrd, chair, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; interns Emily Turberville, Nolensville; Chelsea Guetherman, Brentwood; Hannah Christiansen, Memphis; Kristen Hagarty, Weddington, N.C.; and Denise Bell, Union City. Also pictured is Dr. Todd Winter, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Fulton residents receive degrees from UTM during Fall Commencement
Several Fulton County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent fall commencement held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees included David Alton Weatherly, Hickman, and Miesha Kwame Hutcherson, Fulton.
The student receiving a graduate degree was Chrystal Fleener, of Fulton.

Obion Countians receive degrees
Several Obion County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent fall commencement held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.
The students receiving undergraduate degrees were from South Fulton, Reid Elliott Barker, Joshua Thomas Bennett, Colin Skylar Cherry, Maeghan Michelle Eaves, Jonathan Lucas French, Jonathan Blake Hamlin, Brittany LeighAnne Johnson, and Adam David Tolley.
The student receiving a graduate degree was Scarlett H. McKinney, of South Fulton.
Local residents receive UTM degrees

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Trenton: Raechelle Jeanene Bolden, Peyton E. Bunn, Amanda Michele Geater, Niki Lynn Hensley, Kirby Nicole Lancaster, Lindsay Nichole Moore, Brian Alan Pipkin, Jared Hunter Whitby;
- Bradford: Natalie Ann Elise Alexander, Gordon A. Counts, Emily Laura Cunningham, Candace Renee Jennings, Jordan Rae McDade;
- Dyer: Gary W. Anderson, Kayla McCoy Barkley, Sherry Renee Dodson, Mary Louise McCaslin, William Clayton Morris, Samuel Thomas Reed;
- Humboldt: Tabitha Jean Causey, Kenisha K. Champion, April Michelle Gonzales, Cassidy Mya McKinnie, Tamara Shreve Moore-Buford, Nathan Andrew Powers, Jonathan Andrew Rice, Kali Renee Sharp;
- Idlewild: Matthew Robert Bryan;
- Medina: Katy Reynolds, Michelle Nicole Scott;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Bradford: Kendra Ruth Pollard;
- Dyer: John William Parramore;
- Yorkville: Callie Dawn Tharpe Coats;
- Medina: Deborah J. Sheehan;
- Milan: Coy L. Hazlewood and Adrienne Leigh Rainey.

New UTM ‘hybrid’ program allows flexibility, convenience

The University of Tennessee at Martin will launch a new format for those seeking master’s degrees in business administration, beginning with the fall 2015 semester.

The new “hybrid” option features online coursework combined with face-to-face contact with faculty members on five Saturday meetings a semester. This format gives students the flexibility to begin any semester and work at their own pace with limited trips to campus.

The hybrid program, like the online option, consists of 38 credit hours with only six hours of undergraduate prerequisites. The program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Full-time students should expect to finish in a year and a half, with some courses offered completely online and others in the hybrid format. Part-time students should finish in two to six years.

This option will not replace the totally online MBA currently offered for financial services professionals. Enrollment is open now and students can choose to begin in any semester.

For more information, call 731-881-7208 or email bagrad@utm.edu.
UTM student elected to serve as FFA Southern Region vice president

Stephen McBride, a junior agriculture business major from Beechgrove, was elected to serve as the southern region vice president for the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization earlier this fall.

Delegates at the 87th National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Ky., elected McBride to represent the southern region of the country after he completed an eight-part interview process. The FFA executive team consists of six members selected from chapters across the United States.

According to the FFA, national officers commit to a year of service and travel more than 100,000 national and international miles to lead training conferences, form policies and interact with industry leaders, FFA members, state leaders and the public to promote agricultural education.

“This has been a dream of mine for many years, ever since I saw my first FFA executive team. It’s something I’ve always hoped I could do and I am honored to have this opportunity now,” McBride said.

McBride will take a leave of absence from UT Martin and spend this next year visiting local and state chapters across the country, spending about 300 nights away from home. He will also spend two weeks in Japan learning about that country’s agricultural education programs.

McBride continues a long family tradition of FFA leadership. His father, Mark, served as Tennessee Association state president in 1980-81 and his brother, Matthew, held the same position in 2006-07. Both are also UT Martin graduates.

There have been 13 national FFA officers from Tennessee, but McBride is the first from UT Martin.

“UT Martin is a great place for agricultural students to get plugged into whatever degree they want to be involved in and to get involved in collegiate FFA,” McBride said. The UT Martin chapter has seen

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FFA
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many honors in the past few years as well. “Success just happens with having great people and great students that really are happy to be here and are happy to compete and represent their university,” McBride explained.

James Butler, a UT Martin agricultural education professor, was also honored by the organization earlier this past year. Butler was named a National VIP, the highest honor awarded by the organization, for his contributions to the FFA.

The National FFA Organization’s mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing leadership potential, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

It currently provides these services to 610,240 student members from 7,665 local chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Dresden: James Tyler Adkins, Charles Harold Alley, Lisa Christyne Baskette, Katherine Nicole Blaylock, Corey Allen Brock, Benjamin David Brooks, Donna Michelle Davidson, Larry Lee Gallimore, Monica Mechelle King, Dillon Thomas Matlock, Kristi Levister Parsley, Eric Lee Smith and Dana Diane Stanfill;
- Gleason: Kelly Lynn Hatley, Billy Fred Reeves and Katie L. Snider;
- Greenfield: Cody Lane Clanton, Laura Elizabeth Croom, Timothy Matthew Dehart, Pannayiotta Eleni Edmonston, Barbara Ann Manning, Curt Watson McAdams, Cody Dale Ricketts, Mallory Kay Robinson, Michael D. Thompson, Carl Russell Whitlow and Megan Ann Witherington;
- Palmersville: Jannie Elizabeth Reed, Crockett Dwain Stephens;
- Sharon: James Kevin Klutts, Kayla Brooke White;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dresden: Amanda Jane Armstrong, David Edward Chambliss, Sunny Jackson Cooksey;
- Martin: William P. Bishop, Rebecca Nicole Covington, Kayla Renee Evans, Thomas Glynn Pate, Crista Glover Ponder, Amy Hopper Tuck, Jen Chieh Tung and Elizabeth A. Williams.
Local Students Receive Degrees

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
* Dresden — James Tyler Adkins, Charles Harold Alley, Lisa Christyne Baskette, Katherine Nicole Blaylock, Corey Allen Brock, Benjamin David Brooks, Donna Michelle Davidson, Larry Lee Gallimore, Monica Mechelle King, Dillon Thomas Matlock, Kristi Levister Parsley, Eric Lee Smith, Dana Diane Stanfill;
* Gleason — Kelly Lynn Hatley, Billy Fred Reeves, Katie L. Snider;
* Greenfield — Cody Lane Clanton, Laura Elizabeth Croom, Timothy Matthew Dehart, Pamayiotta Ellen Edmontson, Barbara Ann Manning, Curt Watson McAdams, Cody Dale Ricketts, Mallory Kay Robinson, Michael D. Thompson, Carl Russell Witherington;
* Palmersville — Jannie Elizabeth Reed, Crockett Dwain Stephens;
* Sharon — James Kevin Klutts, Kayla Brooke White;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
* Dresden — Amanda Jane Armstrong, David Edward Chambliss, Sunny Jackson Cooksey;
* Martin — William P. Bishop, Rebecca Nicole Covington, Kayla Renee Evans, Thomas Glynn Pate, Crista Glover Ponder, Amy Hopper Tuck, Jen Chieh Tung, Elizabeth A. Williams.

Belote Honored With Leadership Awards

Amy Belote, of Martin; Constance Bonds, of Gates; and Amber Thompson, of Arlington, received Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Awards during UT Martin’s fall commencement exercises December 13 for their commitments to leadership and community service. Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs, Belote, Bonds and Thompson.
Hybrid’ MBA Program Available

The University of Tennessee at Martin will launch a new format for those seeking master’s degrees in business administration, beginning with the fall 2015 semester.

The new “hybrid” option features online coursework combined with face-to-face contact with faculty members on five Saturday meetings a semester. This format gives students the flexibility to begin any semester and work at their own pace with limited trips to campus.

The hybrid program, like the online option, consists of 38 credit hours with only six hours of undergraduate prerequisites.

The program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Full-time students should expect to finish in a year and half, with some courses offered completely online and others in the hybrid format. Part-time students should finish in two to six years.

Enrollment is open now and students can choose to begin in any semester. For more information about the program, call (731) 881-7208 or email bagrad@utm.edu.

HICKMAN HONOREE – David Weatherly of Hickman, Ky., who graduated earlier this month from the University of Tennessee at Martin, was voted by his classmates to receive the Kelly W. Murray Excellence in Portfolio Management Award for fall semester. The award, named for the late son of Dr. Sandra and William Murray, recognizes outstanding effort and dedication managing the UT Martin TVA stock portfolio in conjunction with the TVA Investment Challenge. Sandra Murray, associate professor of education, congratulated Weatherly following the presentation recently. TVA’s Investment Challenge is a partnership between TVA and 25 universities in its service territory that provides a real-world learning experience in portfolio management by allowing students to manage actual stock portfolios. Weatherly earned a bachelor of science in business administration degree with a major in finance. The lifelong Hickman resident plans to work full-time in the financial services industry while pursuing an MBA degree at UT Martin. Weatherly is president of the Fulton County (Ky.) Board of Levee Commissioners and Weatherly Farms Inc. He is serving his second term as mayor pro tem for the City of Hickman.
100 PERCENT — The 2013-14 class of University of Tennessee at Martin dietetic interns achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the Registered Dietitians Examination. University officials joined the students recently to recognize the achievement. Among those who gathered were (from left, front) Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; Dr. Sue Byrd, chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; interns Emily Turbeville of Nolensville, Chelsea Guetherman of Brentwood, Hannah Christiansen of Memphis, Kristen Hagarty of Weddington, N.C., and Denise Bell of Union City, and (back right) Dr. Todd Winter, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
Students Earn UT-M Degrees

Several Lauderdale County residents were among students who received degrees December 13th from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall commencement exercises held in the Kathlleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.


Joy Lynn Warwick, of Ripley, received a graduate degree.

CONSTANCE BONDS, of Gates, was among students at the University of Tennessee at Martin, who were honored with a Paul and Martha Meek Leadership award during commencement exercises December 13th for their commitments to leadership and community service.

The Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award is given to graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. Paul Meek served as UT Martin chancellor from 1934-67. The award was originally established and funded by the three Meek children to honor their parents' longtime commitment to the university.

Bonds majored in psychology and received a Bachelor of Science degree. She served the University of Tennessee system as a student council member on the presidential search committee, was active in UT Martin's Black Student Association and participated in many election campaigns by promoting candidates and helping her fellow students register to vote in Weakley and Obion counties.
Local Resident Graduates From UT Martin

Lauren Barber, of Adamsville (left), Danielle Stagner, of Munford, and Leslie Serrano, of Drummonds, participated in fall commencement at UT Martin, Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. More than 600 students were eligible to participate in commencement, which featured Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner Beth DeBauche as keynote speaker.

Local Residents Receive Degrees From UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Adamsville - Lauren Leigh Barber, Hilary Brann Combs, Zachary Scott Congiardo, Sarah Joyce Killingsworth, Rachel Walker Kimmons, Mallory Dawn Leath, Doug Patrick Young;
- Bethel Springs - Karrie Ann Duncan, Sherry Ann Taylor;
- Fingertown - Janet Elizabeth Perry-Martinez;
- Miche - Destiny BreeAnn Lingelbach-Merryman, Calinda Lee Wilbanks;
- Selmer - Tammy Michelle Blakely, Callie Anne Forman, John P. Glover, Victoria Elaine Key, Christopher Don Kirk, Michael Brent Lambert, Denessa Jade McCullar, Laura Diane Perkins, Hannah LaMac Wagoner;
- Stantonville - Lauren Elizabeth Cooper, Justin Lynn Jones, Ethan Sayer Sweat, Steven Brett White;

The student receiving a graduate degree was:
- Ramer - Sarah Beth Dotson.

Victoria Key, is joined by Matt Youngblood, both of Selmer. They participated in fall commencement at UT Martin, Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. More than 600 students were eligible to participate in commencement, which featured Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner Beth DeBauche as keynote speaker.
LOCAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE DEGREES FROM UT MARTIN

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:


Pinson — Heidi Ann Bailey.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

Jackson — Lindsey Morse Bradford, Anna E. Wells, Audra Lynn Yates.
Grant to transform UT Martin teacher program

Local schools to benefit as well

By UT Martin

MARTIN — Improved teacher education and teacher retention are goals for a Teacher Quality Partnership grant recently awarded to the University of Tennessee at Martin by the U.S. Department of Education.

UT Martin was one of 24 U.S. institutions to receive the grant.

The Teacher Quality Partnership program provides resources to partnerships among colleges and universities, high-need local educational agencies and high-need schools to prepare teachers to teach in high-need schools and support them in their first critical years.

Research has demonstrated that teachers are the single most important element in improving student learning and achievement.

“What I like about this particular grant is that it includes emphasis on all three components of the UT Martin mission — teaching, service and research,” said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

“With so many of our UT Martin students coming from rural West Tennessee, this is a tremendous opportunity to work collaboratively with the local school systems to provide quality, data-driven education to our region.”

The $3.3 million grant will fund the Teacher Preparation Reinvention for Optimizing Continuous Improvement for Effectiveness and Student Success.

“The national and state accreditation process for college and university teacher education programs has been completely restructured, reflecting new higher expectations for teacher education faculty and graduates,” said Dr. Tom Rakes.

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Grant

Continued from Page B1

university chancellor.

“This funding will enable UT Martin to expedite the process involving the use of outcomes-based instruction that all nationally accredited programs are required to follow.”

The grant will support the transformation of the university's Teacher Education Program over the five years of funding to include mechanisms to engage and collaborate regularly with local school systems. Higher admissions standards also will be required for teacher education program candidates, and student teaching will be reconfigured to a yearlong clinical experience.

Additionally, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Center for Teaching and Learning will be developed on the UT Martin campus. A five-year program will be created to transition mathematics and science majors into highly qualified mathematics and science teachers.

Dr. Betty Cox, chairwoman of the UT Martin Department of Educational Studies, sees the grant improving teacher education and ultimately teacher retention.

“Education has been one of UT Martin's most sought-after majors for many years with 150 to 200 students graduating from the teacher education program each year,” Cox said. “Most of these graduates are employed to teach in the mostly rural school districts in West Tennessee.

Research indicates that many new teachers leave the field within five years of employment, Cox said, so “this is a critical component for our students and graduates to have confidence in themselves as educators and to make a difference in student achievement.”

One of the identified challenges for West Tennessee schools is recruiting highly qualified teachers in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. To address that need, the award will enhance the STEM Center for Teaching and Learning and tailor a licensure program to recruit highly qualified mathematics and science teachers into the education field.

Dr. Gail Stephens, dean of the university's College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, said the grant will benefit both schools and the university.

“It truly is a win-win opportunity for UT Martin and our region.”
Four UTM faculty members awarded leave for research

Four faculty members at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been awarded Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Awards for the 2014-2015 academic year, according to a news release.

David Barber, associate professor of history; Paula Gale, professor of agriculture; Kurt Gorman, professor of music; and Julie Hill, associate professor of music, will spend the spring 2015 semester participating in a variety of academic research and advancement opportunities.

Barber will produce the first chapters of a new book titled "A Hard Rain Fell: SDS and Why It Failed." The work will focus on the history of the American New Left's collapse and analyze the resulting anti-colonial revolution's impact on the United States, according to a news release. He will conduct his research at the University of Wisconsin Madison, which serves as the central archive for the Students for a Democratic Society.

Gorman will expand his doctoral dissertation, which focuses on the introduction of the trumpet to chamber music composition in 1900. His initial survey included 1,200 compositions for trumpet with wind, strings, percussion, keyboard and electronics, and he intends to conduct additional concentrated analysis of musical scores and musicological research in this area.

Hill, president-elect of the Percussive Arts Society, will spend her leave co-authoring a collection of new musical audition etudes for middle and high school percussion students, the release said. The collection initially will be used for regional and state auditions in Tennessee, but Hill hopes to ultimately provide the works to state music associations across the country.

The UT Martin Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Program is designed to enable participants to become more effective teachers and scholars by engaging in a variety of academic renewal experiences. Tenured faculty members with six or more years of full-time service at UT Martin are eligible to apply for a one-year leave at half salary or a half-year leave at full salary.

Award winners are chosen by the Faculty Research and Development Committee.
David Weatherly, who graduated Dec. 13 from the University of Tennessee at Martin, received the Kelly W. Murray Excellence in Portfolio Management Award for the fall semester. Sandra Murray, associate professor of education, is pictured with Weatherly following the presentation Dec. 3.

David Weatherly, who graduated Dec. 13 from the University of Tennessee at Martin, was voted by his classmates to receive the Kelly W. Murray Excellence in Portfolio Management Award for the fall semester.

The award, named for the late son of Dr. Sandra and William Murray, recognizes outstanding effort and dedication in managing the UT Martin Tennessee Valley Authority stock portfolio in conjunction with the TVA Investment Challenge, according to a news release.

TVA’s Investment Challenge is a partnership between TVA and 25 universities in its service territory that provides a real-world learning experience in portfolio management by allowing students to manage actual stock portfolios.

Weatherly earned a bachelor of science in business administration degree with a major in finance, the release said. The lifelong Hickman, Ky., resident plans to work full time in the financial services industry while pursuing an MBA degree at UT Martin.

Weatherly is president of the Fulton County Board of Levee Commissioners and Weatherly Farms Inc. He is serving his second term as mayor pro tem for the city of Hickman.

Pam Nash (center), CEO of the Exchange Club Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Charley Deal and Peggy Daniel.

Pam Nash accepts WestStar award for making a difference

Pam Nash, CEO of the Exchange Club Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, received the Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Alumni Award at the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program 25th anniversary celebration on Nov. 6 at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

The Make-A-Difference Award is named for the late Jimmy Daniel, field representative for Tennessee Gov. Don Sundquist and a member of WestStar's first graduating class in 1990, according to a news release. Individuals selected must have a strong record of leadership in West Tennessee during the past five years and be active participants in WestStar. Nash is the 14th recipient of the award.

Nash is involved with the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Tennessee Council of Social Work, Southwest Council of Children and the United Way executive council, the release said. She has won several awards, including Outstanding Social Worker of the Year and the Angel Award in 2011 for outstanding work in helping to make life better for others.

WestStar is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program and was created in 1989 to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants, according to the release. The program has 710 graduates since its beginning.
Franklin couple gives $250K to WestStar

By UT Martin

MARTIN — Robert and Ramona Smith, of Franklin, recently supported the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program with a $250,000 deferred gift.

Smith, president-emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, was a co-founder of WestStar and served as the program's executive director from 1999 until his departure from UT Martin in 1999.

"WestStar was founded with the goal of bringing like-minded community and civic leaders together to focus on issues facing West Tennessee and to create a network of individuals to advocate for the resources needed to improve local communities. WestStar boasts 710 graduates since its inception and oversees three major leadership summits and two youth leadership summits annually, in addition to the seven-month leadership program."

"The Smiths represent the very best in that they are choosing to support a unique, community-based program linking the university with stakeholders throughout the region. Doing so helps ensure the success and sustainability of WestStar as a premier leadership program," said Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

"The vision and foundation established by Dr. Smith and others has created this wonderful mechanism for economic development and social engagement across West Tennessee," added Charley Deal, WestStar executive director.

"This gift will allow us to address the changing regional landscape and continue to develop a premier leadership program recognized throughout the United States."

Deal and longtime program coordinator Virginia Grimes continue to direct the program, which is entering its 26th year.

Rakes recognized Smith in October as the recipient of the Chancellor's Award for University Service, presented annually to an individual whose contributions enable the university to meet its mission of service to the region.

For more information regarding the WestStar Leadership Program, visit www.utm.edu/weststar.

Madison County student attends leadership summit

Nicole Henry, a Home Life Academy student, attended the RisingStar Leadership Summit on Nov. 20-21 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The summit, which was sponsored by the university's WestStar Leadership Program, is for selected West Tennessee high school juniors and seniors involved in leadership roles within their communities or schools, according to a news release.

The program includes leadership team building, motivational speakers and university tours designed for specific academic interests.
WestStar leadership program receives $250,000 deferred gift, enters 26th year

MARTIN — Dr. Robert and Ramona Smith of Franklin recently supported the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program with a $250,000 deferred gift.

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“We strongly believe our communities and our region will respond to inspired leadership,” Smith said. “We see that the people involved with WestStar — whether as alums, trustees, friends or staff — are dedicated to improving West Tennessee, and we felt it was important to provide some tangible way to assure their work is made possible.”

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For more information regarding the program, visit www.utm.edu/weststar.
Stephen McBride picked to serve as southern region VP

UT Martin

MARTIN - Stephen McBride, a junior agriculture business major from Beechgrove, was elected to serve as the southern region vice president for the National Future Farmers of America Organization earlier this fall.

Delegates at the 87th National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Ky., elected McBride to represent the southern region of the country after he completed an eight-part interview process. The FFA executive team consists of six members selected from chapters across the United States.

According to the FFA, national officers commit to a year of service and travel more than 100,000 national and international miles to lead training conferences, form policies and interact with industry leaders, FFA members, state leaders and the public to promote agricultural education.

"This has been a dream of mine for many years, ever since I saw my first FFA executive team," McBride said. "It's something I've always hoped I could do, and I am honored to have this opportunity now."

McBride will take a leave of absence from UT Martin and spend this next year visiting local and state chapters across the country, spending about 300 nights away from home. He also will spend two weeks in Japan learning about that country's agricultural education programs.

McBride continues a long family tradition of FFA leadership. His father, Mark, served as Tennessee Association state president in 1980-81, and his brother, Matthew, held the same position in 2006-07. Both are also UT Martin graduates.

There have been 13 national FFA officers from Tennessee, but McBride is the first from UT Martin.

"UT Martin is a great place for agricultural students to get plugged into whatever degree they want to be involved in and to get involved in collegiate FFA," McBride said.

The UT Martin chapter has seen many honors in the past few years as well.

"(Success) just happens with having great people and great students that really are happy to be here and are happy to compete and represent their university," McBride explained.

James Butler, a UT Martin agricultural education professor, also was honored by the organization earlier this past year. Butler was named a National VIP, the highest honor awarded by the organization, for his contributions to the FFA.

The National FFA Organization's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing leadership potential, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

It currently provides these services to 610,240 student members from 7,665 local chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

UT Martin student Stephen McBride was elected earlier this fall to serve as the southern region vice president for the National Future Farmers of America Organization. McBride is a junior agriculture business major from Beechgrove.
TISL delegates achieve milestones during 45th General Assembly

University of Tennessee at Martin students left their mark on the 45th General Assembly of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature last month in Nashville. TISL is an annual event that provides college students with real-world experience about the workings of the Tennessee General Assembly. Among the UT Martin delegation’s accomplishments were earning TISL’s Carlisle Award for the second time and having three of nine delegates elected to the TISL executive council.

The proceedings include debates and lobbying for bills among delegates. Bills that pass at TISL move to the actual Tennessee General Assembly for consideration. Laws about meningitis vaccinations and seat belts originated from TISL student bills. The experience also includes an appellate moot court that benefits students considering law school. More than 40 colleges and universities participated, the most ever to attend TISL.

John Domanski, a junior political science major from Dickson and UT Martin’s current Student Government Association president, became involved in TISL almost from the time he arrived on the Martin campus and is an enthusiastic proponent of the experience. “My PEP leaders were both in TISL and really encouraged me to do it,” he said. Peer Enabling Program or PEP leaders are students selected to assist incoming freshmen in the transition to college life. Seeking and screening potential TISL members is an ongoing process.

“We do an application process, and usually a lot of people don’t hear about TISL, so we really have to search out (participants),” Domanski added. Good candidates for TISL include students who are good speakers and are interested in politics or media. Current members conduct interviews with potential members. Membership records over the years are not exact, but recruiting appears effective because this year’s 24-student delegation is possibly the largest ever from UT Martin and arguably one of the more successful.

Rikki Erwin, a freshman communications major from Brighton, brought home UT Martin’s second-ever Carlisle Award, which recognizes effectiveness in a delegate’s legislative chamber. Delegates who earn this award were effective speakers, successful in securing votes on legislation from other delegates, and placed motions strategically to either kill bills or bring them forward.

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TISL
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In addition, Domanski was named an outstanding senator, and the moot court team went to the semifinals for the first time in university history. “On top of everything else, we had three of the nine executive council officers for the state come straight from UT Martin, which is something that hasn’t been done in over a decade,” he said.

Domanski said that preparation for the General Assembly is a main reason UT Martin has experienced more success at TISL. In recent years, the university’s delegation is divided into specific areas for practice, such as media and legislative, and led by a chair with previous experience in the General Assembly. “So it’s a great way to make sure that all the new people get well prepared months ahead of time, whereas in the past we were only preparing a month before,” he said.

The preparation paid off last year when Jamie Arnett, a May 2014 UT Martin graduate, became the first UT Martin student to be elected TISL governor since 1974. She was the first female governor from UT Martin, the first female governor since 2002, and only the fourth female governor in TISL history.

Domanski sees many benefits of TISL membership, whether delegates are elected to office or simply participate in the proceedings.

“I think the best part about this experience is it’s something that I want to do in my future,” he said. “My final goal in my life is to become a U.S. senator, and even though this is on the state level you really get a good understanding of how our Tennessee legislature works, and I think it’s great to be able to get to meet people like (Tennessee) Secretary of State Tre Hargett.”

The networking opportunities at TISL are also invaluable, he added, which includes “meeting people who are out there in the real world looking for internships and jobs on an everyday basis, which is a great opportunity for anyone at college.”

The UT Martin delegation is already planning for 2015 when the 46th General Assembly of TISL will be held Nov. 12-15. Domanski will return as a delegate for his senior year, and TISL will continue to receive guidance from Dr. Chris Baxter, longtime TISL faculty adviser.

UT Martin graduate honored for his campus safety work

HONORED — UT Martin graduate Nathan Powers and this wife, Emily, are pictured in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on Dec. 13 before fall commencement. Nathan Powers was honored for his campus safety work.
Nathan Powers' journey through college ended Dec. 13 when he received a bachelor's degree in information systems during fall commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. However, his contributions to the university as a student worker will long be remembered and appreciated.

Powers, 26, filled a part-time student worker position in which he regularly inspected about 1,000 fire extinguishers and automated external defibrillators—a job that kept him on the move during his final two years in college and put his classroom knowledge to practical use. His hard work and ingenuity earned him the Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award for fall semester.

The award, presented in November, included a plaque and $1,000 recognizing outstanding student worker performance. The award is named after the late Beth Maloan, director of budgeting and payroll at the time of her death in 2001 and a proponent of experience-based work opportunities for students.

"I was very honored to receive the award," Powers said. "It's very prestigious in my mind because I've always been taught to do the best job you can, no matter what you're doing."

Powers, who is from Possum Trot near Humboldt, attended Gibson County High School and played saxophone in the band. His parents, Clayton and Paula, taught him the importance of helping people and stirred his interest in emergency management. Paula is currently training and operations officer for the Gibson County Emergency Management Agency, where her volunteer work turned into a full-time position. His own volunteer experience with the county's EMA began at age eight.

"During natural disasters I would help with storm spotting," Powers said. "I went to all those classes and learned how to do that."

He also earned his amateur radio license and voiced a nightly weather report from his home-based weather station. "It was kind of funny hearing this little eight-year-old kid come over the radio to some of the guys," he recalled.

Powers' early experience prepared him for one of the region's most tragic weather events. In spring 2006, he decided to skip his senior marching band trip to Hawaii, so he was home when the April 2 tornado outbreak occurred in West Tennessee. Bradford and the surrounding area in Gibson County were among the hardest hit. "As soon as it was clear enough for us to get our equipment moving, we were there on the scene and just doing everything we could to help people," he said.

A few months later, Powers enrolled at UT Martin as an engineering student, but his career goals lacked direction—leading to a change in 2010 influenced by his emergency management background. "I like building things, and the (engineering) theory just wasn't as interesting to me as I thought it was going to be," he said. "So, I left the university and went to work at Weakley County Emergency Management and Emergency 911 Center, and there I helped to upgrade their entire 911 system to get it next-gen 911 ready."

This part-time work opportunity led Powers to focus more clearly on his interests, and he returned to the university in fall 2012 to study information systems. Along with a fresh start in college came another work opportunity with the university's Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Among his safety-related duties: a monthly inspection of more than 900 portable fire extinguishers and some 50 AEDs to ensure them to be in proper working order.

"I was basically given a list of all the equipment and where it was located, a set of keys and basic instructions on my responsibilities as far as what I was supposed to check," he explained. "And I had to take care of managing my time all on my own and just make sure that everything was checked out each month per National Fire Protection Association specifications."

Not only did Powers accomplish these primary duties, but with programming assistance from Steve Lemond in the Office of Information Technology Services, he also helped to implement a tracking system for the monthly inspections. He considers this his biggest accomplishment, which was made possible by applying what he learned in an information systems course project.

"Before we were doing this all with pen and paper on a clipboard, and we moved this to the digital age using an iPad, bar codes and a database system set up over in the IT department," he said. "... It cuts out a lot of the paperwork we had to do after we did our monthly checks."

Powers' supervisors were impressed with his achievements and said so when completing the Beth Maloan Award nomination form. "Nathan Powers' abilities, initiative, enthusiasm and support for our entire campus program allow him to stand out among his peers," wrote Doug Sliger, the university's emergency management coordinator and safety specialist. "Mr. Powers will continue to be a positive reflection on the University of Tennessee at Martin long after his graduation."

Nathan's wife, Emily, originally from Trenton, said that her husband "relished the challenge of making the system easier for whoever comes after him."

"He is just a hard worker in everything he does," she said. "He has a passion for making everything better and doing his best."

Next up for the couple is a move on faith to Nashville, where both will test the employment market. Emily, who completed a master's degree in family and consumer sciences from the university in 2013, will use her education and experience to work with children.
Locals receive degrees from UT Martin

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

Receiving undergraduate degrees were Kristina Nichole Butrum and Colleen Brianne Johnson, of Lebanon; and Jessica Lee Knox, Elizabeth Ann Propst and Jordan Lee Sims.

Receiving graduate degrees were Christopher A. Schwartz and William Jeremy Spires, of Mt. Juliet.

At the college level

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

Scarlett H. McKinney of South Fulton was among those who received graduate degrees from UT Martin.

Among those who received undergraduate degrees were:
- Hornbeck — Susan B. Douglas and Terri Diana Whitmore.
- Obion — Amanda Lynn Jones and William Brian Randolph.
- South Fulton — Reid Elliott Barker, Joshua Thomas Bennett, Colin Skylar Cherry, Maeghan Michelle Eaves, Jonathan Lucas French, Jonathan Blake Hamlin, Brittany LeighAnne Johnson and Adam David Tolley.
- Troy — Jordan Nicole Barker, Adrienne R. Devasier and Cory Adam Luther.
- Union City — Emma Christine Adams, William H. Arnold, Garrison Browning Barnes, Mary Alyxis Crews, Kimberly Joyce Crue, Makala Rashun Daniels, Felicia Carmen Freeman, Jonathan David Fuchs, Elizabeth Carol Fuller, Steven Graham Gossett, Bradley D. Harris, Katie Lynn Hawks, Jim Hays Hunt, Treymar Dionte Johnson, Hillary Paige Jones, Madeline Kathleen Lucas, Juan Jose Mora Rivas, Katelyn Elizabeth Searcy, Leann Louise Staser, Katherine A. Townes, Sarah Catherine Triplet, Rodriguez Dedrae Turner, Jennifer Alejandra Villa, Samantha D. Webber, William Philip Wesner and Jody Lynn Wright.

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