The Fall 2005 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award was presented to Jesse Lott at a recent Academic Speaker Series event. Lott is a chemistry major and has worked in the Margaret N. Perry Children's Center for the past year.

Lott began as a student employee in the children's center and now holds an assistant position. His responsibilities cover a broad spectrum, from assisting the director in the office to teaching in the preschool class. In his role as office assistant to the director, his duties range from filing and answering the phone to posting fees and charges in the system and handling work-study time sheets. He also provides services for the teachers, such as research to find teaching resource materials and computer assistance to locate needed information. Lott has also taken on the task of writing the monthly newsletter for the children's center, which is part of day care standards to maintain a three-star rating.

"His quality work and conscientious efforts have proven especially valuable to the children's center in this area," Leanne Snider, Lott's supervisor said.

Aside from his 25-hour work week, Lott is a senior with a 3.30 grade point average and plans to attend pharmacy school. He is involved in student activities, such as intramural sports and clubs.

Beth Maloan became a strong advocate for student employment during her years of service at UT Martin as the director of budgeting and payroll. She had a vision that more positions would be developed on campus that would challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university's mission.

She co-chaired a study group to enhance student employment and led that group to establish the goal of creating an Outstanding Student Employee Award. After she lost her battle with cancer in April 2001, the Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award was established.

This award is given each fall and spring semester to a student who exhibits excellence in academic performance and who demonstrates a strong work ethic and a commitment to the university.

Recipients receive a $500 cash award and a plaque.

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

The New Ballet Ensemble (NBE), of Memphis, is coming to the dance studio of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Nov. 10. Director Katie Smythe Thines will teach an open ballet master class from 4-5:15 p.m. The company will perform a short program comprised of four pieces at 5:30 p.m. The performance will last 30 minutes. A brief question-and-answer period will follow.

Katie Smythe Thines is a native of Memphis. She has danced professionally in Minnesota, New York and Los Angeles. She also enjoyed an acting career before returning to Memphis to raise her family and continue a career in ballet. Thines has opened the New Ballet Ensemble at the Icehouse in Midtown Memphis. This is the first ballet school in midtown Memphis in 35 years.

"In my professional experience, I've seen many schools of dance, good and not so good. NBE is truly one of the finest anywhere in the USA," said Claudia Morris, assistant professor of dance at UT Martin. "Katie provides comprehensive ballet training with the additional training dancers need to succeed in the competitive world of the performing arts. They receive conditioning experience in other dance forms, and opportunities for choreographing. I applaud her for her professionalism and for upholding the highest standards of dance education."

NBE has generated much excitement in Memphis. Huger Foote, of Memphis, after seeing the company perform, said, "The dancers were superb, giving up everything they had with skills I would expect only from a company in New York City or Los Angeles. When it comes to choreography and design, Katie is the real thing!"

"New Ballet Ensemble has proven itself to be one of the best dance facilities in America. After nearly 18 years in the business of dance, I have never seen an arts organization that has developed as solidly as that of NBE. With her outstanding background and unconditional devotion to NBE, Ms. Thines has given each and every one of her students the opportunity to cultivate a love for dance," said Andrew Allagree, dancer with Richard Alston Dance Company and instructor and choreographer at The Place in London. "After being exposed to the finest of classical ballet training, used by dance professionals with both national and international reputation, I am certain that great careers in the world of dance will find these young developing artists."

The company will be performing the following pieces: "Silencios," choreographed by Noelia Garcia Carmona, "People Get Ready," choreographed by Kevin Guy, "SHE," choreographed by Kevin Guy and "Carmina Burana," choreographed by NBE dancer Christopher Roberts.

The admission fee is $5, inclusive for the master class and performance. For more information, contact Morris at 881-7355.

Phi Kappa Phi recognizes top students

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society chapter will meet to recognize the top 3 percent of the university's first- and second-year students. The meeting will be at 7 p.m., Nov. 9, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center. This year's Phi Kappa Phi lecturer, Dr. Ernest Moser, dean of UT Martin's College of Business and Public Affairs, will speak to the group on "The Future of Baccalaureate Education: Business and Beyond." Dr. Jerald Ogg, president of Phi Kappa Phi, will preside at the meeting.

Phi Kappa Phi is a national honor society founded more than 100 years ago to cultivate a deep appreciation and respect for learning. It is dedicated to recognizing and promoting excellence in higher education, draws its membership from all fields of study. Outstanding juniors and seniors are invited for membership in Phi Kappa Phi during the spring semester.

Senior Preview Day set for Nov. 12 at UT Martin

The second of two Senior Preview Days is set for Nov. 12, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Senior Preview Days are opportunities for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. Each event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life.

Representatives of UT Martin will provide information and answers to students' questions on a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid; college and housing costs; and the various university academic programs.

Registration for the Senior Preview Day, Nov. 12, will be from 11:30 a.m. - noon in the Elam Center.

Registration will be followed by a welcome and general information session; the university's academic fair, which will take place in the Elam Center; academic department visits and campus tours.

For more information about Senior Preview Day activities and events, call the UT Martin admissions office at (800) 829-UTM1 or 881-7020.
Pulitzer Prize winner to speak at Martin

Dr. James McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former president of the American Historical Association, will speak at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 7, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His appearance is part of the Academic Speaker Series and is sponsored by Honors Programs and the Vertical Immersion Program. The lecture will end with a brief question-and-answer period. A reception will follow the lecture.

McPherson is the dean of American Civil War scholars and the George Henry Davis ’86 Professor Emeritus of History at Princeton University. An author and scholar, he has published more than a dozen books and more than 100 articles and reviews. Among numerous honors and awards, his “Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era” won the Pulitzer Prize for history and his “For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War” won the Lincoln Prize. He will speak on “When Will This Cruel War Be Over? The Failure of Peace Negotiations, 1864-1865.”

“James McPherson is the most prominent Civil War scholar of the past 30 years,” said Dr. Dan McDonough, director of UT Martin Honors Programs. “His book, ‘Battle Cry of Freedom,’ is the standard text used in many college courses. Rarely do we have the opportunity to host a speaker of Dr. McPherson’s reputation and, given the interest that West Tennesseans have in the Civil War, this promises to be a most interesting evening.”

The Academic Speaker Series annually brings distinguished scholars, writers and performers to the UT Martin campus. All lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, contact McDonough at dannm@utm.edu or 881-7436.

Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant planned for Nov. 19th

Plans are underway for the combined University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant to be staged at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 19, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin. The winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the 2006 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the city of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

Valli Kugler Kelly, 2002 Miss Tennessee and twice Miss UT Martin, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Crowning their successors will be 2005 Miss UT Martin Mandy Hopper, of Milan, and 2005 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Kayla Hockett, of Humboldt.

“Miss UT Martin is one of our premier student events,” said David Belote, interim vice chancellor for student affairs. “It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to compete in the pageant and to be able to advance to the Miss Tennessee Pageant. Likewise, the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant gives young women in the area an opportunity to compete and move onto the Miss Tennessee Pageant.”

“It gives me so much pleasure to work with this pageant as the executive director,” said Lynn Gibson, of the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant. “I know that we will crown two lovely women who will represent our university and our city so well. It is exciting to know that the scholarship money won will help in their pursuit of an education and aid them to be the best that they can be.”

Contestants in the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will compete in several categories including presence and poise in evening wear, lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit, presentation and community achievement, talent and an overall composite score based on an onstage question asked of each contestant. The winners of each crown will receive a $1,500 scholarship, a $200 gift certificate from Joann’s of Union City, a $200 gift certificate from Lana’s in Martin, an official crown, an official Miss America crown pin and flowers. The first runner-up will receive a $500 scholarship and flowers. The second runner-up will receive a $200 scholarship and flowers. A $50 scholarship and flowers will go to Miss Congeniality, a non-finalist talent winner, and a non-finalist swimsuit winner.

Deadline to register for the pageant is Nov. 4, and applications from all UT Martin students should be returned to David Belote, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, Office of Student Life, Student Life Center. All others should be sent to Lynn Gibson, 580 Sandhill Road, Martin, TN 38237.

General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Pageant are $10. UT Martin students may purchase $5 tickets in advance. General admission and advanced tickets can be purchased at the Boling University Center.

For more information, contact pageant executive directors, Lynn Gibson at 588-2570 or lynngibson@frontiernet.net.
Miss UTM, Miss Soybean pageants set

Mandy Hopper, Milan
to crown her successor

Plans are underway for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant to be staged at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 19, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin. The winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the 2006 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer.

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For more information, contact Lynn Gibson at 731-588-2570 or lynnigibson@frontiernet.net.

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For more information about Senior Preview Day activities and events, call the UT Martin admissions office at 1-800-829-UTM1 or 731-881-7020.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, November 2, 2005

OC author to speak at UTM

The West Tennessee Historical Society will meet on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin at noon Saturday in Room 125 of the Boling University Center, located at the west end of the main dining hall.

Obion Countian Bill Threlkeld, author and farmer, will be the featured speaker.

Threlkeld has lived in the Woodland Mills area most of his life. He has co-authored several books dealing with the history of Obion County, including "A Time Returned," a pictorial history of Obion County; "Doing Our Job," a history of the men and women of Obion County during World War II; and "Roads Less Traveled," a book about Obion County historical sites.

At the meeting, Threlkeld will present "The Reelfoot Lake Night Rider Incidents." These incidents, during 1907 and 1908, developed over conflicts between local residents and the West Tennessee Land Company about land titles to Reelfoot Lake and the surrounding area. A residue of the conflict remains today.

The meeting is free of charge and open to the public. Attendees may go through the line in the dining hall, get their meal and take it to Room 125. The meeting should convene at about 12:45 p.m.

For more information, contact Dr. Lonnie E. Maness by e-mail at lmaness@utm.edu.
Martin pageant slated for Nov. 19

Plans are underway for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant to be staged at 7:30 p.m., Nov 19, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin.

The winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the 2006 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin even is open only to UT Martin students.

Valli Kugler Kelly, 2002 Miss Tennessee and twice Miss UT Martin, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Crowning their successors will be 2005 Miss UT Martin Mandy Hopper, of Milan, Tenn., and 2005 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Kayla Hackett, of Humboldt, Tenn.

“Miss UT Martin is one of our premier student events,” said David Belote, interim vice chancellor for student affairs. “It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to compete in the pageant and to be able to advance to the Miss Tennessee Pageant. Likewise, the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant gives young women in the area an opportunity to compete and move onto the Miss Tennessee Pageant.”

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For more information, contact pageant executive director Lynns Gibson at 731-588-2570 or lynngibson@frontiernet.net.

Students to present woodwind chamber concert at UT-Martin

An evening of woodwind chamber music by students at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be presented Nov. 15, at 8 p.m., in the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

Groups performing include the UT Martin flute choir, the UT Martin clarinet choir, a woodwind quintet, saxophone quartet, clarinet quartet and a flute, clarinet and piano trio.

Among the selections to be performed are Catherine McMichael’s “Gaelic Offering,” a four-movement Celtic piece for flute choir; Paul Taffanel’s “Quintet for Winds”; a transcription for clarinet choir of the Latin motet “Batti quorum via” by Charles Villiers Stanford; a special setting of a Renaissance polyphonic work by Orlando Gibbons for saxophone quartet; and a flute choir arrangement by Nancy Fencil of J. S. Bach’s “Sheep May Safely Graze.”

There is no admission charge and the public is invited to attend. For more information contact Harris at 731-581-7411 or elaineh@utm.edu.
Dr. James McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former president of the American Historical Association, will speak at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 7, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His appearance is part of the Academic Speaker Series and is sponsored by Honors Programs and the Vertical Immersion Program. The lecture will end with a brief question-and-answer period. A reception will follow the lecture.

McPherson is the dean of American Civil War scholars and the George Henry Davis '86 Professor Emeritus of History at Princeton University. An author and scholar, he has published more than a dozen books and more than 100 articles and reviews. Among numerous honors and awards, his "Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era" won the Pulitzer Prize for history and his "For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War" won the Lincoln Prize. He will speak on "When Will This Cruel War Be Over? The Failure of Peace Negotiations, 1864-1865."

"James McPherson is the most prominent Civil War scholar of the past 30 years," said Dr. Dan McDonough, director of UT Martin Honors Programs. "His book, "Battle Cry of Freedom," is the standard text used in many college courses. Rarely do we have the opportunity to host a speaker of Dr. McPherson's reputation and, given the interest that West Tennesseans have in the Civil War, this promises to be a most interesting evening."

The Academic Speaker Series annually brings distinguished scholars, writers and performers to the UT Martin campus. All lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, contact McDonough at danmc@utm.edu or 731-881-7436.

Dr. James McPherson

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The Gazette, Trenton, Tennessee

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Pulitzer Prize winner to speak at UT Martin November 7

Dr. James McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former president of the American Historical Association, will speak at 7:30 p.m., November 7, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His appearance is part of the Academic Speaker Series and is sponsored by Honors Programs and the Vertical Immersion Program. The lecture will end with a brief question-and-answer period. A reception will follow the lecture.

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More Gibson County students choose UTM

Additional Gibson County students are part of a record enrollment at the University of Tennessee at Martin, which led public universities in the state with the largest increase in preliminary fall student numbers.

The fall 2005 enrollment reflected a 6.2 percent increase compared to fall 2004. There are 477 students from the county currently attending UT Martin, up from 417 last fall.

Total enrollment for fall 2005 was 6,484, compared to the fall 2004 total of 6,104 students.

"We are happy that more Gibson County students have chosen UT Martin and are part of the university's fourth consecutive record enrollment," said Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor. "Our faculty and staff provide students with an excellent educational product and this year's enrollment and retention speak to their dedication."
Vanguard Theatre presents ‘Midsummer Night’s Dream’ November 10-13

Vanguard Theatre at the University of Tennessee at Martin will present "A Midsummer Night’s Dream," by William Shakespeare, November 10-13, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on the UT Martin campus. It is the first of three productions planned during the 2005-06 season.

Evening performances begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinee at 3 p.m.

Shakespeare’s timeless comedy is about a group of lovers who spend the night in the forest, where they are victims of fairies, pranks and enchantments. The play features three interlocking plots, all of which are connected by a celebration of the wedding of Duke Theseus of Athens and the Amazonian Hippolyta. Rollicking fun and merriment abound when two young Athenian men, both in love with the same woman, become involved in a maze of romantic entanglements, when major issues arise between Oberon, king of the fairies, and his estranged wife, Titania, and when a troupe of lower-class artisans hired to perform at the wedding festivities blunder into the forest for their rehearsal. When it’s all over, you won’t be confused, you’ll be amused and delighted with the beloved magical romantic romp. “Lord, what fools these mortals be!”

Cast members and their roles include the following: Anne Albrecht, Memphis, Puck; Derrick Casey, Humboldt, Lysander; Judy Chappell, Martin, Starveling; Andrea Cash, Memphis, dancer; Will Cook, Martin, Demetrius; Eric Danz, Martin, Quince; Morgan Darden, Collierville, dancer; Brandon Douglas, Jackson, Flute; Stephanie Dowell, Franklin, Hermia; Jessica Eslinger, Newport, fairy; Bobby Gilkey, Memphis, Oberon; Joyce Harris, Dyersburg, Philostrate; Megan Hollis, Lebanon, dancer; Jennifer Horbelt, Memphis, Titania; Natalie Horbelt, Memphis, Peasblossom; and Jonathan Johnson, Hornbeam, Snug.

Others are: Nikki Johnson, Alamo, dancer; B.J. Keeton, Lawrenceburg, Egeus; Nick Mounts, Centerville, Snout; Anderson Nichols, Torrington, Connecticut, Theseus; Annie Pelfrey, Mt. Juliet, Hippolyta; Grant Pugh, Milan, Bottom; Ana Shaw, Knoxville, Helena; Tori Shaw, Dyer, dancer; Jessica Jo Sims, Dyer, Moth; Leighanna Sims, Dyer, Mustardseed; Ashley Spicer, Ripley, Cobweb; Sandy Tolar, Union City, Starveling and Shawanna Vester, Memphis, dancer.

Admission prices are $5 for students and $10 for all others.

WestStar graduates’ knowledge, expertise extended via bureau

Capitalizing on the knowledge, expertise and leadership skills of WestStar Leadership Program graduates, a speakers’ bureau has been established to share that knowledge. Speakers on a variety of topics, ranging from health care, economic development, leadership strategies and public and private partnerships, will provide programs for civic, church and educational organizations. They also are available for a host of other venues.

The project was developed by the WestStar Alumni Council Continuing Education Committee. Speakers will be available at no charge.

“WestStar graduates,” said Nick Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor and WestStar director. “WestStar is equipping graduates to take on the challenges of applied leadership.”

Currently, there are 50 graduates available to fill speaker requests throughout West Tennessee. The WestStar Web site is the clearinghouse for speakers’ bureau activities. There is information regarding the purpose, policies and procedures for using the service and reserving speakers.

Included on the Web site is a listing of speakers and their topics with contact information. The Web site address is: http://www.utm.edu/westar.

For more information, contact Virginia Grimes at 731-881-7298 or vgrimes@utm.edu.
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Admission prices are $5 for students and $10 for all others.

The box office operates from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily beginning November 7. It opens two hours before the curtain nightly.

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"One of the priorities of the WestStar Alumni Council has been to develop a speakers' bureau that would facilitate access to the wealth of leadership skills and knowledge of WestStar graduates," said Nick Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor and WestStar director. "WestStar is equipping graduates to take on the challenges of applied leadership."

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For more information, contact pageant executive directors, Lynn Gibson at 731-588-2570 or lynngibson@frontiernet.net.
Lott receives Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award

Jesse Lott, of Savannah, was presented the 2005 Beth Maloan UT Martin Outstanding Student Employee Award at a recent Academic Speaker Series event at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Lott is employed at the Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center on the UT Martin campus.

Pictured from left are Lott, Jennifer Maloan Stroh, Maloan’s elder daughter, and David Belote, interim vice-chancellor of Student Affairs.

The Fall 2005 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award was presented to Jesse Lott at a recent Academic Speaker Series event. Lott is a chemistry major and has worked in the Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center for the past year.

Lott began as a student employee in the children’s center and now holds an assistant position. His responsibilities cover a broad spectrum, from assisting the director in the office to teaching in the preschool class. In his role as office assistant to the director, his duties range from filing and answering the phone to posting fees and charges in the system and handling work-study time sheets. He also provides services for the teachers, such as research to find teaching resource materials and computer assistance to locate needed information. Lott has also taken on the task of writing the monthly newsletter for the children’s center, which is part of daycare standards to maintain a three-star rating.

“His quality work and conscientious efforts have proven especially valuable to the children’s center in this area,” said Leanne Snider, Lott’s supervisor.

Aside from his 25-hour workweek, Lott is a senior with a 3.30 grade point average and plans to attend pharmacy school. He is involved in student activities, such as intramural sports and clubs.

Beth Maloan became a strong advocate for student employment during her years of service to UT Martin as the director of budgeting and payroll. She had a vision that more positions would be developed on campus that would challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university’s mission. She co-chaired a study group to enhance student employment and led that group to establish the goal of creating an Outstanding Student Employee Award. After she lost her battle with cancer in April 2001, the Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award was established. This award is given each fall and spring semester to a student who exhibits excellence in academic performance and who demonstrates a strong work ethic and a commitment to the university. Recipients receive a $500 cash award and a plaque. Contributions to this scholarship award may be made through payroll deduction by employees of UT Martin or by sending a contribution to the Office of Development at UT Martin.

Court Justice, Pro Football Hall-of-Famer speaks at UT Martin

Phil Bright, University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Human Resources director, spoke to Alan Page, justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court and Pro Football Hall-of-Famer, following his recent presentation as part of the UT Martin Academic Speakers Series. Page spoke about creating educational opportunities for underprivileged children and legal and judicial issues.
Munkel, manager of UT Martin dining services, dies

Mike Munkel, longtime manager of the University of Tennessee at Martin dining services and recipient of state and national community service awards, died October 27 in Jackson.

"Mike was a beloved figure at UT Martin," said UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan. "He cared deeply about students and went out of his way to make students feel like the cafeteria was their home away from home. He was a great man and we will all miss his smile and his love for this campus."

A memorial service will be conducted at 2:00 p.m., November 2, in the Boling University Center's Skyhawk Cafeteria. The service is open to the campus community and the public. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the Mike Munkel Second Chance Scholarship Fund to benefit students who are re-enrolling at the university. Those donations can be sent to the Office of Development, 328 Hall-Moody Administration Building, University of Tennessee at Martin, TN 38238.

"Mike Munkel was a pure joy to work with and to be around," said David Belote, UT Martin interim vice chancellor for student affairs. "Mike loved all people, and he acted on his love by organizing and performing unselfish acts of kindness and service to the students, faculty and staff of UT Martin, and to those in need in our community."

He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Southwestern Minnesota State University, Marshall, Minnesota, and joined the UT Martin staff in 1984. He served as Sodexo Dining Services general manager, who oversees UT Martin's food services area.

"Mike's heart was in the right place. He cared about the students and would go that extra mile for anyone," said Roetta McCutcheon, Munkel's administrative assistant, who had worked with him for 14 years. "He was community-minded. He was the kind of man that every man would want to be, but would never be," noting that no one could fill his shoes.

Munkel, who was active in community activities, was honored in 2003 by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for outstanding community service work. He was one of 10 persons receiving the Harold Love Community Service Award after being selected from a field of Tennessee college and university nominees.

Among his many civic endeavors, Munkel led efforts in recent years to fill Christmas stockings and Easter baskets with gifts for underprivileged children. Also, for more than 10 years, Munkel has been in charge of providing food for Camp Celebration, a recreational camp for the mentally retarded. The camp is held at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park near Memphis and is staffed by volunteers.

"Helping others," he said in a 2003 interview, "is good for your soul, your heart and your general health." He added, "I know I am blessed with my circumstances in life. Anything I can do to make another person's life easier just makes me feel a little more fulfilled."

In 2002, Munkel was recognized for his commitment to community and service with the Sodexo Service Spirit Award for Customer Satisfaction. He was chosen for the award from among 10,000 eligible company employees in North America.

Munkel was nominated for the company-wide award on the merit of his many community activities. In addition to the Easter and Christmas projects and Camp Celebration service, other projects included visiting local primary schools to teach students about safety in the kitchen.

"I'm very proud, but I don't know what I did to earn this," he said on receipt of the national award. "It's fun. When you live in Martin, Tennessee, it's very easy. What did I do to earn this? I love doing. We try to do all we can to help. It's one of our passions."

Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is November 19

Plans are underway for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant to be staged at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 19, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin. The winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the 2006 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

Vali Kugler Kelly, 2002 Miss Tennessee and twice Miss UT Martin, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Crowning their successors will be 2005 Miss UT Martin Mandy Hopper, of Milan, and 2005 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Kayla Hockett, of Humboldt.

Miss UT Martin is one of our premier student events, said David Belote, interim vice chancellor for student affairs. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to compete in the pageant and to be able to advance to the Miss Tennessee Pageant. Likewise, the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant gives young women in the area an opportunity to compete and move onto the Miss Tennessee Pageant.

It gives me so much pleasure to work with this pageant as the executive director, said Lynn Gibson, the Miss UT Martin Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant. I know that we will crown two lovely women who will represent our university and our city so well. It is exciting to know that the scholarship money won will help in their pursuit of an education and aid them to be the best that they can be.

Contestants in the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will compete in several categories including presence and poise in evening wear, lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit, presentation and community achievement, talent and an overall composite score based on an on-stage question asked of each contestant. The first crown will receive a $1,500 scholarship, a $200 gift certificate from Joann's of Union City, a $200 gift certificate from Lana's in Martin, an official crown, an official Miss America crown pin and flowers. The first-runner up will receive a $500 scholarship and flowers. The second runner-up will receive a $200 scholarship and flowers. A $200 scholarship and flowers will go to Miss Congeniality, the non-finalist talent winner, and a non-finalist swimsuit winner.

Deadline to register for the pageant is Nov. 4, and applications from all UT Martin students should be returned to David Belote, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, Office of Student Life, Student Life Center. All others should be sent to Lynn Gibson, 800 Sandhill Road, Martin, TN 38237.

General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Pageant are $10. UT Martin students may purchase $5 tickets in advance. General admission and advanced tickets can be purchased at the Boiling University Center.

For more information, contact pageant executive directors, Lynn Gibson at 731-588-2570 or lynngibson@frontiernet.net.
Woodwind concert scheduled

A special evening of woodwind chamber music by students at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be presented at 8 p.m. Nov. 15 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

Groups performing include the UT Martin flute choir, the UT Martin clarinet choir, a woodwind quintet, a saxophone quartet, a clarinet quartet and a flute, clarinet and piano trio. These groups are under the direction of Dr. Elaine Harris, professor of flute and piano, and Dr. Amy Simmons, assistant professor of clarinet and saxophone.

Among the selections to be performed are Catherine McMichael’s “Gaelic Offering,” a four-movement Celtic piece for flute choir; Paul Taffanel’s “Quintet for Winds”; a transcription for clarinet choir of the Latin motet “Beati quorum via” by Charles Villiers Stanford; a special setting of a Renaissance polyphonic work by Orlando Gibbons for saxophone quartet; and a flute choir arrangement by Nancy Fencil of J. S. Bach’s “Sheep May Safely Graze.”

There is no admission charge and the public is invited to attend.

For more information, contact Harris by telephone at (731) 881-7411 or by e-mail at elaineh@utm.edu.

Get Out! • Nov. 3, 2005

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION DIVERSITY WEEK
Monday through Nov. 12 at UT Martin. Events include a march, flag ceremony, food fair, forum and rally.

ART EXHIBITIONS: MICHAEL HESTER, BRETT SKELTON, JOSHUA JOHNSON
5 p.m. opening Tuesday in the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin.

RODEO BOOSTER CLUB
RUNNING AND ROPING SHOW
6 p.m. Nov. 11 and 8 a.m. Nov. 12 at UT Martin.
Historical Society meeting is today

The West Tennessee Historical Society will meet at noon today at the University of Tennessee Martin in Room 125 of the Boling University Center, at the west end of the main dining hall.

Bill Threlkeld, author and farmer, will be the featured speaker. Threlkeld has lived in the Woodland Mills area most of his life. He has co-authored several books dealing with the history of Obion County, including “A Time Returned,” a pictorial history of Obion County, “Doing Our Job,” a history of the men and women of Obion County during World War II, and “Roads Less Traveled,” about Obion County historical sites.

The meeting is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Lonnie E. Maness at lmaness@utm.edu.

What’s Going On

10 NEW BALLET ENSEMBLE
5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center at UT Martin. Director Katie Smythe Thennes will teach an open ballet master class at 4 p.m. Admission fee: $5, inclusive for the master class and performance. Call 881-7335.

Diversity Week
Monday through Saturday at the University of Tennessee Martin, sponsored by Student Government Association. Events include a march, food fair, forum and rally.

Consultant slated to visit REED Center

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will be at the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursday.

He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping.

Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

Acree is scheduled for Nov. 10, but the REED Center offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at (731) 587-REED (7333).

For additional services offered by the REED Center, go to www.utm.edu/reed on the Web.

Williams tabbed as ‘Rising Star’

Martin native R. Kyle Williams has been selected as a 2005 Georgia Rising Star by Georgia Super Lawyers and Law & Politics.

Williams is the son of Gregg and Teresa Williams of Martin. He is the grandson of the late Bonnie Davis of Union City, James and Wanda Davis of Troy and John and Bobilea Williams of Nashville, Ark.

Less than 2.5 percent of Georgia attorneys receive this honor each year. Rising Stars are chosen by their peers as being among the top up-and-coming lawyers younger than 40 years old practicing in Georgia.

Williams is a general litigation attorney with the 55-attorney Atlanta-based firm of Weissman, Nowack, Curry & Wilco, P.C., a full-service real estate and litigation firm that maintains 13 offices throughout the 28-county metro-Atlanta area. His litigation practice focuses primarily on real estate and construction disputes.

Williams successfully represents his clients in courts throughout Georgia. He is also a regular speaker on ever-changing litigation issues that challenge his clients.

In addition to his legal practice, he volunteers for and serves on the boards of directors for several Georgia non-profit organizations.

Williams earned a bachelor of science in public administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1998. He obtained his juris doctorate with a concentration in advocacy and dispute resolution from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 2001.

He currently serves on the Dean’s Circle Alumni Advisory Board for the University of Tennessee College of Law, an external alumni board that assists with the fund-raising efforts of the college.
Pageants at UT Martin being planned

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Tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Pageant at UT Martin are $10. UT Martin students may purchase $5 tickets in advance. General admission and advanced tickets can be purchased at the Boling University Center.

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Acree offers business advice

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For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.

UTM scholarships given to student

A Weakley County student has been awarded three scholarships for the 2005-06 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Joshua Verdell, son of Wendell and Alicia Verdell of Gleason, is a freshman undecided major. He received the University Scholars Award, the Leaders-in-Residence Scholarship and the UTNAA Alumni Chapter Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238.
University mourns loss of community leader and friend

Mike Munkel, longtime manager of University of Tennessee at Martin dining services and recipient of state and national community service awards, died Oct. 27 in Jackson.

"Mike was a beloved figure at UT Martin," UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan said. "He cared deeply about students and went out of his way to make students feel like the cafeteria was their home away from home. He was a great man and we will all miss his smile and his love for this campus."

A memorial service was held last Wednesday at the Boling University Center's Skyhawk Cafeteria. The service was open to the campus community and the public. In lieu of flowers, the family had requested that donations be made to the Mike Munkel Second Chance Scholarship Fund to benefit students who are re-enrolling at the university. Donations are still being accepted at the Office of Development, 328 Hall-Moody Administration Building, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN 38238.

"Mike Munkel was a pure joy to work with and to be around," David Belote, UT Martin interim vice chancellor for student affairs said. "Mike loved all people, and he acted on his love by organizing and performing untold acts of kindness and service to the students, faculty and staff of UT Martin, and to those in need in our community."

He received a bachelor of science degree from Southwestern

See Munkel, Page 4

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Munkel

From Page 1

Minnesota State University, Marshall, Minn., and joined the UT Martin staff in 1984. He served as Sodexo Dining Services general manager, who oversees UT Martin's food services area.

"Mike's heart was in the right place. He cared about the service to the students and would go that extra mile for anyone," Roetta McCutchen, Munkel's administrative assistant, who had worked with him for 14 years said.

"He was community-minded. He was the kind of man that every man would want to be, but would never be," noting that no one could fill his shoes.

Munkel, who was active in community activities, was honored in 2003 by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for outstanding community service work.

He was one of 10 persons receiving the Harold Love Community Service Award after being selected from a field of Tennessee college and university nominees.

Among his many civic endeavors, Munkel led efforts in recent years to fill Christmas stockings and Easter baskets with gifts for underprivileged children. Also, for more than 10 years, Munkel has been in charge of providing food for Camp Celebration, a recreational camp for the mentally retarded. The camp is held at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park near Memphis and is staffed by volunteers.

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"I'm very proud, but I don't know what I did to earn this," he said on receipt of the national award. "It's fun. When you live in Martin, it's very easy. What did I do to earn this? It's things I love doing. We try to do all we can to help. It's one of our passions."
UTM serves as executive center

The University of Tennessee at Martin will serve as the executive center of the Southern Consortium of the American Democracy Project (ADP-South). The consortium covers 13 southeastern states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. There are more than 60 universities within the consortium.

As the ADP-South Center, UT Martin will maintain the Web site, manage funds, serve as a communication hub and play a central role in planning the annual conference and other activities of the organization.

The American Democracy Project is a multi-campus initiative that seeks to create an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement for undergraduates enrolled at institutions that are members of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The goal of the project is to produce graduates who understand and are committed to engaging in meaningful actions as citizens in a democracy.

"It is quite an honor for UT Martin to be chosen as the center for ADP-South," said Dr. Mike McCullough, professor of management and UT Martin's ADP chair. McCullough will also serve as executive director of the ADP-South Center.

ADP-South is an initiative of ADP campuses across the Southeast. This initiative seeks to provide support for campus ADP leaders and to recognize the efforts of campuses, organizations, faculty, administrators and students whose work contributes to the goals of ADP National. The ADP-South conference will be Nov. 10-12 in Atlanta, Ga., at Clayton State University. Visit ADP-South's Web site at www.adpsouth.org.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE AWARD — Sgt. Steve Sherfield, University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Public Safety, received one of two Fall 2005 Outstanding Employee awards recently presented by Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. The awards, which recognize outstanding service to the university, are presented each fall and spring semester.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE AWARD — Annette Moore, (left) budget analyst in the University of Tennessee at Martin Division of Finance and Administration, received one of two Fall 2005 Outstanding Employee awards recently presented by Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. The awards, which recognize outstanding service to the university, are presented each fall and spring semester.
Dulcimer concert set for Nov. 17

A dulcimer concert and folk music sing-a-long and play-a-long will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Nov. 17, in Room 206 of the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Attendees are encouraged to sing along during the concert. They are also welcome to bring their own folk music instrument and play along.

Prentice Ary, director of the Sharon Dulcimer Orchestra, and folklorist Walter Haden, professor emeritus of UT Martin, will conduct an informal review of a cross-section of traditional folk songs that helped shape American folklore and the cultures of Northwest Tennessee.

The Sharon Dulcimer Orchestra is dedicated to playing the folk music that entertained and inspired people for generations.

"Traditional folk songs survive from generation to generation because they share a special meaning, message or insight that endeared them to the people of ages past and present. They are life-based and value-oriented," said Ary.

The concert is free and open to the public. There will be an intermission to allow the audience and musicians a chance to meet and talk. A dulcimer maker will have a display of instruments under construction for examination by those interested in the craft. The event is sponsored by the Volunteer Chapter of Senior Circle and the UT Martin Department of English.

ECCE offers Excel course

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will offer an Intermediate Microsoft Excel course from 8 a.m.-11 a.m., Dec. 6 and 8. The fee is $110. Shannon Burgin, director of UT Martin Office of Information Technology Services, will teach the course.

Students must be familiar with the concepts presented in Beginning Microsoft Excel. Students will learn to work through complex functions and formulas, use if statements and conditional formatting, use relative and absolute referencing, create detailed examples and executive summaries, integrate spreadsheets into word processing documents and practice planning and design skills.

Advance registration is required and space is limited. To register, or for more information, call ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082.

Program offers travel experience

The University of Tennessee at Martin travel study program is offering a variety of culture programs in 2006 for students, faculty and area residents who are interested in travel experience with members of the UT Martin faculty. There are both national and international travel studies planned. The international travel study program offers both 10-14 day and four-five week visits.

Some of the opportunities available next year include domestic travel programs to Texas and Washington D.C. International travel programs include New Zealand, Southern Spain, Belize, Eastern Canada, Scotland, China, Eastern France and Western German Wine Country, Brazil and a Tanzanian Safari.

For complete information about any of the travel studies mentioned, contact Stan Sieber at 881-7467, the Center for Global Studies and International Education at 881-1023 or e-mail: ssieber@utm.edu.

Faculty member earns certification

Before books and modern methods of recording stories, oral interpretations were key to the survival of heritage and cultures. A University of Tennessee at Martin professor is practicing the art in a modern context as the first person in Tennessee to become a National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Certified Trainer.

Dr. Philip Smartt, assistant professor of natural resources management, recently completed all requirements for NAI's Certified Trainer category.

"It took a while to complete. It requires work experience in interpretation, course work, testing and an evaluation of your ability to present the certification material," said Smartt. "I was surprised to find that I was the first in Tennessee to complete it."

The NAI is a professional association dedicated to the advancement of the profession of interpretation with an emphasis on professional development and certification. The craft of interpretation is often characterized by on-site informal education programs at parks, monuments, zoos, nature centers, historic sites, museums and aquaria. Such programs and activities are often referred to as "natural interpretation," "cultural interpretation," "resource interpretation" or "heritage interpretation." NAI's mission is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance heritage interpretation as a profession.

"I'm very excited about the possibilities," said Smartt. "My students will be able to graduate with a degree in natural resources management and a certification as an interpreter. It also expands my outreach opportunities with the Center of Excellence for Experiential Learning in the Agricultural Sciences. I can now conduct workshops for agencies that employ interpreters."
A wish granted

Tyler Middleton, 13, of Cottage Grove, was granted his wish to go to Disney World at a recent University of Tennessee at Martin football game. Middleton spent time and ran out on the field with the Skyhawks football team and head coach, Matt Griffin. His wish was made possible by the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Accredo Health Inc., of Memphis. He is the son of Steve and Sherry Middleton.

UT Martin offers travel study programs to students, faculty, community

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Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTMI; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, November 9, 2005

ECCE offers course in Microsoft Excel

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University of Tennessee President John Petersen speaks to local legislators and community leaders

University of Tennessee President John Petersen spoke to local legislators and community leaders here today to explain and garner support for a strategic plan designed to strengthen academic and research programs throughout the five-campus, 41,500-student UT system.

Having vowed to state legislative leaders to start the discussion of higher education needs early in advance of the next Tennessee General Assembly, he said, 'It is far better for us to sit down together and work on what it is we need to do for higher education and how we both can work together.

Likewise, Petersen said he charged the system's chancellors to determine how they could set priorities and reallocate funds to meet affordability of education and quality of education.

The plan includes an initial request for $142 million in additional state funding and also likely will be supported by a UT fund-raising campaign, slated to begin in 2006.

Petersen said there are two questions to ask citizens, leaders and representatives throughout the state when considering higher education where do we expect our institutions to be in terms of the hierarchy of higher education in the state, region and nation... and, once we decide where we should be, how are we going to get there?

Petersen cited UT Martin's FY 2006 funding levels in a comparison with a peer group of universities that is designated by the Tennessee Higher Education Association.

'We're close, but we're lower than the average of that peer group, said Petersen. He noted what it would take in FY 2007 to move UT Martin to the average funding level of that peer group and then to the upper one-third of the group. With the FY 2006 UT Martin funding per full-time student at $9,781, it would take an additional $392 per student to reach the average funding level of the peer group and $1,009 to be in the upper one-third.

In a funding plan with 60 percent derived from state appropriations and 40 percent from tuition, it would take increases of 4.5 percent in state appropriations and 3.5 percent in tuition to reach the average of the peer group funding per student and increases of 11.6 percent and 9 percent, respectively, to be in the top one-third of the peer group.

Unlike an across-the-board percentage of increase, the new strategic plan calls for specific dollar amounts tied to specific programs and initiatives.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission will consider the funding request before it heads to the Tennessee General Assembly, which convenes early next year. The plan emerged from a recent retreat among UT executives and campus officers and was outlined last week at the recent UT Board of Trustees meeting.

Petersen said there are other funding models, but added, what he cited is an example of how we should be thinking about higher education funding and what kind of dialogue that we need to work with our legislative delegation and work with other leaders in the state.

We certainly do have an obligation, and we will continue to do three other things, and one is make sure we continue to reallocate internally our dollars and make sure we use them as wisely as we possibly can. He added, We certainly will try to maximize the amount of private dollars that we're bringing in. The third piece... is trying to facilitate our ability to not only collaborate with businesses but also bring in the types of grants and contracts that we need to really help our faculty generate money to continue to enhance our programs as best we can.

I think we've got a gem here (UT Martin) and I think we've got a university system that has a greater opportunity than any other I know of in the country right now to go forward. I think it's going to be very, very important that we all work together... to try to take that number of 21 percent of our adults with baccalaureate degrees and push it up more toward the federal average of 25 percent.

If we want to rebuild businesses in West Tennessee and the rest of the state, we need a trained workforce so that we can sustain existing businesses and attract additional businesses as we go forward.

Dulcimer Concert set for November 17

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Prentice Ary, director of the Sharon Dulcimer Orchestra, and folklorist Walter Haden, professor emeritus of UT Martin, will conduct an informal review of a cross-section of traditional folk songs that helped shape American folklore and the culture of Northwest Tennessee.

The Sharon Dulcimer Orchestra is dedicated to playing the folk music that entertained and inspired people for generations.

Traditional folksongs survive from generation to generation because they share a special meaning, message or insight that endears them to the people of ages past and present. They are life-based and value-oriented, said Ary.
The Robert M. Smith Outstanding Leadership Educator Award recently presented to Paul Goldberg at the State Leadership Conference in Jackson.

This award is to recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of leadership education either by virtue of a major achievement within the past year or over a number of years through his or her dedication and service to leadership development within Tennessee.

Goldberg, of Harriman, is Roane State Community College vice president for continuing education, a post he has held since 1972. He provides managerial supervision and leadership for six units, including Continuing Education and the Theatre, the Small Business Development Center, the Centers for Training and Development, Community Services, Workforce Development (seven Career Centers of the Workforce Development Act) and the Henry Swafford East Tennessee Agricultural Exposition Center. He also provides supervision and leadership for International Education, Regents' Online Continuing Education, Leadership Roane County and the annual Roane County Health Fair.

The award recipient has directed or supervised dozens of grants totaling several million dollars; has organized and administered a comprehensive offering of credit and non-credit continuing education programs in more than 1,000 locations; supervised 100-150 non-credit faculty; and provided leadership for the former Waste Management Training Center. He also has had administrative responsibilities in the areas of Information Technology, Distance Learning, the Writing Center and the Placement Office. Since 1971, he has served as a professor in the Social Science Department. He also has taught at Cumberland University and Tennessee Technological University.

He received a bachelor of science degree in economics, a master's degree in business and a doctorate in Educational Administration and Supervision from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

He received the Tennessee Alliance for Continuing and Higher Education Barbara Becher Award for Outstanding Service and the Roane County Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award and Tourism Award.

He is co-founder and past president of Tennessee Community Education Association, Leadership Roane County, East Tennessee Leadership Association and Tennessee Alliance for Continuing and Higher Education (TACHE). He is co-founder of Tennessee Online Community College Consortium and is past president of Roane County Chamber of Commerce and Rotary International, Harriman Chapter.

WestStar Leadership, a regional program that covers 21 counties, has presented the award for the past 10 years. The award was named in honor of Robert M. Smith, founder of WestStar and Tennessee Association of Community Leadership. Smith currently serves as president of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania.

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Weakley County Student Receives Scholarships to Attend UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. - A Weakley County student has been awarded three scholarships for the 2005-2006 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions. Joshua Verdel, son of Wendell and Alicia Verdel of Gleason, is a freshman undeclared major. He received the University Scholars Award, the Leaders-in-Residence Scholarship and the UTNAA Alumni Chapter Scholarship.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will receive $690,000 over the next three years to strengthen instruction in mathematics and science as part of the Tennessee Mathematics and Science Partnership program. The goal is to increase student performance through the professional development of classroom teachers.

Math and Science Partnership grants allow our local school districts to maximize the resources available across the state, said Gov. Phil Bredesen.

These public-private partnerships provide a strong foundation to increase opportunities in high technology fields for all Tennessee students.

UT Martin's award is part of the $450 million nationwide competitive grant program. UT Martin's partners in the grant are Dyersburg City Schools, Humboldt City Schools, Lexington City Schools, Union City Schools and Hardin County Schools. Partnerships must include an engineering, mathematics or science department of an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) and a high-need Local Education Agency (LEA).

UT Martin will use the grant money to implement Project IMPACT (Immersion in Mathematics Pedagogy, Application, Content and Technology).

Project IMPACT is designed to strengthen the knowledge base of middle school mathematics teachers in West Tennessee, help these teachers incorporate technology into the classroom, and create a network of experienced teachers who can share their innovative ideas with other teachers throughout West Tennessee, said Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, UT Martin associate professor of mathematics and statistics. The infusion of technology, the inclusion of engineering applications and the creativity of the teachers will combine to make middle school mathematics classrooms a more exciting place to learn. Middle school students will reap the ultimate rewards of this project.

Dr. Mary Lee Hall, dean of the UT Martin College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, said with the critical need for mathematicians, scientists and engineers, it is necessary that teachers of mathematics for middle schools be secure in their knowledge of the content they teach and also be able to encourage and mentor young students to consider careers in these fields.

I am so excited about this opportunity for math, engineering and education faculty to work together. For much too long on college campuses, we have each worked in our own departments without cross-fertilization, Hall added. P-12 teachers need to understand something about engineering and potential careers in order to encourage their students to consider careers in the field. Elementary and middle school teachers must be able to understand the process of teaching math so that they can help their students develop an appreciation for mathematics and why it is so important to think mathematically. This is an opportunity to build professional development for middle school teachers that can have a long-term impact by giving them the knowledge, skills and resources to deliver high-quality instruction to their students.

The grant and Project IMPACT also will benefit the UT Martin McNairy County Center in Selmer. By including the UT Martin McNairy County Center, the grant will provide access to high-quality professional development for middle school mathematics teachers in southwest Tennessee, said Joyce Swan, educational studies instructor at the center. Professors in the mathematics, engineering and education departments of the Martin campus will collaborate to emphasize the interconnected relationships and applications of mathematics. I am excited about the opportunity to be involved in the process.

Funding for this grant is made available from the federal government through Public Law 107-195, Title II, Part B. UT Martin was one of three public institutions in Tennessee receiving funding through the Tennessee State Department of Education for this project.
Sharon Dulcimer Orchestra to perform at UT Martin

Just as songs are made up of groups of single notes, entire cultures are made up of unique individuals. Together, these two are united by one common chorus - one tiny spark that can only be classified as part heritage pride and part hometown loyalty.

"When I want to think about how I grew up, I listen to the popular music, but when I want to think about what I am, I listen to folk music," Preston Prather explained.

On Nov. 17, the Sharon Dulcimer Orchestra will be performing a concert in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Boling University Center Room 206 A, B and C from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Prentice Ary will be directing the group and retired University of Tennessee at Martin English professor and folklorist Walter Haden will introduce selected songs with some reflections on what endeared them to people throughout Tennessee and beyond the state.

Sitting in a circle surrounding Ary, the group is quite a sight to behold: Appalachian lap dulcimers; A much larger hammer dulcimer; A homemade bass constructed from a broomstick, thick string and a bucket. Guitars. Spoons; A cider jug; and whistles and singers.

"The conception of this came when David and Frances Green went camping in the Smoky Mountains. They passed by a group playing dulcimers. The group was singing, laughing and having fun. The Greens went home and invited us to go to Tishomingo with them. Betty bought a dulcimer and thought we could use it for decoration if nothing else. Bonnie brought one home from Nashville and put it in her closet.

Eventually, they took them out, learned to play and this group came about one at a time. "People don't think they can play, but if you can put your foot and count to ten, you can play," Ary stressed. The Sharon Dulcimer Orchestra has been practicing nearly regularly for the past two years. "They are mostly beginners. It's a good way for them to express themselves," Haden explained.

"Dulcimers were invented in medieval times. Wealthy people played them. They were made of silver and gold. The peasants had to build their own, though, so they used mostly discarded wood," Prather remarked.

J.M. Shanes of Sharon began making dulcimers six to eight months ago when he became fascinated with the instrument. Working at a full-time job with limited free time, he still manages to build new dulcimers at a fast pace.

"What started out as a hobby is now becoming work," Shanes admitted. Prather attributes the sudden rise in popularity of the dulcimer and other folk instruments to the bluegrass and folk-flavored movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

"Everyone is very encouraging. We always have a good time," Jan Phillips stated.

Bonnie Roberts of Sharon has been playing the Appalachian dulcimer for four years and the larger and more complicated hammer dulcimer one year. In addition to this, she sings in the David Johnson Chorus.

"I like music and I look forward to any musical event. This is a happy group. We are possibly going to try to offer learning classes early next year for anyone wanting to learn how to play the dulcimer.

"Two years ago, we only had four to five people and went to each other's houses. We have outgrown that and progressed to the Sharon Senior Center," Roberts remarked.

"Many people recognize the songs, but don't realize where they came from. We're going to look at the history of them. We hope to start an annual tradition with this. It is an important part of culture with the past being injected into the future. We're going to immortalize that. Hopefully, this will be an asset to Weakley County. It could be as big as the Soybean Festival," Prather emphasized.

One of the featured songs is "Will the Circle be Unbroken?" In the end, when words fail, the music must speak for itself. It must generate enough emotion through sound to shake the very foundations of any culture. Only then can the circle remain complete.

"People don't want to admit they're touched by songs until they hear them," Prather concluded.

Spain travel study set for March

The University of Tennessee at Martin has scheduled a spring travel study program to Southern Spain for March 8-20.

Among the historic highlights will be the Royal Palace and Prado Museum in Madrid, the Alhambra Palace in Granada, the Mezquita Cathedral in Cordoba, Italia, Carmenas and Alcazar in Seville.

For information and the cost of the Spain travel-study program, contact Dr. John Overby by e-mail at joverby@utm.edu or by telephone at (731) 881-7268.
Microsoft Excel course scheduled at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will offer an Intermediate Microsoft Excel course from 8 a.m.-11 a.m. Dec. 6 and 8.

The fee is $110. Shannon Burgin, director of UT Martin Office of Information Technology Services, will teach the course.

Students must be familiar with the concepts presented in Beginning Microsoft Excel. Students will learn to work through complex functions and formulas, use if statements and conditional formatting, use relative and absolute referencing, create detailed examples and executive summaries, integrate spreadsheets into word processing documents, and practice planning and design skills.

Advance registration is required and space is limited, organizers said.

To register or for more information, call ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or (731)881-7082.

Folk music sing-a-long planned for Nov. 17

A dulcimer concert and folk music sing-a-long will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in Room 206 of the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Attendees are encouraged to sing along during the concert. They are also welcome to bring their own folk music instrument and play along.

Prentice Ary, director of the Sharon Dulcimer Orchestra and folklorist Walter Haden, professor emeritus of UT Martin, will conduct an informal review of a cross-section of traditional folk songs that helped shape American folklore and the culture of northwest Tennessee.

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"Traditional folksongs survive from generation to generation because they share a special meaning, message or insight that endeared them to the people of ages past and present. They are life-based and value-oriented," said Ary.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Ballet master class featured

The New Ballet Ensemble (NBE) of Memphis is coming to the dance studio of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin Thursday.

Director Katie Smythe Thines will teach an open ballet master class from 4-5:15 p.m. The company will perform a short program comprised of four pieces at 5:30 p.m.

The performance will last 30 minutes.

A brief question-and-answer period will follow, according to organizers.

Thines is a native of Memphis. She has danced professionally in Minnesota, New York and Los Angeles.

She also enjoyed an acting career before returning to Memphis to raise her family and continue a career in ballet. Thines has opened the New Ballet Ensemble at the Icehouse in Midtown Memphis. This is the first ballet school in midtown Memphis in 35 years.

The company will be performing the following pieces: "Silencios," choreographed by Noelia Garcia Carmona; "People Get Ready," choreographed by Kevin Guy; "SHE," choreographed by Kevin Guy; and "Carmina Burana," choreographed by NBE dancer Christopher Roberts.

The admission fee is $5, inclusive for the master class and performance, a UT Martin spokesman said.

Dulcimer concert slated

A dulcimer concert and folk music sing-a-long and play-a-long will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Nov. 17, in Room 206 of the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Attendees are encouraged to sing along during the concert. They are also welcome to bring their own folk music instrument and play along.

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The concert is free and open to the public. There will be an intermission to allow the audience and musicians a chance to meet and talk. A dulcimer maker will have a display of instruments under construction for examination by those interested in the craft. The event is sponsored by the Volunteer Chapter of Senior Circle and the UT Martin Department of English.
UTM professor first in state to earn NAI certification

Before books and modern methods of recording stories, oral interpretations were key to the survival of heritage and cultures. A University of Tennessee at Martin professor is practicing the art in a modern context as the first person in Tennessee to become a National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Certified Trainer.

Dr. Philip Smartt, assistant professor of natural resources management, recently completed all requirements for NAI's Certified Trainer category. "It took a while to complete. It requires work experience in interpretation, course work, testing and an evaluation of your ability to present the certification material," said Smartt. "I was surprised to find that I was the first in Tennessee to complete it."

The NAI is a professional association dedicated to the advancement of the profession of interpretation with an emphasis on professional development and certification. The craft of interpretation is often characterized by on-site informal education programs at parks, monuments, zoos, nature centers, historic sites, museums and aquaria. Such programs and activities are often referred to as "natural interpretation," "cultural interpretation," "resource interpretation" or "heritage interpretation."

NAI's mission is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance heritage interpretation as a profession. "I'm very excited about the possibilities," said Smartt. "My students will be able to graduate with a degree in natural resources management and a certification as an interpreter. It also expands my outreach opportunities with the Center of Excellence for Experiential Learning in the Agricultural Sciences. I can now conduct workshops for agencies that employ interpreters."

Business consultant to offer services locally

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will be at the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED), located at 920 University Street in Martin, Tenn., from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Nov. 10. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping.

Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

Acree is scheduled for Nov. 10, but the REED Center offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333).

For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.

UTM students plan Spain trip

The University of Tennessee at Martin has scheduled a spring travel-study program to Southern Spain, March 8-20. Among the historic highlights will be the Royal Palace and Prado Museum in Madrid, El Escorial, Toledo, Segovia, the Valley of the Fallen, the Alhambra Palace in Granada, the Mezquita Cathedral in Cordoba, Italic, Carmona and the Alcazar in Seville.

For more information, contact Dr. John Overby at joverby@utm.edu or 731-881-7268.
WTWP workshop set November 12 at UTM

The second workshop in a series for K-12 teachers from the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be November 12. The workshop is from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Room 111 at the Boling University Center on the campus of UT Martin.

The morning session features Diane Shaw, UT Martin assistant professor of art. Shaw will present “Writing to Art: How Anyone Can Relate to Art and Artists Through Personal Writing Experiences.” In this session, participants will discover how to use writing methods to bring the world of art alive.

The afternoon session will be facilitated by Mark Yoder, 11th grade English teacher and yearbook adviser at Brighton High School. “Waking the Dead: Using Allusions to Tell Your Story,” will teach writers to use allusions in poetry, prose, fiction and non-fiction.

The registration fee for each six-hour workshop is $45. Participants are encouraged to register early. Materials needed for each session are paper and pen. Lunch is on your own. To register, send a check, payable to UT Martin with name and address to: Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education, 110 Gooch Hall, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238; or visit the website at www.utm.edu/wtpw, e-mail ECCE at ecce@utm.edu or call ECCE at 731-881-7082.

Other sessions will be held on February 11 at Central High School in Bruceton and April 1 at Dyersburg State Community College.

For more information about these workshops or in-service from WTWP, contact the WTWP in-service coordinator, Betty Hicks, sixth grade reading teacher at Dyer County’s Northview Middle School in Newbern, b.hicks@wtwp@yahoo.com.

UTM offers travel study programs

The University of Tennessee at Martin travel study program is offering a variety of culture programs in 2006 for students, faculty and area residents who are interested in a travel experience with members of the UT Martin faculty. There are both national and international travel studies planned. The international travel study program offers both 10-14 day and four-five week visits.

Some of the opportunities available next year include domestic travel programs to Texas and Washington D.C. International travel programs include New Zealand, Southern Spain, Belize, Eastern Canada, Scotland, China, Eastern France and Western German Wine Country, Brazil and a Tanzanian Safari.

For complete information about any of the travel studies mentioned, contact Stan Sieber at 731-881-7467, the Center for Global Studies and International Education at 731-881-1023 or e-mail: ssieber@utm.edu.

Dulcimer concert set November 17 at UTM

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Senior Preview Day set at UTM

The second of two Senior Preview Days is set for November 12 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Senior Preview Days are opportunities for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. Each event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life.

Representatives of UT Martin will provide information and answers to students’ questions on a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid; college and housing costs; and the various university academic programs.

Registration for the Senior Preview Day, November 12, will be from 11:30 a.m.-noon in the Elam Center.

Registration will be followed by a welcome and general information session; the university’s academic fair, which will take place in the Elam Center; academic department visits and campus tours.

For more information about Senior Preview Day activities and event, call the UT Martin admissions office at 1-800-829-UTMI or 731-881-7020.
Outstanding leadership award given

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Since 1971, he has served as a professor in the Social Science Department. He also has taught at Cumberland University and Tennessee Technological University.

He received a bachelor of science degree in economics, a master's degree in geography and a doctorate in educational administration and supervision from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

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Santa’s Village celebrates 21 years

By SARA REID
Staff Writer

Despite the unwelcome guest of a summer-like temperature invading the uncharacteristically bright November sky, inside the Hearth Restaurant, the snow was falling and the bells were ringing.

Time flies and already, it is time for thoughts to turn towards the winter holidays and especially the Martin event that has the ability to draw crowds from near and far.

Santa’s Village is nearing its 21st birthday and Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Suiter promises this already enormous event will be even bigger this year.

“This is the largest attendance we’ve ever had for a kickoff luncheon,” Suiter commented. “There are so many areas represented and this takes so much regional support.”

“This is a coming together of university and city. I am very proud and I am looking forward to a great Santa’s Village this year,” Mayor Randy Brundige added.

The luncheon was scheduled not only for the purpose of updating everyone on the status of this year’s event, but mainly for the recognition of the many members of the community who take time out of their busy days to help make Santa’s Village an enormous success.

“We want to give recognition to those behind the scenes,” Suiter explained.

Sponsors present to receive

See Santa, Page 4

Habitat chapter to auction shed

The UTM chapter of Habitat for Humanity will be auctioning off an 8x8 shed at the Murray State football game Thursday, Nov 17. Up until game day at 7 p.m., bids will be received by John Schommer at 881-7366 during the day and 588-0794 at night. The shed will be awarded to the highest bidder at halftime. The winner need not attend the game. The minimum allowable bid will be $400. The shed may be viewed at its current location on the UTM quad near the Crisp building; on game day the shed will be moved to the football stadium.

Santa

From Page 1

recognition were Volunteer Community Hospital, Rural King, WLJFTV/DT, Suiter’s Clean and Shine, First State Bank, Hamilton-Ryker, Greenball, E.W. James and MTD. Two new sponsors for this year are First Choice Rentals and Office Products.

“Before we open the doors, we take a huge collection of food,” Suiter stated. Referring to the Can Caravan, Misti Menees of WCMT was present to explain the fund raiser that involves collecting canned goods from area schools.

“We usually get between 15,000 and 16,000 pounds of food,” she remarked.

“We got 16,179 food items last year which is a record,” Suiter added.

Reba Wade promises the entertainment will be as good as always and will range from “Renaissance to new music with instrumentals as well as singing from age seven to 65.”

Service agencies involved in Santa’s Village will include Santa’s Helpers, Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, the Obion Chapter of the American Red Cross and We Care.

This year’s Santa’s Village will feature new events as well as old favorites. The theme of this year’s event will be “Jingle Bell Square” and it will also be the theme of the Christmas parade on Nov. 28.

“We are building a bell tower out of 2,006 cans of food. There will be a skating pond, a gazoeba and a bell tower with bells. The poinsettia tree will be back. The giant snow globes will be a new addition. Clifford the Big Red Dog will be back. Santa’s Village is centered around children,” C.E. Weldon Library Director Roberta Peacock explained.

Of course, MTD’s popular model train will be back, but new for this year will be a camera addition to the blimp which will project images onto a newly added jumbotron on the wall. For the entertainment and amusement of the children, there will be five new inflatables plus an appearance by Frosty the Talking Snowman.

Rather than having the food bins located in the middle of the arena, they will now be located just outside the doors for convenience. As more and more cans are added to the total, they will be measured on a snow gauge until the goal is reached. A fire engine shuttle service will take visitors to and from the event.

The opening ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. on Dec. 8 and will feature the student council, Martin Middle School Chorus and Westview High School Marching Charger Band. Fifty-four exhibitors will line the sides of the arena selling arts and crafts.

“After 20 years, we have had 163,786 visitors and reached the 600,000 mark in donations. The last five years we have averaged 12,244 in attendance. In 1994, we had our first year with over 10,000 visitors and we’ve only gone under 10,000 visitors two times since then,” Suiter commented.

Santa’s Village is set to take place Dec. 8 and 9 from 6 to 9 p.m., Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 11 from 1 to 5 p.m.

“It is most important that we collect as much as possible in food and toys,” Suiter stressed. “The best compliment that we can hear is, ‘This is the best it’s ever been.’”
Program awards $690,000 to UT Martin
to strengthen math, science instruction

The University of Tennessee at Martin will receive $690,000 over the next three years to strengthen instruction in mathematics and science as part of the Tennessee Mathematics and Science Partnerships program.

The goal is to increase student performance through the professional development of classroom teachers.

“Math and Science Partnership grants allow our local school districts to maximize the resources available across the state,” said Gov. Phil Bredesen.

“These public-private partnerships provide a strong foundation to increase opportunities in high technology fields for all Tennessee students.”

UT Martin’s award is part of the $450 million nationwide competitive grant program. UT Martin’s partners in the grant are Dyersburg City Schools, Humboldt City Schools, Lexington City Schools, Union City Schools and Hardin County Schools.

Partnerships must include an engineering, mathematics or science department of an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) and a high-need Local Education Agency (LEA).

UT Martin will use the grant money to implement Project IMPACT (Immersion in Mathematics, Pedagogy, Application, Content and Technology).

Project IMPACT is designed to strengthen the knowledge base of middle school mathematics teachers in West Tennessee, help these teachers incorporate technology into the classroom and create a network of experienced teachers who can share their innovative ideas with other teachers throughout West Tennessee,” said Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, UT Martin associate professor of mathematics and statistics.

“The infusion of technology, the inclusion of engineering applications and the creativity of the teachers will combine to make middle school mathematics classrooms a more exciting place to learn. Middle school students will reap the ultimate rewards of this project.”

Dr. Mary Lee Hall, dean of the UT Martin College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, said, “With the critical need for mathematicians, scientists and engineers, it is necessary that teachers of mathematics for middle schools be secure in their knowledge of the content they teach and also be able to encourage and mentor young students to consider careers in these fields.”

“I am so excited about this opportunity for math, engineering and education faculty to work together. For much too long on college campuses, we have each worked in our own departments without cross-fertilization,” Hall added.

“P-12 teachers need to understand something about engineering and potential careers in order to encourage their students to consider careers in the field.

Elementary and middle school teachers must be able to understand the process of teaching math so that they can help their students develop an appreciation for mathematics and why it is so important to think mathematically. This is an opportunity to build professional development for middle school teachers that can have a long-term impact by giving them the knowledge, skills and resources to deliver high-quality instruction to their students.”

The grant and Project IMPACT also will benefit the UT Martin McNairy County Center in Selmer.

“By including the UT Martin McNairy County Center, the grant will provide access to high-quality professional development for middle school mathematics teachers in southwest Tennessee,” said Joyce Swan, educational studies instructor at the center.

“Professors in the mathematics, engineering and education departments of the Martin campus will collaborate to emphasize the interconnected relationships and applications of mathematics. I am excited about the opportunity to be involved in the process.”

UT Martin offers travel studies

The University of Tennessee at Martin travel study program is offering a variety of culture programs in 2006 for students, faculty and area residents who are interested in a travel experience with members of the UT Martin faculty.

There are both national and international travel studies planned.

The international travel study program offers both 10- to 14-day and four- to five-week visits.

Some of the opportunities available next year include domestic travel programs to Texas and Washington D.C. International travel programs include New Zealand, southern Spain, Belize, eastern Canada, Scotland, China, eastern France and western German wine country, Brazil and a Tanzanian safari.

For complete information about any of the travel studies mentioned, contact Stan Sieber at (731) 881-7467; the Center for Global Studies and International Education at (731) 881-1023; or e-mail ssieber@utm.edu.
Vanguard presenting Shakespeare comedy

Vanguard Theatre at the University of Tennessee at Martin is presenting "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare tonight through Sunday at the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

It is the first of three productions planned during the 2005-06 season. Evening performances begin at 8 p.m. and the Sunday matinee at 3 p.m.

Shakespeare's timeless comedy is about a group of lovers who spend the night in the forest, where they are victims of fairies, pranks and enchantments. The play features three interlocking plots, all of which are connected by a celebration of the wedding of Duke Theseus of Athens and the Amazonian Hippolyta.

Rollicking fun and merriment abound when two young Athenian men, both in love with the same woman, become involved in a maze of romantic entanglements, when major issues arise between Oberon, king of the fairies, and his estranged wife, Titania, and when a troupe of lower-class artisans hired to perform at the wedding festivities blunder into the forest for their rehearsal.

Admission prices are $5 for students and $10 for all others.

UTM travel study to visit the lands Down Under

The University of Tennessee Martin's travel-study program will go to New Zealand and Australia next year. The tour group will leave Memphis on Jan. 1, travel to Auckland, New Zealand, and spend seven days exploring the North Island. Participants will visit the geothermal region of Rotorua, the wine country of Napier and sheep production area in Palmerston North, along with gardens and national parks.

The group will travel to Sydney, Australia, for three days to visit the botanical gardens, fish market and the concert hall, returning to Memphis on Jan. 14.

The estimated cost is $4,500, which includes airfare, transportation in the country, lodging and most meals. For more information, call Paula Gale at 881-7326 or send an e-mail to pgale@utm.edu. Those interested may also call Terry Vassey at 881-7266 or send an e-mail to tvassey@utm.edu. Register by Monday.
Tennessee Academy of Science to meet at UT Martin

The Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) will hold its annual meeting Thursday and Friday at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

TAS seeks to promote scientific research and the diffusion of knowledge concerning science.

There will be a symposium, "Reelfoot Lake II," held from 8:15-10 a.m. Friday in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. It is a sequel to a symposium held at the 2003 TAS annual meeting. Dr. Michael Gibson, UT Martin professor of geology, will preside.


This event is free of charge and open to the public.

Dr. S.K. Ballal will give the 2005 TAS Plenary Address. He received his doctorate in botany in 1964 from the University of Tennessee. He is a Fellow of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences and served as its president in 1982. In 2004, he was a Fulbright Fellow in Sri Lanka. He currently serves as professor of biology at Tennessee Technological University.

Ballal's address, "Tsunami 2004," is from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday in the Watkins Auditorium in the University Center.

Friday, there are several technical sessions which begin at 1:15 p.m. in the Boling University Center and two in the Joseph E. Johnson Engineering and Physical Sciences building. College students, faculty and public school teachers are encouraged to attend any of the sessions.

One of sessions is "Engineering and Engineering Technology. This session is in Room 206B of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Building. Each individual presentation is about 15 minutes. Session topics include "Reform of Engineering Technology in Taiwan," "Using NJCATE Curriculum Model for Engineering Technology Education," "Web-based Evaluation of STEM Projects," "Computer-Aided Knowledge-Based Process Planning for SMT Rework," "The Importance of Professional Practice and Project Management for Engineering Education" and "Diffusion in Polystyrene: Experimental Results and Multi-Scale Modeling.

Others include "Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy Study on Alloys for Total Joint Replacements," "Finite Element Analysis of Models for Use in Screening Materials for Vertebraplasty and Kyphoplasty" and "Validation of System Identification Model of Cerebrovascular Pressure Transmission."

Faculty chamber music event set

Bravada, a University of Tennessee at Martin chamber music ensemble, will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin.

The musicians are Dr. Amy Parks Simmons on clarinet, Julie Hill on percussion, Delana Easley on piano and Dr. Kurt Gorman on trumpet.

The opening piece will be "Quatuor de Ballet" by Dutch composer Nico Schuyt.

Next, the ensemble will play "Two Dances" by American composer Walter Hartley. The two dances are titled "Rag Tango" and "Slow Drag." Both are reminiscent of ragtime. The work will be performed with the UT Martin Dance Ensemble, choreographed by Claudia Morris, assistant professor of dance.

The last piece on the program will be "Encounters III: Duel for Trumpet and Percussion" by William Kraft. This work is a provocative avant-garde composition written in 1970. It is an example of chance music, which requires improvisation from the performers, such that no two performances will be alike.

The chamber music performance is free of charge and open to the public.

For more information, contact Gorman at (731) 881-7404.

AUTHOR VISITS — University of Tennessee at Martin student Jared Barnes (left) of Union City has a book signed by Dr. James McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former president of the American Historical Association, after McPherson recently spoke at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His appearance was part of the Academic Speaker Series and was sponsored by Honors Programs, the Vertical Immersion Program and the Department of History and Philosophy. His topic was "When Will This Cruel War Be Over? The Failure of Peace Negotiations, 1864-1865."
Community college vice president is honored

Paul Goldberg, Roane State Community College vice president, received the Robert M. Smith Outstanding Leadership Educator Award at the State Leadership Conference in Jackson. Making the presentation was Virginia Grimes, coordinator, WestStar Leadership, the University of Tennessee Martin. WestStar Leadership, a regional program that covers 21 counties, has presented the award for the past 10 years. The award was named in honor of Robert M. Smith, founder of WestStar and Tennessee Association of Community Leadership.

The Scoop

Chamber music at UTM tonight

Woodwind chamber music by students of the University of Tennessee Martin will be presented at 8 p.m. today in the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building.

Among the selections to be performed are Catherine McMichael’s “Gaelic Offering,” a four-movement Celtic piece for flute choir; Paul Taffanel’s “Quintet for Winds;” a transcription for clarinet choir of the Latin motet “Beati quorum via” by Charles Villiers Stanford; a special setting of a Renaissance polyphonic work by Orlando Gibbons for saxophone quartet; and a flute choir arrangement by Nancy Fensel of J.S. Bach’s “Sheep May Safely Graze.”

The concert is free, and the public is invited.

For more information, call (731) 881-7411 or e-mail elainebh@utm.edu.

The Weakley County Press

UTM announces West Tennessee Pride Night

The Tennessee-Martin football team will close out its 2005 season versus Murray State Thursday night at Graham Stadium. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

The annual rivalry game against Murray State will be called West Tennessee Pride Night and all general admission tickets will be $3. Fans will have an opportunity to help their city win $500 for the youth program designated by that city’s mayor.

The sisters of Chi Omega are also having their annual barbecue in conjunction with the game. Advance tickets are on sale now, while tickets can be purchased at the gate for $6 each. The barbecue begins at 5:30 p.m. and all proceeds from the barbecue go to the UT Martin athletics department.

West Tennessee’s public television station, WLJT-TV, will televise Thursday’s game live, so fans who cannot make it to the game can watch it on Channel 11.

“We would love to fill Graham Stadium for this big game against Murray State and at the same time show off the great community spirit that we have here in West Tennessee,” said Phil Dane, director of intercollegiate athletics at UT Martin.

UTM faculty to present recital

Bravada, a UT Martin faculty chamber music ensemble, will perform at 8 p.m., Nov. 16, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at the University of Tennessee Martin. The musicians are Dr. Amy Parks Simmons, on clarinet; Julie Hill, on percussion; Delana Easley, on piano; and Dr. Kurt Gorman, on trumpet.

The opening piece will be “Quatuor de Ballet,” by Dutch composer Nico Schuyt. Next, the ensemble will play “Two Dances,” by American composer Walter Hartley. The two dances are titled “Rag Tango” and “Slow Drag.” Both are reminiscent of ragtime. The work will be performed with the UT Martin Dance Ensemble, choreographed by Claudia Morris, assistant professor of dance.

The last piece on the program will be “Encounters III: Duel for Trumpet and Percussion,” by William Kraft. This work is a provocative avant-garde composition written in 1970. It is an example of chance music, which requires improvisation from the performers, such that no two performances will be alike.

The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Gorman at 881-7404.
Smartt family shares ‘gift’ of adoption

By SABRINA BATES
Staff Writer

Families form the bonds that hold people together throughout life. They are the heart and soul of growing communities. Families share precious gifts and for some, genetics have no bearing on a family’s ability to love one another.

"People tend to only hide the bad things. We taught our boys that adoption is a good thing and it’s nothing to be embarrassed about," Philip Smartt commented about he and his wife, Lisa’s, decision to adopt their two sons.

"Adoption makes us a real family. Without it, we still would have no children," Lisa added.

After six years of marriage and a few of those spent trying to have a baby, medical reasons forced the couple to seek other options to the expansion of their family.

“It was not a hard decision to make. You don’t understand it at first and you have a lot of questions,” Philip explained.

The Smartts chose an “open” adoption plan that allowed them to communicate with the biological mothers.

They adopted their first son, 10-year-old Stephen, when he was three months old. The couple adopted their second son, 7-year-old Jonathan, two years later when he was just a newborn.

They claim the children couldn’t be happier with the way things are and the two boys have “no holes in their lives.”

“We have taught our kids that what was done, was done out of love,” Lisa said.

“Both birth mothers had the maturity to look beyond themselves and the selflessness to put the babies above themselves and give them a chance with us,” Philip added.

“I sit here and sometimes think to myself, how could Philip not be a dad. He’s just so good at it,” Lisa shared.

“My advice to anyone interested in adoption is to make their decisions ahead of time and have a plan,” Philip said.

“A common misconception about adoption is that people cannot love children that are not biologically connected. Parenting is parenting,” he added.

“We have two beautiful, gifted children. Adoption was a good thing for us,” Lisa added.

It’s obvious to anyone who spends a period of time in the family’s home that adoption has helped complete their circle of life. Since the family’s move to Tennessee, Lisa has been an advocate for adoption. She is pleased to announce an adoption agency is set to open its doors in February in Union City.

Lisa Smartt is a syndicated columnist in northwest Tennessee, including the Weakley County Press. Philip Smartt is a professor and leader on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

The couple praise Bethany Christian Agency, which will help educate both families and birth mothers on the benefits of adoption. The agency opens in Union City at the first of 2006 and both parents agree the humanity and care the organization will offer local couples wishing to adopt in a safe, Christian environment.

An “open” adoption agency allows the birth mothers to choose the family they want to place a child with through photos and background. Lisa is on the steering committee of Bethany Christian Agency and encourages people with an interest in adoption to contact her with questions by e-mail at lisa@lisasmartt.com.

See Smartt, Page 4
'Concert of Choirs' to be held

Everyone is invited to experience "The Concert of Choirs" at the Community Thanksgiving Service at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, at First Baptist Church in Martin. The Martin Area Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring this event and welcomes everyone. Several local church choirs will be singing and selected scriptures will be read. The program will close with the UTM Gospel Choir performing. For more information about the service, contact the M.A.M.A. president, Dave Reinhard, at 587-6349.

The "Empty Bowl" project will be part of this event. More than 13 million children live in a household where people skip meals or eat less to make ends meet. This means that one in 10 households in the United States are living with hunger. David McBeth, a local potter, has given the generous gift of these bowls. They serve as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. People in the community purchase the bowls which make wonderful Christmas presents. Each bowl comes with a card so the recipient knows that their gift helped fight hunger. All of the profit goes to We Care Ministries to assist in meeting the needs of the hungry in Weakley County.

Bowls are also available at We Care, UTM, Snappy Tomato Pizza, First United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, St. Jude Catholic Church, Trinity Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church. For more information contact We Care Ministries at 587-6257 or David McBeth at 881-7416.

BROThERLY LOVE — Although these two have no biological ties to each other, one would never know by their brotherly actions. It looks as if 10-year-old Stephen Smartt (top) has the upper hand in this wrestling match against his 7-year-old brother Jonathan. Both boys were adopted by Philip and Lisa Smartt of Dresden when they were babies and have been right at home since. The Smartts are adoption advocates and claim it gave them a chance to have a "real family."

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR SPOKE AT UT MARTIN — Dr. James McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former president of the American Historical Association, recently spoke at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His appearance was part of the Academic Speaker Series and was sponsored by Honors Programs, the Vertical Immersion Program and the Department of History and Philosophy. His topic was "When Will This Cruel War Be Over? The Failure of Peace Negotiations, 1864-1865." Following the presentation, McPherson signed his book for Kortni Brewer, a UT Martin student.
Dulcimer group gears up for concert

Just as songs are made up of groups of single notes, entire cultures are made up of unique individuals. Together, these two are united by one common chorus — one tiny spark that can only be classified as part heritage pride and part hometown loyalty.

“When I want to think about how I grew up, I listen to the popular music, but when I want to think about what I am, I listen to folk music,” Preston Prather explained.

On Nov. 17, the Sharon Dulcimer Orchestra will be performing a concert in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Bowling University Center Room 206 A, B and C from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Prentice Ary will be directing the group and retired University of Tennessee at Martin English professor and folklorist Walter Haden will introduce selected songs with some reflections on what endeared them to people throughout Tennessee and beyond.

Sitting in a circle surrounding Ary, the group is quite a sight to behold. Appalachian lap dulcimers. A much larger hammer dulcimer. A homemade bass constructed from a broomstick, thick string and a bucket. Guitars. Spoons. A cider jug. Whistlers and singers.

“The conception of this came when David and Frances Green went camping in the Smokey Mountains. They passed by a group playing dulcimers. The group was singing, laughing and having fun. The Greens went home and invited us to go to Tishomingo with them. Betty bought a dulcimer and thought we could use it for decoration if nothing else. Bonnie brought one home from Nashville and put it in her closet. Eventually, they took them out, learned to play and this group came about one at a time.

“People don’t think they can play, but if you can pat your foot and count to 10, you can play,” Ary stressed. The Sharon Dulcimer Orchestra has been practicing nearly regularly for the past two years.

“They are mostly beginners. It’s a good way for them to express themselves,” Haden explained.

“Dulcimers were invented in medieval times. Wealthy people played to them. They were made of silver and gold. The peasants had to build their own, though, so they used mostly discarded wood,” Prather said.

J.M. Shanes of Sharon began making dulcimers six to eight months ago when he became fascinated with the instrument. Working at a full-time job with limited free time, he still manages to build new dulcimers at a fast pace.

“What started out as a hobby is now becoming work,” Shanes admitted.

Prather attributes the sudden rise in popularity of the dulcimer and other folk instruments to the bluegrass and folk-flavored movie “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”

“Everyone is very encouraging. We always have a good time,” Jan Phillips stated.

Bonnie Roberts of Sharon has been playing the Appalachian dulcimer for four years and the larger and more complicated hammer dulcimer one year. In addition to this, she sings in the David Johnson Chorus.

“I like music and I look forward to any musical event. This is a happy group. We are possibly going to try to offer learning classes early next year for anyone wanting to learn how to play the dulcimer. Two years ago, we only had four to five people and went to each other’s houses. We have outgrown that and progressed to the Sharon Senior Center,” Roberts remarked.

“Many people recognize the songs, but don’t realize where they came from. We’re going to look at the history of them. We hope to start an annual tradition with this. It is an important part of culture with the past being injected into the future. We’re going to immortalize that. Hopefully, this will be an asset of Weakley County. It could be as big as the Soybean Festival. People don’t want to admit they are touched by the songs until they hear them,” Prather emphasized.

One of the featured songs is “Will the Circle Be Unbroken?” In the end, when words fail, the music must speak for itself. It must generate enough emotion through sound that shakes the very foundations of any culture. Only then can the circle remain complete.
Santa’s Village marks 21st year of being true Santa’s helper

Santa’s Village will celebrate its 21st year of being a true Santa’s helper this year and continues to set records in donations of food, toys and attendance. The holiday fantasyland, which provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas, is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., Dec. 8.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

"Isn't it great to see the level of involvement," said Dennis Suiter, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director, at the annual Santa’s Village kickoff luncheon for representatives of sponsors, service agencies and volunteers. "We truly are looking forward to another great year.

Suiter highlighted the efforts of sponsors and volunteers, who contribute time and money to the annual event, and the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa's Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year. "They’re doing a marvelous job, and aren’t we pleased Santa’s Village can be a part of it," said Suiter. Service agencies include Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa's Helpers and Chimes for Charity. This year, those agencies plan to assist more than 1,571 families.

In the past five years, an average of 31,750 food items has been collected at Santa’s Village and attendance has averaged 12,244. The average value of the donations has been $54,943.

In 20 years, Santa’s Village has collected $602,189 worth of food and toys, and 163,786 visitors have been made to the community event. Last year, the value of the donations reached $59,308, and 13,009 people attended.

"All of that happened because of the people in this room and people behind the scenes," Suiter said.

Suiter also praised the work of the WCMT Can Caravan, which involves all Weakley County Schools in a canned food collection. A total of 15,000-16,000 pounds of food was collected last year. "Before we open the doors of Santa’s Village, we have a huge food collection," Suiter said of the school donations.

"It’s a lot of work, but we look forward to doing it again this year," said Misty Menees, WCMT operations manager.

Service agency representatives were called on during the luncheon and cited the benefits of Santa’s Village.

"We just want to say thanks so much for letting us be a part of this," said Cindy Stephens, representing Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council. Betty Stockdale, American Red Cross Obion County executive director, pointed to the extra need this year with hurricane victims in the area, in addition to area residents who need assistance. "This will really help," Stockdale said. "Thanks for all you do," Betty Baker, We Care Ministries director, said, noting that 86,000 pounds of food was distributed by the agency last year.

The event will feature 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Features include a giant poinsettia tree, horse-drawn wagon rides, Jingle Bell Square, with miniature shops, a skating pond and gazebo, an 8-foot snow globe, Frosty the Talking Snowman, MTD train display, Clifford the Big Red Dog, horse-drawn wagon rides, the Silver Bell Carillon Tower, erected with 2006 canned foods from E.W. James and Sons Grocery, and 54 arts and crafts booths.

A blimp, outfitted with a minicam, will capture this year's activities as they happen and project them on a large screen in Santa’s Village.

Sponsors of the event to date include Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza of Tennessee, Hamilton-Ryker, Rural King, First State Bank, Greenball Inc., E.W. James and Sons Grocery, MTD Products Inc., Tyson Foods Inc., First Choice Rentals, Puckett Lumber Co., Office Products, Southern Source and Suiter's Clean and Shine.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 587-6784.
Tennessee Academy of Science will hold annual meeting at UTM

The Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) will hold its annual meeting, Nov. 17-18, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. TAS seeks to promote scientific research and the diffusion of knowledge concerning science. Most of the events will be held on Nov. 18.

There will be a symposium, "Reelfoot Lake II," held from 8:15-10 a.m., Nov. 18, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. It is a sequel to a symposium held at the 2003 TAS annual meeting. Dr. Michael Gibson, UT Martin professor of geology, will preside. Topics of the symposium include "Freshwater Turtle Populations of Reelfoot Lake," "An Adult Digenetic Trematode (Fluke) parasite of Crayfish Inhabiting the Wetlands Around Reelfoot Lake," "Geologic Aspects of the Battle of Island No. 10," "New Tools Applied to the New Madrid Seismic Zone," "Paleontology of the Reelfoot Lake Region" and "Hydrologic Modeling of Reelfoot Lake and Watershed." This event is free and open to the public.

Dr. S.K. Ballal will give the 2005 TAS Plenary Address. He received his doctorate in botany in 1964 from the University of Tennessee. He is a Fellow of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences and served as its president in 1982. In 2004, he was a Fulbright Fellow in Sri Lanka. He currently serves as professor of biology at Tennessee Technological University. Ballal's address, "Tsunami 2004," is from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Nov. 18, in the Watkins Auditorium in the university center.

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For more information, contact Dr. Andy Sliger, professor emeritus, Department of Biological Sciences at UT Martin, at asliger@utm.edu.

SEMINAR ROOM NAMED – The University of Tennessee at Martin recently announced the Honors Seminar Room in the Holland McCombs Center would be named for C.E. "Bub" and Mary Cole (center) of Drummonds. The announcement was made Nov. 5 in recognition of the couple's distinguished service and support. Cole is a former UT Development Council member and a former and present UT Martin Development Committee member. Bub and Mary believe education combats many potential problems in our communities and that we have to express an interest in young people so that they can "take up where we leave off." The Coles endowed the first University Scholar Scholarship in 1991 because of the caliber of the students in the program; they later added to the Cole University Scholars Endowment which now annually provides five full University Scholars Scholarships. Also pictured (from left) are University of Tennessee President Emeritus Joe Johnson, UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan and Houston Gordon, UT Martin alumus and former member of the UT Board of Trustees.
UTM receives $690,000 to strengthen math, science

The University of Tennessee at Martin will receive $690,000 over the next three years to strengthen instruction in mathematics and science as part of the Tennessee Mathematics and Science Partnerships program. The goal is to increase student performance through the professional development of classroom teachers.

"Math and Science Partnership grants allow our local school districts to maximize the resources available across the state," said Gov. Phil Bredesen. "These public-private partnerships provide a strong foundation to increase opportunities in high technology fields for all Tennessee students."

UT Martin's award is part of the $450 million nationwide competitive grant program. UT Martin's partners in the grant are Dyersburg City Schools, Humboldt City Schools, Lexington City Schools, Union City Schools and Hardin County Schools. Partnerships must include an engineering, mathematics or science department of an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) and a high-need Local Education Agency (LEA).

UT Martin will use the grant money to implement Project IMPACT (Immersion in Mathematics Pedagogy, Application, Content and Technology).

"Project IMPACT is designed to strengthen the knowledge base of middle school mathematics teachers in West Tennessee, help these teachers incorporate technology into the classroom, and create a network of experienced teachers who can share their innovative ideas with other teachers throughout West Tennessee," said Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, UT Martin associate professor of mathematics and statistics. "The infusion of technology, the inclusion of engineering applications and the creativity of the teachers will combine to make middle school mathematics classrooms a more exciting place to learn. Middle school students will reap the ultimate rewards of this project."

Dr. Mary Lee Hall, dean of the UT Martin College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, said, "With the critical need for mathematicians, scientists and engineers, it is necessary that teachers of mathematics for middle schools be secure in their knowledge of the content they teach and also be able to encourage and mentor young students to consider careers in these fields."

"I am so excited about this opportunity for math, engineering and education faculty to work together. For much too long on college campuses, we have each worked in our own departments without cross-fertilization," Hall added. "P-12 teachers need to understand something about engineering and potential careers in order to encourage their students to consider careers in the field. Elementary and middle school teachers must be able to understand the process of teaching math so that they can help their students develop an appreciation for mathematics and why it is so important to think mathematically. This is an opportunity to build professional development for middle school teachers that can have a long-term impact by giving them the knowledge, skills and resources to deliver high-quality instruction to their students."

The grant and Project IMPACT also will benefit the UT Martin McNairy County Center in Selmer. "By including the UT Martin McNairy County Center, the grant will provide access to high-quality professional development for middle school mathematics teachers in southwest Tennessee," said Joyce Swan, educational studies instructor at the center. "Professors in the mathematics, engineering and education departments of the Martin campus will collaborate to emphasize the interconnected relationships and applications of mathematics. I am excited about the opportunity to be involved in the process."

Funding for this grant is made available from the federal government through Public Law 107-110, Title II, Part B. UT Martin was one of three public institutions in Tennessee receiving funding through the Tennessee State Department of Education for this project.
New Zealand, Australia travel-study trip set

Would you like to go down under and visit the land of Middle Earth? Then join the University of Tennessee at Martin on a travel-study program to New Zealand and Australia.

The tour group will leave Memphis, January 1, and travel to Auckland, New Zealand, and spend seven days exploring the North Island. Participants will visit the geothermal region of Rotorua, the wine country of Napier and sheep production in Palmerston North, along with gardens and national parks. Then the group will travel to Sydney, Australia, for three days to visit the botanical gardens, fish market and the famous concert hall and return to Memphis January 14.

The estimated cost is $4,500 which includes airfare, transportation in country, lodging and most meals. For more information contact Dr. Paula Gale at 731-881-7326 or pgale@utm.edu or Dr. Terry Vassey at 731-881-7266 or tvassey@utm.edu.

Travel-study trip planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin has scheduled a spring travel-study program to Southern Spain, March 8-20. Among the historic highlights will be the Royal Palace and Prado Museum in Madrid, El Escorial, Toledo, Segovia, the Valley of the Fallen, the Alhambra Palace in Granada, the Mezquita Cathedral in Cordoba, Italica, Carmona and the Alcazar in Seville.

For information and cost of the Spain travel-study program, contact Dr. John Overby, at joverby@utm.edu or 731-881-7268.

ECCE offers course in Microsoft Excel at UTM December 6 and 8

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will offer an Intermediate Microsoft Excel course from 8 a.m.-11 a.m., December 6 and 8. The fee is $110. Shannon Burgin, director of UT Martin Office of Information Technology Services, will teach the course.

Students must be familiar with the concepts presented in Beginning Microsoft Excel. Students will learn to work through complex functions and formulas, use if statements and conditional formatting, use relative and absolute referencing, create detailed examples and executive summaries, integrate spreadsheets into word processing documents and practice planning and design skills.

Advance registration is required and space is limited. To register, or for more information, call ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.

Scotland travel study planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin will conduct a travel-study program to Scotland, May 15-29, 2006. The daily activities will include travel adventures to Glasgow, Oban, the Isle of Mull, the Isle of Skye (two days), Inverness in the north, St. Andrews/Dundee and Edinburgh.

Participants will visit museums and castles; take ferry rides and also experience a trip on a steam-powered train. The plan is to have a base at several hotels and take excursions from them.

Interested persons are invited to attend the organizational meeting at 3 p.m., Nov 20, in the UT Martin Paul Meek Library conference room. Group leaders will review the proposed itinerary and cost.

Anyone who cannot attend the meeting, may contact Anna Clark at 731-881-7294 or aclark@utm.edu or Stan Sieber at 731-881-7467 or ssieber@utm.edu for specific information.
UTM to serve as executive center in American Democracy Project

The University of Tennessee at Martin will serve as the executive center of the Southern Consortium of the American Democracy Project (ADP-South). The consortium covers 13 southeastern states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. There are more than 60 universities within the consortium.

As the ADP-South Center, UT Martin will maintain the Web site, manage funds, serve as a communication hub and play a central role in planning the annual conference and other activities of the organization.

The American Democracy Project is a multi-campus initiative that seeks to create an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement for undergraduates enrolled at institutions that are members of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The goal of the project is to produce graduates who understand and are committed to engaging in meaningful actions as citizens in a democracy.

“It is quite an honor for UT Martin to be chosen as the center for ADP-South,” said Dr. Mike McCullough, professor of management and UT Martin’s ADP chair. McCullough will also serve as executive director of the ADP-South Center.

ADP-South is an initiative of ADP campuses across the Southeast. This initiative seeks to provide support for campus ADP leaders and to recognize the efforts of campuses, organizations, faculty, administrators and students whose work contributes to the goals of ADP National. The ADP-South conference will be Nov 10-12 in Atlanta, Ga., at Clayton State University. Visit ADP-South’s Web site at www.adpsouth.org

TAS annual meeting Nov. 17-18 at UTM

The Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) will hold its annual meeting, Nov 17-18, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. TAS seeks to promote scientific research and the diffusion of knowledge concerning science. Most of the events will be held on Nov 18.

There will be a symposium, “Reelfoot Lake II,” held from 8:15-10 a.m., Nov 18, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. It is a sequel to a symposium held at the 2003 TAS annual meeting.

Dr. Michael Gibson, UT Martin professor of geology, will preside. Topics of the symposium include: “Freshwater Turtle Populations of Reelfoot Lake,” “An Adult Digenetic Trematode (Fluke) Parasite of Crayfish Inhabiting the Wetlands Around Reelfoot Lake,” “Geologic Aspects of the Battle of Island No. 10,” “New Tools Applied to the New Madrid Seismic Zone,” “Paleontology of the Reelfoot Lake Region” and “Hydrologic Modeling of Reelfoot Lake and Watershed.” This event is free and open to the public.

Dr. S.K. Ballal will give the 2005 TAS Plenary Address. He received his doctorate in botany in 1984 from the University of Tennessee. He is a Fellow of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences and served as its president in 1982. In 2004, he was a Fulbright Fellow in Sri Lanka. He currently serves as professor of biology at Tennessee Technological University. Ballal’s address, “Tsunami 2004,” is from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Nov 18, in the Watkins Auditorium in the university center.

Nov. 18, there are several technical sessions which begin at 1:15 p.m. in the Boling University Center and two in the Joseph E. Johnson Engineering and Physical Sciences Building. College students, faculty and public school teachers are encouraged to attend any of the sessions.


For more information, contact Dr. Andy Sliger, professor emeritus, Department of Biological Sciences at UT Martin, at asliger@utm.edu.
Santa Village celebrates 21st year

Santa's Village will celebrate its 21st year of being a true Santa's helper this year and continues to set records in donations of food, toys and attendance. The holiday fantasyland, which provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas, is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., Dec. 8.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Windon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

"Isn't it great to see the level of involvement," said Dennis Suiter, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director, at the annual Santa's Village kickoff luncheon for representatives of sponsors, service agencies and volunteers. "We truly are looking forward to another great year."

Suiter highlighted the efforts of sponsors and volunteers, who contribute time and money to the annual event, and the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa's Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year. "They're doing a marvelous job, and aren't we pleased Santa's Village can be a part of it," said Suiter.

Service agencies include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa's Helpers and Chimes for Charity. This year, those agencies plan to assist more than 1,571 families.

In the past five years, an average of 31,750 food items have been collected at Santa's Village and attendance has averaged 12,244. The average value of the donations has been $54,943.

In 20 years, Santa's Village has collected $602,189 worth of food and toys, and 163,786 visits have been made to the community event. Last year, the value of the donations reached $59,308, and 13,009 people attended.

"All of that happened because of the people in this room and the people behind the scenes," Suiter said.

Suiter also praised the work of the WCMT Can Caravan, which involves all Weakley County Schools in a canned food collection. A total of 15,000-16,000 pounds of food was collected last year. "Before we open the doors of Santa's Village, we have a huge food collection," Suiter said of the school donations.

"It's a lot of work, but we look forward to doing it again this year," said Misty Menees, WCMT operations manager.

Service agency representatives were called on during the luncheon and cited the benefits of Santa's Village.

"We just want to say thanks so much for letting us be a part of this," said Cindy Stephens, representing Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council. Betty Stockdale, American Red Cross Obion County executive director, pointed to the extra need this year with hurricane victims in the area, in addition to area residents who need assistance. "This will really help," Stockdale said. "Thanks for all you do." Betty Stockdale, We Care Ministries director, said, noting that 86,000 pounds of food was distributed by the agency last year.

The event will feature 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Features include a giant poinsettia tree, horse-drawn wagon rides, Jingle Bell Square, miniature shops, a skating pond and gazebo, an 8' snow globe, Frosty the Snowman, MTD train display, Clifford the Big Red Dog, horse-drawn wagon rides, the Silver Bell Carillon Tower, erected with 2006 canned foods from E.W. James and Sons Grocery, and 54 arts and crafts booths.

Sponsors of the event to date, include: Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza of Tenn., Hamilton-Ryker, Rural King, First State Bank, Greenball, Inc., E.W. James and Sons Grocery, MTD Products, Inc., Tyson Foods, Inc., First Choice Rentals, Puckett Lumber Company, Office Products, Southern Source and Suiter's Clean and Shine.

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

STATE GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2005

UTM awards scholarships

Two Dyer County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2005-06 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Justin Pope, the son of Robert and Debbie Pope of Trimble, is a sophomore engineering major. He received the Forcum-Lannom Contractors/Don Pennington Scholarship.

Rachel McCoy, the daughter of Rick and Nancy McCoy of Dyersburg, is a freshman pre-med major. She received the University Scholars Award.
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Honors Seminar Room named

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently announced the Honors Seminar Room in the Holland McCombs Center would be named for C.E. Bab and Mary Cole, center, of Drummonds. The announcement was made November 5 in recognition of the couple's distinguished service and support. Cole is a former UT Development Council member and a former and present UT Martin Development Committee member. Bab and Mary believe education combats many potential problems in our communities and that we have to express an interest in young people so that they can take up where we leave off. The Coles endowed the first University Scholar Scholarship in 1991 because of the caliber of the students in the program; they later added to the Cole University Scholars Endowment which now annually provides five full University Scholars Scholarships. Also pictured, from left, are University of Tennessee President Emeritus Joe Johnson, UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan and Houston Gordon, UT Martin alumnus and former member of the UT Board of Trustees.
Young Musicians Featured in Upcoming Knoxville Symphony Orchestra Chamber Concert

The Knoxville Symphony Orchestra presents its second installment in the Chamber Classics Series with a tribute to young masters. The concert will take place November 20 at 4:00 p.m. at the Tennessee Theater in downtown Knoxville. Cornelia Kodkani Laemmli will lead the orchestra.

The concert opens with the world premiere of statewide composition contest winner Justin Condron's piece entitled "Campbell Recalls the Journey." Last summer, the KSO sponsored a Young Composer's Competition open to all Tennessee residents under the age of 25. Condron's work was selected as the winner of the competition by a panel of judges. The work is described as a pleasingly dark piece of music telling of a college trip taken by the composer and his friends. Beautiful horizons, unrelenting thundersstorms, funerals, and swash-buckling pirates all occupy their own place in the piece. Originally from Milan, Tennessee, Condron is a 21-year-old senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is a music education major with concentration in trombone.

Condron is the son of Robert and Donna Akin Condron of Milan and the grandson of Fay Walker Akin and the late Billy Akin of Milan, Rev. Dudley and Joyce Condon of Memphis, and Bob and Lynette Hamilton Dalton of Memphis. He is the great-grandson of the late M.F. and Margaret Hamilton of Humboldt.

Following Condron's premiere is Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto to be performed by nationally renowned 14-year-old violinist Hannah Tarley. Tarley played her first solo recital at the age of four. At six-years-old, she soloed with the South Bay Orchestra. She has also performed with the Zipper Orchestra in Los Angeles and the Desert Symphony in Palm Springs. Last October, Tarley made her debut at Davies Symphony Hall. A student of Robert Lipsett, Tarley is the youngest person to have been appointed Concertmaster of the San Francisco Youth Orchestra.

The final piece on the program is Grieg's Symphony in C minor by Norway's most notable composer, Edvard Grieg. This piece, one of his earliest compositions, was composed when Grieg was only 20 years old.

Tickets are $19.50 and $27.50, and may be purchased by logging on to the KSO Web site, www.knoxvillesymphony.com, or calling the KSO Box Office at 865-291-3310 or Tickets Unlimited, 865-565-4444.

Established in 1985, the KSO consists of 84 virtuoso musicians under the leadership of Maestro Lucas Richman. The symphony performs more than 250 times each year throughout the region to a total audience of more than 160,000.

For more information regarding the KSO, or this Chamber Classics concert, please call 865-291-3310.

Cutline: University of Tennessee - Martin student Justin Condron, age 21, won the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra's statewide competition concert. His winning piece will open the November 20 performance of the orchestra.

Scottish film set for Friday at UT Martin

"Bandits," a German film, will be shown at 7 p.m. Friday in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The film is the fourth and final film scheduled during the fall semester. All films are in the original foreign language with English subtitles.

The series is sponsored by the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and is funded by the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the Student Activities Council.

In the film, four tough women in a German penitentiary join forces to form a rock band. When administrators take them to perform at a policeman's ball, the prisoners escape, kidnap a convenient boy-toy hostage (Werner Schreyer) along the way. Their band, Bandits, becomes a national sensation as the women continue to evade the police. Each fugitive's story is gradually revealed as the plot progresses.

Luna (Jasmin Tabatabai), the lead singer and guitarist, is a loose cannon with an attitude problem. She also likes to rob banks. Emma (Katja Riemann), the brains of the group, had a successful jazz career in America before her abusive boyfriend drove her over the edge. Marie (Jutta Hoffmann), the band's middle-aged keyboard player, is suicidal. It has something to do with her involvement in her husband's death. Angel (Nicolette Krebitz) is the team's weak link; she can't be trusted. As the Bandits pull off each increasingly improbable narrow escape, the film takes on the radiance of myth, ascending ultimately to an apocalyptic finale.

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One of sessions is “Engineering and Engineering Technology.” This session is in Room 206B of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Building. Each individual presentation is approximately 15 minutes. Session topics include “Reform of Engineering Technology in Taiwan,” “Using NICATE Curriculum Model for Engineering Technology Education,” “Web-based Evaluation of STEM Projects,” “Computer-Aided Knowledge-Based Process Planning for SMT Rework,” “The Importance of Professional Practice and Project Management for Engineering Education” and “Diffusion in Polystyrene: Experimental Results and Multi-Scale Modeling.” Others include “Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy Study on Alloys for Total Joint Replacements,” “Finite Element Analysis of Models for Use in Screening Materials for Vertebroplasty and Kyphoplasty” and “Validation of System Identification Model of Cerebrovascular Pressure Transmission.”

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UTM receives $690,000 to strengthen math, science

The University of Tennessee at Martin will receive $690,000 over the next three years to strengthen instruction in mathematics and science as part of the Tennessee Mathematics and Science Partnerships program. The goal is to increase student performance through the professional development of classroom teachers.

"Math and Science Partnership grants allow our local school districts to maximize the resources available across the state," said Gov. Phil Bredesen. "These public-private partnerships provide a strong foundation to increase opportunities in high technology fields for all Tennessee students."

UT Martin's award is part of the $450 million nationwide competitive grant program. UT Martin's partners in the grant are Dyersburg City Schools, Humboldt City Schools, Lexington City Schools, Union City Schools and Hardin County Schools. Partnerships must include an engineering, mathematics or science department of an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) and a high-need Local Education Agency (LEA).

UT Martin will use the grant money to implement Project IMPACT (Immersion in Mathematics Pedagogy, Application, Content and Technology).

"Project IMPACT is designed to strengthen the knowledge base of middle school mathematics teachers in West Tennessee, help these teachers incorporate technology into the classroom, and create a network of experienced teachers who can share their innovative ideas with other teachers throughout West Tennessee," said Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, UT Martin associate professor of mathematics and statistics. "The infusion of technology, the inclusion of engineering applications and the creativity of the teachers will combine to make middle school mathematics classrooms a more exciting place to learn. Middle school students will reap the ultimate rewards of this project."

Dr. Mary Lee Hall, dean of the UT Martin College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, said, "With the critical need for mathematicians, scientists and engineers, it is necessary that teachers of mathematics for middle schools be secure in their knowledge of the content they teach and also be able to encourage and mentor young students to consider careers in these fields."

"I am so excited about this opportunity for math, engineering and education faculty to work together. For much too long on college campuses, we have each worked in our own departments without cross-fertilization," Hall added. "P-12 teachers need to understand something about engineering and potential careers in order to encourage their students to consider careers in the field. Elementary and middle school teachers must be able to understand the process of teaching math so that they can help their students develop an appreciation for mathematics and why it is so important to think mathematically. This is an opportunity to build professional development for middle school teachers that can have a long-term impact by giving them the knowledge, skills and resources to deliver high-quality instruction to their students."

The grant and Project IMPACT also will benefit the UT Martin McNairy County Center in Selmer. "By including the UT Martin McNairy County Center, the grant will provide access to high-quality professional development for middle school mathematics teachers in southwest Tennessee," said Joyce Swan, educational studies instructor at the center. "Professors in the mathematics, engineering and education departments of the Martin campus will collaborate to emphasize the interconnected relationships and applications of mathematics. I am excited about the opportunity to be involved in the process."

Funding for this grant is made available from the federal government through Public Law 107-110, Title II, Part B. UT Martin was one of three public institutions in Tennessee receiving funding through the Tennessee State Department of Education for this project.
New Zealand, Australia travel-study trip set

Would you like to go down under and visit the land of Middle Earth? Then join the University of Tennessee at Martin on a travel-study program to New Zealand and Australia.

The tour group will leave Memphis, January 1, and travel to Auckland, New Zealand, and spend seven days exploring the North Island. Participants will visit the geothermal region of Rotorua, the wine country of Napier and sheep production in Palmerston North, along with gardens and national parks.

Then the group will travel to Sydney, Australia, for three days to visit the botanical gardens, fish market and the famous concert hall and return to Memphis January 14.

The estimated cost is $4,500 which includes airfare, transportation in country, lodging and most meals. For more information contact Dr. Paula Gale at 731-881-7326 or pgale@utm.edu or Dr. Terry Vassey at 731-881-7266 or tvvassey@utm.edu.

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The University of Tennessee at Martin has scheduled a spring travel-study program to Southern Spain, March 8-20.

Among the historic highlights will be the Royal Palace and Prado Museum in Madrid, El Escorial, Toledo, Segovia, the Valley of the Fallen, the Alhambra Palace in Granada, the Mezquita Cathedral in Cordoba, Italica, Carmona and the Alcazar in Seville.

For information and cost of the Spain travel-study program, contact Dr. John Overby, at joverby@utm.edu or 731-881-7268.

Scotland travel study planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin will conduct a travel-study program to Scotland, May 15-29, 2006. The daily activities will include travel adventures to Glasgow, Oban, the Isle of Mull, the Isle of Skye (two days), Inverness in the north, St. Andrews/Dundee and Edinburgh.

Participants will visit museums and castles; take ferry rides and also experience a trip on a steam-powered train. The plan is to have a base at several hotels and take excursions from them.

Interested persons are invited to attend the organizational meeting at 3 p.m., Nov 20, in the UT Martin Paul Meeke Library conference room. Group leaders will review the proposed itinerary and cost.

Anyone who cannot attend the meeting, may contact Anna Clark at 731-881-7294 or aclark@utm.edu or Stan Sieber at 731-881-7467 or ssieber@utm.edu for specific information.
UTM to serve as executive center in American Democracy Project

The University of Tennessee at Martin will serve as the executive center of the Southern Consortium of the American Democracy Project (ADP-South). The consortium covers 13 southeastern states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. There are more than 60 universities within the consortium.

As the ADP-South Center, UT Martin will maintain the Web site, manage funds, serve as a communication hub and play a central role in planning the annual conference and other activities of the organization.

The American Democracy Project is a multi-campus initiative that seeks to create an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement for undergraduates enrolled at institutions that are members of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The goal of the project is to produce graduates who understand and are committed to engaging in meaningful actions as citizens in a democracy.

"It is quite an honor for UT Martin to be chosen as the center for ADP-South," said Dr. Mike McCulIough, professor of management and UT Martin's ADP chair. McCulIough will also serve as executive director of the ADP-South Center.

ADP-South is an initiative of ADP campuses across the Southeast. This initiative seeks to provide support for campus ADP leaders and to recognize the efforts of campuses, organizations, faculty, administrators and students whose work contributes to the goals of ADP National. The ADP-South conference will beNov 10-12 in Atlanta, Ga., at Clayton State University. Visit ADP-South's Web site at www.adpsouth.org.

TAS annual meeting
Nov. 17-18 at UTM

The Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) will hold its annual meeting, Nov. 17-18, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. TAS seeks to promote scientific research and the diffusion of knowledge concerning science. Most of the events will be held on Nov. 18.

There will be a symposium, "Reelfoot Lake II," held from 8:15-10 a.m., Nov. 18, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. It is a sequel to a symposium held at the 2003 TAS annual meeting.

Dr. Michael Gibson, UT Martin professor of geology, will preside. Topics of the symposium include: "Freshwater Turtle Populations of Reelfoot Lake," "An Adult Digenetic Trematode (Fluke) Parasite of Crayfish Inhabiting the Wetlands Around Reelfoot Lake," "Geologic Aspects of the Battle of Island No. 10," "New Tools Applied to the New Madrid Seismic Zone," "Paleontology of the Reelfoot Lake Region" and "Hydrologic Modeling of Reelfoot Lake and Watershed." This event is free and open to the public.

Dr. S.K. Ballal will give the 2005 TAS Plenary Address. He received his doctorate in botany in 1964 from the University of Tennessee. He is a Fellow of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences and served as its president in 1982. In 2004, he was a Fulbright Fellow in Sri Lanka. He currently serves as professor of biology at Tennessee Technological University. Ballal's address, "Tsunami 2004," is from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Nov. 18, in the Watkins Auditorium in the university center.

Nov. 18, there are several technical sessions which begin at 1:15 p.m. in the Boling University Center and two in the Joseph E. Johnson Engineering and Physical Sciences Building. College students, faculty and public school teachers are encouraged to attend any of the sessions.

One of sessions is "Engineering and Engineering Technology." This session is in Room 206B of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Building. Each individual presentation is approximately 15 minutes. Session topics include: "Reform of Engineering Technology in Taiwan," "Using NJCATE Curriculum Model for Engineering Technology Education," "Web-based Evaluation of STEM Projects," "Computer-Aided Knowledge-Based Process..."
Santa Village celebrates 21st year

Santa's Village will celebrate its 21st year of being a true Santa's helper this year and continues to set records in donations of food, toys and attendance. The holiday fantasyland, which provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas, is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., Dec. 8.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

"Isn't it great to see the level of involvement," said Dennis Suiter, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director, at the annual Santa's Village kickoff luncheon for representatives of sponsors, service agencies and volunteers. "We truly are looking forward to another great year."

Suiter highlighted the efforts of sponsors and volunteers, who contribute time and money to the annual event, and the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa's Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year. "They're doing a marvelous job, and aren't we pleased Santa's Village can be a part of it," said Suiter.

Service agencies include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa's Helpers and Chimes for Charity. This year, those agencies plan to assist more than 1,571 families.

In the past five years, an average of 31,750 food items has been collected at Santa's Village and attendance has averaged 12,244. The average value of the donations has been $54,943.

In 20 years, Santa's Village has collected $602,189 worth of food and toys, and 163,786 visits have been made to the community event. Last year, the value of the donations reached $59,308, and 13,009 people attended.

"All of that happened because of the people in this room and people behind the scenes," Suiter said.

Suiter also praised the work of the WCMT Can Caravan, which involves all Weakley County Schools in a canned food collection. A total of 15,000-16,000 pounds of food was collected last year. "Before we open the doors of Santa's Village, we have a huge food collection," Suiter said of the school donations.

"It's a lot of work, but we look forward to doing it again this year," said Misty Meenen, WCMT operations manager.

Service agency representatives were called on during the luncheon and cited the benefits of Santa's Village.

"We just want to say thanks so much for letting us be a part of this," said Cindy Stephens, representing Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council. Betty Stockdale, American Red Cross Obion County executive director, pointed to the extra need this year with hurricane victims in the area, in addition to area residents who need assistance. "This will really help," Stockdale said. "Thanks for all you do," Betty Stockdale, We Care Ministries director, said, noting that 86,000 pounds of food was distributed by the agency last year.

The event will feature 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Features include a giant poinsettia tree, horse-drawn wagon rides, Jingle Bell Square, with miniature shops, a skating pond and gazebo, an 8' snow globe, Frosty the Talking Snowman, MTD train display, Clifford the Big Red Dog, horse-drawn wagon rides, the Silver Bell Carillon Tower, erected with 2006 canned foods from E.W. James and Sons Grocery, and 54 arts and crafts booths.

Sponsors of the event to date, include: Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza of Tenn., Hamilton-Ryker, Rural King, First State Bank, Greenball, Inc., E.W. James and Sons Grocery, MTD Products, Inc., Tyson Foods, Inc., First Choice Rentals, Puckett Lumber Company, Office Products, Southern Source and Suiter's Clean and Shine.

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

STATE GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2005

UTM awards scholarships

Two Dyer County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2005-06 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Justin Pope, the son of Robert and Debbie Pope of Trimble, is a sophomore engineering major. He received the Forcum-Lannom Contractors/Don Pennington Scholarship.

Rachel McCoy, the daughter of Rick and Nancy McCoy of Dyersburg, is a freshman pre-med major. She received the University Scholars Award.
SAAC will help with coat drive

The Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be collecting new and gently used winter coats of all sizes at the Skyhawk football game vs. Murray State Thursday beginning at 6 p.m. at Hardy Graham Stadium.

The SAAC’s effort is part of the annual coat drive that WCMT Radio sponsors every year. The coats will be taken to Comet Cleaners and then to We Care Ministries for distribution during their annual Christmas Store.

“Clean out your closets and help keep Weakley County warm this winter,” said Danelle Fabianich, advisor for the SAAC.

Coats may also be dropped off at Cash Express on Lindell Street in Martin and at the WCMT studios on Lindell Street.

If you are unable to bring your donation to the football game but would like to participate, email Fabianich at danellef@utm.edu and she will send someone over to pick up your coat(s) if you are on campus.

UTM percussion ensemble performs

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble will perform at 3 p.m. Nov. 20, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. It is the premiere performance of the UT Martin steel drum band. The concert will feature three new compositions by award-winning composer Michael Auokofer. The concert also will include the oldest piece written for percussion ensemble by Amadeo Roldan. The audience will hear a variety of percussive sounds from Cuba to Trinidad.

The concert is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, contact Julie Hill by telephone at (731) 881-7418 or by e-mail at jhill@utm.edu.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE — University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Public Safety Sgt. Steve Sherfield (right) of Obion recently received one of two fall Outstanding Employee awards presented by Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. The awards, which recognize outstanding service to the university, are presented each fall and spring semester.
ROTC wins annual Ranger Challenge Competition

The University of Tennessee at Martin's ROTC program, consisting of 10 students, placed first in its division during the annual Ranger Challenge competition recently hosted at Fort Jackson, S.C. The competition hosted 30 universities from Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The 36-hour competition consisted of the following events: written map reading and patrolling test, weapons disassembly and assembly, 50-meter swimming relay, Army physical fitness test, hand grenade assault course, obstacle course, day and night land navigation course, 6.2 mile foot march with weapon and pack, and a mystery event which was an eight-man Humvee pull that was 125 meters up an inclined slope.

The following students represented UT Martin at the competition: David B. Stamps (team captain), Chance M. Barr, Jeffery B. Cashon, Kyle J. Maki, Cristine L. Manning, Cameron S. Mays, Jonathan T. McAnally, Eric J. Moore, Stephen M. Moore and Travis J. Payne. The Most Valuable Team Member was Mays, who consistently supported the team with high achievements in all the events. There also were two alternate members of the team, Israel P. O'Bryan and Randall S. West, who participated in the training and were alternates for the competition.

UT MARTIN RANGER CHALLENGE TEAM CLAIMS FIRST — Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin Ranger Challenge team and their advisers included, (front row, from left) Capt. Donny Hebel; Kyle Maki, Memphis; Travis Payne, Lavern; David Stamps, Westfield, Ind.; Eric Moore, Ft. Campbell, Ky.; (back row, from left) Cristine Manning, Cottage Grove; Chance Barr, Dyersburg; Jeffery Cashon, Mayfield, Ky.; Cameron Mays, Marion, Ky.; Jonathan McAnally, Jackson; Stephen Moore, Trimble; and Master Sgt. John Buckley.

Last year the Ranger Challenge Team placed second for the first time in UT Martin history. This year ended with a strong first-place finish. The 10-man team, coached by Capt. Donny Hebel and Master Sgt. John Buckley, participated in two months of rigorous training. They participated in physical conditioning at 6 a.m. every weekday along with numerous afternoon and weekend training sessions to prepare for the competition.

"There were times when we got so frustrated during the training because we seemed to let ourselves down with mistakes ... but we pulled it together in the end," said Mays. Cadet Stamps added, "We were so exhausted at midnight after the entire day of physical and mental rigor, but we were so excited that we couldn't sleep." Payne said, "I felt prepared for the competition, but never expected my adrenaline to push me even further than I performed during training."

UT Martin was consistent throughout the competition. The team placed within the top five for each event while winning the day and night land navigation courses as well as the 6.2 mile foot march for the second straight year. They went to the competition with the hopes of victory, keeping their focus and not becoming distracted. The teams were prepared and the competition was high. In the end, it was UT Martin on top.
Visiting Hirosaki professor has many talents, experience

Akira Tomita, an associate professor with specialties in art pedagogy and photography, is this year's distinguished visiting professor from Hirosaki University at the University of Tennessee at Martin. For the past 20 years, UT Martin and Hirosaki University in Japan have conducted a visiting professor exchange as part of their sister university relationship.

Tomita has master's degrees in art from Tokyo University and in anthropology from Saitama University. Before joining the faculty at Hirosaki, Tomita worked in Honduras for three years with the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program which is similar to the American Peace Corps. He continued living and working in Honduras as an artist, photographer, musician and furniture designer for an additional three years. He also worked in Mexico for two years with the Japan International Corporation Agency. He was a specialist in woodworking at Durango State University in Durango, Mexico.

Tomita is currently teaching a digital photography class to students at UT Martin. As an artist, Tomita tries to teach his students more than the technique of using photography equipment. "I don't focus on the equipment. Before learning technique, students must acquire a philosophy and sensitivity to a message or social meaning that they can express through the art of the photograph," said Tomita. The students in his digital photography class will have an exhibition of their work on display in the gallery of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on the UT Martin campus from Dec. 1-6.

The visiting professor also plays the Japanese version of the guitar and has other musical interests. On Dec. 8, he will perform on saxophone in a UT Martin jazz band concert at 8 p.m., at Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building.

Tomita has published several articles on a variety of topics related to his work and studies in art, anthropology and music. He has displayed his photographic works in numerous exhibitions throughout Japan. His second book, "Fet and Violence: The Cultural Politics of Steel Pan and Carnival," is being published in Japan and will be released later this month. Tomita will return to Japan at the end of the fall semester.

Fraternity raises money for Red Cross

A University of Tennessee at Martin fraternity has set a goal to raise at least $15,000 for the Weakley County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Kappa Alpha Psi chose the agency to receive funds derived from two special projects—a Christmas gala this semester and a play to be presented throughout the county in April.

"We were looking for a local charity to work with and we thought the Red Cross had a greater need for help," said Lt. Darrell Simmons, of the Department of Public Safety and fraternity adviser. "We want to build up reserves for the Red Cross for Weakley County residents."

Celeste Taylor, American Red Cross Weakley County Chapter chairman, said, "We want the fraternity members to know how much we appreciate them because the Red Cross depends solely on donations. Without these groups, there would be no Red Cross in Weakley County.

Taylor said funds are used for disaster relief and to meet emergency needs of Weakley County residents, such as those resulting from house fires and severe storms.

On Dec. 16, the fraternity will sponsor a black-tie gala at the National Guard Armory in Martin. The cost is $35 a person and $70 for couples. Hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout the evening along with beverages. A variety of music will be offered, including country, soul, rock, easy listening and karaoke.

All proceeds and donations go to the local Red Cross chapter. Checks may be made to the Weakley County chapter of the American Red Cross.

To reserve tickets, or for more information, contact Taylor at ctaylor@cityofmartin.net or dsimmons@utm.edu
Miss UT Martin, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowned

As with previous winners, the third time competing in the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Pageant was the charm for Jennifer Roberts. The UT Martin junior from McEwen claimed the 2006 title and the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Pageant in June in Jackson.

Also headed to the Miss Tennessee Pageant is Holly Buchanan, Brighton, a sophomore at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. She also was chosen Miss Congeniality.

The winners led a field of 11 contestants at the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant Saturday night on the UT Martin campus. Miss UT Martin 2005 Mandy Hopper crowned Roberts, and Buchanan was crowned by Kayla Hockett, 2005 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

“I am incredibly excited. I can’t wait to go to Miss Tennessee (Pageant). Mandy’s going to help me go there and I am just thrilled,” Roberts said.

She’s been in five pageants, the last three as a contestant in the Miss UT Martin Pageant. The new Miss UT Martin clogs and will refine her talent for the statewide competition. “Clogging is unique and native to Tennessee. I think it brings a good aspect to the pageant, but there are ways that I definitely can improve that, and make it more appealing,” Roberts said.

Roberts’ platform is “March of Dimes: Saving Babies Together.” Roberts said, “I will work on promoting my platform even more to the community and to the state of Tennessee.” Roberts added she will work on interview skills, stage presence and public speaking.

“It’s a dream come true. This is my seventh pageant over two years time,” said Buchanan, who performed a classical piano selection during the talent competition. “I have worked so hard for this title, and I think it is the biggest honor to be chosen. I am in complete shock. It just doesn’t seem real.

“I am going to work on my talent and work out every day and do everything for the all-around pageant,” Buchanan said, “Reach out and Read: Combating Illiteracy.”

Runners-up for the Miss UT Martin crown were: Rachel Mansfield, Dresden, first; and Melissa Dixon, Bolivar, second. All members of the Miss UT Martin court must be UT Martin students. Both are seniors.

For Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Bethany Jones, a Milan High School senior, was first runner-up and Jenna Howard, Brighton, a UT Martin senior, was second runner-up.

Tabitha Covington, Kenton, a Dyersburg State Community College student, was the non-finalist talent winner, and Sabree Danner, Martin Westview High School student, was the non-finalist swimsuit winner.

Vallie Kugler Kelly, a former Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee 2002, was hostess for the evening. Entertainment was provided by Hockett, and pageant choreographer, Jenny Norris Light, Nashville. Lynn Gibson, Martin, directed the pageant for the third year.

“It was a real delight this year working with 11 wonderful young ladies,” said Gibson. “It was a great thrill to see Jennifer crowned. She has been in the Miss UT Martin pageant since I began directing, and she has grown each year in the competitive areas. I look forward to working with both Jennifer and Holly. I am certain both girls will work very hard to represent the city of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin with pride in the 2006 Miss Tennessee Pageant.”

Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowned - Holly Buchanan of Brighton, second from left, won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UT Martin. First runner-up was Bethany Jones of Milan, left, and second runner-up was Jenna Howard of Brighton, right. Buchanan is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Jones, a Milan High School student, and Howard, a senior at UT Martin. Buchanan was crowned by the 2005 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Kayla Hockett, of Humboldt, second from right.

Miss UT Martin crowned - Jennifer Roberts of McEwen, second from left, was crowned Miss UT Martin at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UT Martin. Rachel Mansfield, Dresden, left, was first runner-up and Melissa Dixon, Bolivar, right, was second runner-up. Roberts is a junior at UT Martin. Mansfield and Dixon are UT Martin seniors. Also pictured is Mandy Hopper of Milan, 2005 Miss UT Martin, who crowned Roberts.
Fraternity sets goal of $15,000 for Red Cross in Weakley County

A University of Tennessee at Martin fraternity has set a goal to raise at least $15,000 for the Weakley County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Kappa Alpha Psi chose the agency to receive funds derived from two special projects - a Christmas gala this semester and a play to be presented throughout the county in April.

"We were looking for a local charity to work with and we thought the Red Cross had a greater need for help," said Lt. Darrell Simmons, of the Department of Public Safety and fraternity advisor. "We want to build up reserves for the Red Cross for Weakley County residents."

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To reserve tickets, or for more information, contact Taylor at ctaylor@cityofmartin.net or dsimmons@utm.edu.

University of Tennessee at Martin fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, has set an annual fundraising goal of $15,000 to be donated to the American Red Cross Weakley County Chapter. Fraternity members and others pictured at the fund kickoff are, from left, front row, Louis Ragsdale, coordinator of Greek Life and Student Organizations; Lance Amos, Abner Smith, Cindy Young, local Red Cross chapter manager, and Celeste Taylor, local Red Cross chapter chairman; Cori Hill, back row, Lyndel McCullough, Darrell Simmons, fraternity adviser; and Rayvon Sims.

Tanner to speak at University of Tennessee at Martin November 30

Tennessee's Eighth District U.S. Representative John Tanner will speak at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 4:00 p.m., November 30, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

His presentation, "The United States and the New World Order," is open to the public.

The presentation is sponsored by the UT Martin Department of Political Science, International Studies and the Center for Global Studies and International Education.

For more information, contact the Center for Global Studies at 731-881-1023.
Sherfield receives Outstanding Employee award at UTM

Sgt. Steve Sherfield, University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Public Safety, received one of two Fall 2005 Outstanding Employee awards recently presented by Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. The awards, which recognize outstanding service to the university, are presented each fall and spring semester.

Outstanding Employee award given at UT Martin

Annette Moore, left, budget analyst in the University of Tennessee at Martin Division of Finance and Administration, received one of two Fall 2005 Outstanding Employee awards recently presented by Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. The awards, which recognize outstanding service to the university, are presented each fall and spring semester.

WTWP offers teaching, reading, writing workshop

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) will hold its annual invitational summer institute, May 20 and June 5-29 (Monday–Thursday), on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WTWP invites West Tennessee teachers, grades K–12, from all subject areas, to apply for participation.

The institute is for teachers who want to become stronger teachers of reading and writing, and a part of the on-going professional community of WTWP Teacher Consultants.

Through teaching demonstrations of best classroom practices, discussions, and reading, teachers discover innovative ways to meet standards and to implement goals differentiated instruction. They learn methods of assessment that are both teacher-driven and student-driven and approaches to writing and reading that develop critical thinking among students.

Teachers receive six hours of graduate credit, which may be used as part of a master’s program in education at UT Martin, for recertification, for points toward Highly Qualified Status or for hours above a master’s degree. The invitational institute is offered as English 700-701. Tuition is covered by grants from the National Writing Project. Participants cover incidental expenses associated with participation.

All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. The application deadline is February 22. Early applications are encouraged.

For more information about the institute or to request an application, Margrethe Ahschwede, WTWP director, at (731) 881-7290 or (731) 881-7300 by phone or (731) 7012 or larant@utm.edu. For more information about the institute or to request an application, Margrethe Ahschwede, WTWP director, at (731) 881-7290 or (731) 881-7300 by phone or (731) 7012 or larant@utm.edu. For more information about the institute or to request an application, Margrethe Ahschwede, WTWP director, at (731) 881-7290 or (731) 881-7300 by phone or (731) 7012 or larant@utm.edu.

UT Martin Art Faculty to showcase talent, November 29–December 16

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theater Arts will present its annual faculty art exhibition. The opening reception will be from 5:00-7:00 p.m., November 29, in the gallery of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. This year’s exhibit will showcase the skill and artistry of assistant professor Diane Shaw, assistant professor Carol Eckert, associate professor Lane Last and professor David McBeth. The exhibit will be on display until December 16.

For more information, contact Doug Cook, department chair, at dcook@utm.edu.
Santa's Village marks 21st year of being true Santa's helper

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A blimp, outfitted with a minicam, will capture this year's activities as they happen and project them on a large screen in Santa's Village.

Sponsors of the event to date include: Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza of Tennessee, Hamilton-Ryker, Rural King, First State Bank, Greenville, Inc., F.W. James and Sons Grocery, MTD Products, Inc., Tyson Foods, Inc., First Choice Rentals, Puckett Lumber Company, Office Products, Southern Source and Suiter's Clean and Shine.

For more information about Santa's Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-887-7381.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author speaker at UT Martin

Dr. James McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former president of the American Historical Association, recently spoke at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His appearance was part of the Academic Speaker Series and was sponsored by Honors Programs, the Vertical Immersion Program and the Department of History and Philosophy. His topic was "When Will This Cruel War Be Over? The Failure of Peace Negotiations, 1864-1865."

Following the presentation, McPherson signed his book for Kortni Brewer, Martin, a UT Martin student.
Visiting Hirosaki professor has many talents, much experience

Akira Tomita, an associate professor with specialties in art pedagogy and photography, is this year’s distinguished visiting professor from Hirosaki University at the University of Tennessee at Martin. For the past 20 years, UT Martin and Hirosaki University in Japan have conducted a visiting professor exchange as part of their sister university relationship.

Tomita has master’s degrees in art from Tokyo University and in anthropology from Saitama University. Before joining the faculty at Hirosaki, Tomita worked in Honduras for three years with the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program, which is similar to the American Peace Corps. He continued living and working in Honduras as an artist, photographer, musician, and furniture designer for an additional three years. He also worked in Mexico for two years with the Japan International Cooperation Agency. He was a specialist in woodworking at Durango State University in Durango, Mexico.

Tomita is currently teaching a digital photography class to students at UT Martin. As an artist, Tomita tries to teach his students more than the technique of using photography equipment. “I don’t focus on the equipment. Before learning technique, students must acquire a philosophy and sensitivity to a message or social meaning that they can express through the art of the photograph,” said Tomita. The students in his digital photography class will have an exhibition of their work on display in the gallery of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on the UT Martin campus from December 1-10.

He currently has a photo exhibition, “Tugaru,” on display at the C.E. Weldon Public Library in Martin. It is composed of approximately 200 photos of the area around Hirosaki known as Tugaru.

The visiting professor also plays the Japanese version of the guitar and has other musical interests. On December 8, he will perform on saxophone in a UT Martin jazz band concert at 8:00 p.m., at Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building.

Tomita has published several articles on a variety of topics related to his work and studies in art, anthropology and music. He has displayed his photographic works in numerous exhibitions throughout Japan. His second book, “Fet and Violence: The Cultural Politics of Steel Pan and Carnival,” is being published in Japan and will be released later this month. Tomita will return to Japan at the end of the fall semester.

Santa Claus is coming to town

Santa Claus will be in Martin from 12:30-2:30 p.m., December 4, at the C.E. Weldon Public Library for the fourth annual Cookies with Santa event. The community will have the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus, enjoy cookies and drinks and receive a 5x7 photo, taken by Trevor Ruszkowski, University of Tennessee at Martin photographer. The cost is a $10 dollar donation per pose to the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway.

Participants may use personal cameras to take extra photos at no cost. There is no appointment necessary and no limit on the number of children in the photo, but no pets are permitted. Photos taken by Ruszkowski will be received by mail.

“The Cookies with Santa event benefits the Greenway Project by raising money, but, more importantly, it brings smiles to children’s faces,” said Dr. Tim Johnston, Greenway Foundation chairman. “Because the Santa event benefits children, it fits in well with other events sponsored by the Brian Brown Greenway Foundation, such as the Walk to School Week and recent Carson and Barnes Circus performances.”

“The Greenway Foundation is proud to work with UT Martin, the C.E. Weldon Library, and of course Santa, to organize this fun afternoon for children,” Johnston added.

UT Martin Wind Ensemble to perform November 29

The University of Tennessee at Martin wind ensemble will perform at 8:00 p.m., November 29, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. The ensemble will perform a variety of music, including lush ballads, brassy fanfares, contemporary works and standard classics. Music includes works by Jack Stamp, Gustav Holst, Robert Spittal, Eric Whitacre, Tomaso Albinoni and Joseph Curiale. They also will perform the premiere of “Adagio in G Minor for Strings and Organ,” arranged for winds by associate professor Scott Roberts, who also will be the featured organist.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Brian Amaral, UT Martin assistant professor of music and director of bands, at bamaral@utm.edu.
Miss UT Martin, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowned Sat.

As with previous winners, the third time competing in the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Pageant was the charm for Jennifer Roberts. The UT Martin junior from McEwen claimed the 2005 title and the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Pageant in June in Jackson.

Also headed to the Miss Tennessee Pageant is Holly Buchanan, Brighten, a sophomore at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. She also was chosen Miss Congeniality.

The winners led a field of 11 contestants at the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant Saturday night on the UT Martin campus. Miss UT Martin 2005 Mandy Hopper crowned Roberts, and Buchanan was crowned by Kayla Hackett, 2005 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

“I am incredibly excited. I can’t wait to go to Miss Tennessee Pageant. Mandy’s going to help me go there and I am just thrilled,” Roberts said she’s been in five pageants, the last three as a contestant in the Miss UT Martin Pageant. The new Miss UT Martin clings and will refine her talent for the statewide competition.

“Clogging is unique and native to Tennessee. I think it brings a good aspect to the pageant, but there are ways that I definitely can improve that, and make it more appealing.”

Roberts’ platform is “March of Dimes: Savings Babies Together.” Roberts said, I will work on promoting my platform even more to the community and to the state of Tennessee.” Roberts added she will work on interview skills, stage presence and public speaking.

“It’s a dream come true. This is my seventh pageant over two year’s time,” said Buchanan, who performed a classical piano selection during the talent competition.

“I have worked so hard for this title, and I think it is the biggest honor to be chosen. I am in complete shock. It just doesn’t seem real.

“I am going to work on my talent and work out every day and do everything for the all-around pageant,” Buchanan said, about her plans to prepare for the Miss Tennessee Pageant. Buchanan’s platform is “Reach out and Read: Combating Illiteracy.”

Runners-up for the Miss UT Martin crown were: Rachel Mansfield, Dresden, first; and Melissa Dixon, Bolivar, second. All members of the Miss UT Martin court must be UT Martin students. Both are seniors.

For Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Bethany Jones, a Milan High School senior, was first runner-up, and Jenna Howard, Brighten, a UT Martin senior, was second runner-up.

Tabitha Covington, Kenton, a Dyersburg State Community College student, was the non-finalist talent winner, and Sabree Danner, Martin Westview High School student, was the non-finalist swimsuit winner.

Vallie Kugler Kelly, a former Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee 2002, was hostess for the evening. Entertainment was provided by Hackett, and pageant choreographer, Jenny Norris Light, Nashville. Lynn Gibson, Martin, directed the pageant for the third year.

“It was a real delight this year working with 11 wonderful young ladies,” said Gibson. “It was a great thrill to see Jennifer crowned. She has been in the Miss UT Martin pageant since I began directing, and she has grown each year in the competitive areas. I look forward to working with both Jennifer and Holly. I am certain both girls will work very hard to represent the city of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin with pride in the 2006 Miss Tennessee Pageant.”

Pi Kappa Alpha hosts Christmas for Kids with Reading Railroad

The brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha are having a Christmas party for the children of the Martin community and Weakley county area at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in the Student Life Center on the UTM campus. They will be hosting this party in conjunction with the Weakley County chapter of Reading Railroad. The first 500 children younger than 5 years old who attend the party will receive one toy and one book. Parents of children who are not signed up for the Reading Railroad may speak with a representative who has information about the program and applications for signing up. The Reading Railroad is a program for children from birth to 5 years old. Once they are signed up they will receive one book a month until they reach the age of 5. All children in the community are invited to attend. For more information contact Jonathan McAmury at (731) 343-3847 or Rusty Young at 571-3994.
MISS TENNESSEE SOYBEAN FESTIVAL CROWNED — Holly Buchanan of Brighton, second from left, won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UT Martin. First runner-up was Bethany Jones of Milan, left, and second runner-up was Jenna Howard of Brighton, right. Buchanan is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Jones, a Milan High School student, and Howard, a senior at UT Martin. Buchanan was crowned by the 2005 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Kayla Hockett, of Humboldt, second from right.

Kevin Teets claims ADP award

University of Tennessee at Martin’s Kevin Teets’ “Writing on the Wall” project, sponsored on campus from Nov. 6-11, 2004, received first place in the Co-curricular Awards Category at the recent Annual American Democracy Project – South Conference. His project was selected first in a field of seven projects. A symbolic “wall of hate,” 10 feet tall and more than 35 feet wide, was constructed on campus as part of the Writing on the Wall Project, designed to symbolize a dramatic shared community experience of taking personal action to confront human rights atrocities and acts of oppression in society. The wall was covered with epitaphs of hatred painted by students to represent labels that serve to divide society and to draw attention to the barriers that separate society. As part of Diversity Week on campus, the wall was torn down by students, faculty and staff.

UTM professor to perform

An evening of vocal music will be presented by Dr. Amy Yeung, assistant professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, at 8 p.m., Nov. 28, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building. The program will begin with Handel’s “Oh! had I Jubel’s lyre,” from “Joshua,” followed by Bach’s cantata #51, “Jauchzet Gott in allen Lunden.” She will begin the second half with Schubert’s “Totus in corde langueo,” followed by a world premier of a song cycle by UT Martin associate professor of music Dr. Scott Robert’s “Cycle of Prayer.” The program will be closed with Bernstein’s "A Simple Song" from "Mass."

Yeung, a native of Hong Kong, was appointed assistant professor of music at UT Martin in August 2004. She has performed extensively in concerts throughout Asia. Her performances have been broadcast in the “Young Music Makers,” and “1815 Caprice,” under the auspices of Radio Television Hong Kong. She is active on the oratorio concert stage, where she has performed as soloist in Mozart’s “Coronation Mass,” Handel’s “Messiah,” Haydn’s “Te Deum,” and Mendelssohn’s “Christus.” She has been featured in various other musical performances. The recital will feature Dr. Amy Simmons playing the clarinet, Dr. Kurt Gorman playing the trumpet, Dr. Elaine Harris playing the flute, and Allison Loebbika and Delana Easley playing the piano. The concert is free and open to the public.
Brian Brown Memorial Greenway welcomes Santa

Santa Claus will be in Martin from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Dec. 4, at the C.E. Weldon Public Library for the fourth annual Cookies with Santa event. The community will have the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus, enjoy cookies and drinks and receive a 5x7 photo, taken by Trevor Ruszkowski, University of Tennessee at Martin photographer. The cost is a $10 dollar donation per pose to the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway.

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“The Cookies with Santa event benefits the Greenway Project by raising money, but, more importantly, it brings smiles to children’s faces,” said Dr. Tim Johnston, Greenway Foundation chairman. “Because the Santa event benefits children, it fits in well with other events sponsored by the Brian Brown Greenway Foundation, such as the Walk to School Week and recent Carson and Barnes Circus performances.

“The Greenway Foundation is proud to work with UT Martin, the C.E. Weldon Library and, of course, Santa, to organize this fun afternoon for children,” Johnston added.

UT Martin student members of Pi Sigma Epsilon, a business fraternity, will be present to help with the event. Sponsors are the Brian Brown Greenway Foundation, UT Martin and Santa Claus, with help from the C.E. Weldon Library. For more information, call (731) 587-3003.

WTWP offers workshop

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) will hold its annual invitational summer institute, May 20 and June 5-29, on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WTWP invites West Tennessee teachers, grades K-12, from all subject areas, to apply for participation. The institute is for teachers who want to become stronger teachers of reading and writing, and a part of the on-going professional community of WTWP Teacher Consultants.

Through teaching demonstrations of best classroom practices, discussions and reading, teachers discover innovative ways to meet standards and to implement goals differentiated instruction. They learn methods of assessment that are both teacher-driven and student-driven and approaches to writing and reading that develop critical thinking among students.

Teachers receive six hours of graduate credit which may be used as part of a master's program in education at UT Martin, for recertification, for points toward Highly Qualified Status or for hours above a master’s degree. The invitational institute is offered as English 700-701. Tuition is covered by grants from the National Writing Project. Participants cover incidental expenses associated with participation.

All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. The application deadline is Feb. 22. Early applications are encouraged.

For more information about the institute or to request an application, Margrethe Ahlschwede, WTWP director, at 881-7290 or 881-7300 by phone or 881-7276.
University of Tennessee President John Petersen spoke recently at UT Martin to local legislators and community leaders to explain and garner support for a strategic plan designed to strengthen academic and research programs throughout the five-campus, 41,500-student UT system.

Having vowed to state legislative leaders to start the discussion of higher education needs “early” in advance of the next Tennessee General Assembly, he said, “It is far better for us to sit down together and work on what it is we need to do for higher education and how we both can work together.”

Likewise, Petersen said he charged the system’s chancellors to determine how they could set priorities and reallocate funds to “match affordability of education and quality of education.”

The plan includes an initial request for $142 million in additional state funding and also likely will be supported by a UT fundraising campaign slated to begin in 2006.

Petersen said there are two questions to ask citizens, leaders and representatives throughout the state when considering higher education – where do we expect our institutions to be in terms of the hierarchy of higher education in the state, region and nation... and, once we decide where we should be, how are we going to get there?

Petersen cited UT Martin’s FY 2006 funding levels in a comparison with a peer group of universities that is designated by the Tennessee Higher Education Association.

“We’re close, but we’re lower than the average of that peer group,” said Petersen. He noted what it would take in FY 2007 to move UT Martin to the average funding level of that peer group and then to the upper one-third of the group. With the FY 2006 UT Martin funding per full-time student at $9,781, it would take an additional $392 per student to reach the average funding level of the peer group and $1,009 to be in the upper one-third.

In a funding plan with 60 percent derived from state appropriations and 40 percent from tuition, it would take increases of 4.5 percent in state appropriations and 3.5 percent in tuition to reach the average of the peer group.

Unlike an across-the-board percentage of increase, the new strategic plan calls for specific dollar amounts tied to specific programs and initiatives.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission will consider the funding request before it heads to the Tennessee General Assembly, which convenes early next year. The plan emerged from a recent retreat among UT executives and campus officers and was outlined last week at the recent UT Board of Trustees meeting.

Petersen said there are other funding models, but added, what he cited is an example of “how we should be thinking about higher education funding and what kind of dialogue that we need to work with our legislative delegation and work with other leaders in the state.

“We certainly do have an obligation, and we will continue to do three other things, and one is make sure we continue to reallocate internally our dollars and make sure we use them as wisely as we possibly can.” He added.

“We certainly will try to maximize the amount of private dollars that we’re bringing in. The third piece... is trying to facilitate our ability to not only collaborate with businesses but also bring in the types of grants and contracts that we need to really help our faculty generate money to continue to... enhance our programs as best we can.

“... I think we’ve got a gem here (UT Martin) and I think we’ve got a university system that has a greater opportunity than any other I know of in the country right now to go forward. I think it’s going to be very, very important that we all work together... to try to take that number of 21 percent of our adults with baccalaureate degrees and push it up more toward the federal average of 25 percent.

“If we want to rebuild businesses in West Tennessee and the rest of the state, we need a trained workforce so that we can sustain existing businesses and attract additional businesses as we go forward.”
Santa's Village marks 21st year of being true Santa's helper

Santa's Village will celebrate its 21st year of being a true Santa's helper this year and continues to set records in donations of food, toys, and attendance. The holiday fantasyland, which provides the sights, sounds, and fun of Christmas, is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event is slated for 6-9 p.m., December 8; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., December 10; and 1-5 p.m., December 11. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., December 8.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

"Isn't it great to see the level of involvement," said Dennis Suiter, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director, at the annual Santa's Village kickoff luncheon for representatives of sponsors, service agencies and volunteers. "We truly are looking forward to another great year."

Suiter highlighted the efforts of sponsors and volunteers, who contribute time and money to the annual event, and the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa’s Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year.

"They're doing a marvelous job, and aren't we pleased Santa's Village can be a part of it," said Suiter.

Service agencies include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa's Helpers and Chimes for Charity. This year, those agencies plan to assist more than 1,571 families.

In the past five years, an average of 15,750 food items has been collected at Santa’s Village and attendance has averaged 12,244. The average value of the donations has been $54,943.

In 20 years, Santa's Village has collected $602,189 worth of food and toys, and 163,786 visitors have been made to the community event. Last year, the value of the donations reached $59,308, and 13,009 people attended.

"All of that happened because of the people in this room and people behind the scenes," Suiter said.

Suiter also praised the work of the WCMT Can Caravan, which involves all Weakley County Schools in a canned food collection. A total of 15,000-16,000 pounds of food was collected last year. "Before we open the doors of Santa's Village, we have a huge food collection," Suiter said of the school donations.

"It's a lot of work, but we look forward to doing it again this year," said Misty Menees, WCMT operations manager.

Service agency representatives were called on during the luncheon and cited the benefits of Santa’s Village.

"We just want to say thanks so much for letting us be a part of this," said Cindy Stephens, representing Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council. Betty Stockdale, American Red Cross Obion County executive director, pointed to the extra need this year with hurricane victims in the area, in addition to area residents who need assistance. "This will really help," Stockdale said. "Thanks for all you do," Betty Stockdale, We Care Ministries director, said, noting that 86,000 pounds of food was distributed by the agency last year.

The event will feature 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Features include a giant poinsettia tree, horse-drawn wagon rides, Jingle Bell Square, with miniature shops, a skating pond and gazo, an 8-snow globe, Frosty the Talking Snowman, MTD train display, Clifford the Big Red Dog, horse-drawn wagon rides, the Silver Bell Carillon Tower, erected in 2006 and creates a festive atmosphere.

A blimp, outfitted with a mini-cam, will capture this year’s activities as they happen and project them on a large screen in Santa’s Village.

Sponsors of the event to date, include: Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza of Tenn., Hamilton-Ryker, Rural King, First State Bank, Greenball Inc., E.W. James and Sons Grocery, and 54 arts and crafts booths.

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

As with previous winners, the third time competing in the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Pageant was the charm for Jennifer Roberts. The UT Martin junior from McEwen claimed the 2006 title and the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Pageant in June in Jackson.

Also headed to the Miss Tennessee Pageant is Holly Buchanan, Brighton, a sophomore at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. She also was chosen Miss Congeniality.

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Miss UT Martin 2005 Mandy Hopper crowned Roberts, and Buchanan was crowned by Kayla Hockett, 2005 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

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Runners-up for the Miss UT Martin crown were: Rachel Mansfield, Dresden, first; and Melissa Dixon, Bolivar, second. All members of the Miss UT Martin court must be UT Martin students. Both are seniors.

For Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Bethany Jones, a Milan High School senior, was first runner-up, and Jenna Howard, Brighton, a UT Martin senior, was second runner-up.

UTM piano ensemble slated

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present a program of music by Franz Schubert at 3 p.m., Dec. 4, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus.

A pre-concert lecture on Schubert and his piano duet music will be presented at 2:15 p.m., by Dr. Elaine Hriss, UT Martin professor of music and director of the piano ensemble. The lecture will be held in Room 148 of the Fine and Performing Arts Building.

The program will include Schubert's "Fantasie in F Minor" and "Grand Sonata in B-flat Major," two sonatas, a landler, and his popular "March Militaire."

In addition, a special arrangement for five pianos of Schubert's well-known "Serenade" will be performed by UT Martin's faculty piano quintet consisting of Hriss, Dr. Scott Roberts, Prof. Fred Spano, Dr. Allison Nelson and Janet Finch. Special guests on the program include four area high school students: Andrew Moore of South Fulton, Justin Crouch of Paris, Tenn., Chad Keathley of Kenton, Tenn., and Letitia Lavender from Union City, Tenn. They are from the studios of Linda Williams of Union City, Betty Godfrey of Paris, and Elaine Hriss of Martin. UT Martin students on the program include Linda Farmer of Dresden, Tenn., Crystal Crockett of Summertown, Valerie Sanderson of Kenton, Rachel Chadwick of Martin, and Patricia Hernandez of Franklin.

There is no admission charge and the public is invited to attend.
MISS UT MARTIN CROWNED

Jennifer Roberts of McEwen, second from left, was crowned Miss UT Martin at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UT Martin. Rachel Mansfield, Dresden, left, was first runner-up and Melissa Dixon, Bolivar, right, was second runner-up. Roberts is a junior at UT Martin. Mansfield and Dixon are UT Martin seniors. Also pictured is Mandy Hopper of Milan, 2005 Miss UT Martin, who crowned Roberts.

MISS TENNESSEE SOYBEAN FESTIVAL CROWNED

Holly Buchanan of Brighton, second from left, won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UT Martin. First runner-up was Bethany Jones of Milan, left, and second runner-up was Jenna Howard of Brighton, right. Buchanan is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Jones, a Milan High School student, and Howard, a senior at UT Martin. Buchanan was crowned by the 2005 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Kayla Hockett, of Humboldt, second from right. (Photos submitted)
UT Martin awarded $690,000 to strengthen instruction

The University of Tennessee at Martin will receive $690,000 over the next three years to strengthen instruction in mathematics and science as part of the Tennessee Mathematics and Science Partnerships program. The goal is to increase student performance through the professional development of classroom teachers.

“Math and Science Partnership grants allow our local school districts to maximize the resources available across the state,” said Gov. Phil Bredesen.

“These public-private partnerships provide a strong foundation to increase opportunities in high technology fields for all Tennessee students.”

UT Martin’s award is part of the $450 million nationwide competitive grant program. UT Martin’s partners in the grant are Dyersburg City Schools, Humboldt City Schools, Lexington City Schools, Union City Schools and Hardin County Schools. Partnerships must include an engineering mathematics or science department of an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) and a high-need Local Education Agency (LEA). UT Martin will use the grant money to implement Project IMPACT (Immersion in Mathematics Pedagogy Application, Content and Technology).

“Project IMPACT is designed to strengthen the knowledge base of middle school mathematics teachers in West Tennessee, help these teachers incorporate technology into the classroom, and create a network of experienced teachers who can share their innovative ideas with other teachers throughout West Tennessee,” said Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, UT Martin associate professor of mathematics and statistics. “The infusion of technology, the inclusion of engineering applications and the creativity of the teachers will combine to make middle school mathematics classrooms a more exciting place to learn. Middle school students will reap the ultimate rewards of this project.”

Dr. Mary Lee Hall, dean of the UT Martin College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, said, “With the critical need for mathematicians, scientists and engineers, it is necessary that teachers of mathematics for middle schools be secure in their knowledge of the content they teach and also be able to encourage and mentor young students to consider careers in these fields.”

“I am so excited about this opportunity for math, engineering and education faculty to work together. For much too long on college campuses, we have each worked in our own departments without cross-fertilization,” Hall added.

“P-12 teachers need to understand something about engineering and potential careers in order to encourage their students to consider careers in the field. Elementary and middle school teachers must be able to understand the process of teaching math so that they can help their students develop an appreciation for mathematics and why it is so important to think mathematically. This is an opportunity to build professional development for middle school teachers that can have a long-term impact by giving them the knowledge, skills and resources to deliver high-quality instruction to their students.”

The grant and Project IMPACT also will benefit the UT Martin McNairy County Center in Selmer. “By including the UT Martin McNairy County Center, the grant will provide access to high-quality professional development for middle school mathematics teachers in southwest Tennessee,” said Joyce Swan, educational studies instructor at the center. “Professors in the mathematics, engineering and education departments of the Martin campus will collaborate to emphasize the interconnected relationships and applications of mathematics. I am excited about the opportunity to be involved in the process.”

Funding for this grant is made available from the federal government through Public Law 107-110, Title II, Part B. UT Martin was one of three public institutions in Tennessee receiving funding through the Tennessee State Department of Education for this project.

UTM faculty art exhibit to open Nov. 29

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theater Arts will present its annual faculty art exhibition. The opening reception will be from 5-7 p.m., Nov. 29, in the gallery of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus.

This year’s exhibit will showcase the skill and artistry of assistant professor Diane Shaw, assistant professor Carol Eckert, associate professor Lane Last and professor David McBeth.

The exhibit will be on display until Dec. 16. For more information, contact Doug Cook, department chair, at dc008@utm.edu.
Cookies with Santa benefits Greenway

Santa Claus will be in Martin from 12:30-2:30 p.m., Dec. 4, at the C.E. Weldon Public Library for the fourth annual Cookies with Santa event. The community will have the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus, enjoy cookies and drinks and receive a 5x7 photo, taken by Trevor Ruszkowski, University of Tennessee at Martin photographer. The cost is a $10 dollar donation per pose to the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway.

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“The Greenway Foundation is proud to work with UT Martin, the C.E. Weldon Library and of course Santa, to organize this fun afternoon for children.” Johnston added.

UT Martin student members of Pi Sigma Epsilon, a business fraternity will be present to help with the event. Sponsors are the Brian Brown Greenway Foundation, UT Martin and Santa Claus, with help from the C.E. Weldon Library. For more information, call (731) 587-3003.

Rep. Tanner to speak at UT Martin

John Tanner, Tennessee’s Eighth District U.S. Representative, will speak at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 4 p.m., Nov. 30, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. His presentation, “The United States and the New World Order,” is open to the public.

The presentation is sponsored by the UT Martin Department of Management, Marketing and Political Science, International Studies and the Center for Global Studies and International Education. For more information, contact the Center for Global Studies at 731-881-1023.

Yeung to present vocal music program

An evening of vocal music will be presented by Dr. Amy Yeung, assistant professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, at 8 p.m., Nov 28, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building.

The program will begin with Handel’s “Oh! had I Jubal’s lyre,” from “Joshua,” followed by Bach’s cantata #51, “Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen.”

She will begin the second half with Schubert’s “Totus in corde languuo,” followed by a world premiere of a song cycle by UT Martin associate professor of music Dr. Scott Robert’s “Cycle of Prayer.” The program will be closed with Bernstein’s “A Simple Song” from “Mass.”

Yeung, a native of Hong Kong, was appointed assistant professor of music at UT Martin in August 2004. She has performed extensively in concerts throughout Asia. Her performances have been broadcast in the “Young Music Makers,” and “1815 Caprice,” under the auspices of Radio Television Hong Kong. She is active on the oratorio concert stage, where she has performed as soloist in Mozart’s “Coronation Mass,” Handel’s “Messiah,” Haydn’s “Te Deum,” and Mendelssohn’s “Christus.” She has been featured in various other musical performances.

The recital will feature Dr. Amy Simmons playing the clarinet, Dr. Kurt Gorman playing the trumpet, Dr. Elaine Harris playing the flute, and Allison Loebbaka and Delana Easley playing the piano.

The concert is free and open to the public.
WTWP offers teaching, reading, writing workshop

Submitted

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) will hold its annual invitational summer institute, May 20 and June 5-29, 2006 (Mon. - Thurs), on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WTWP invites West Tennessee teachers, grades K-12, from all subject areas, to apply for participation. The institute is for teachers who want to become stronger teachers of reading and writing, and a part of the on-going professional community of WTWP Teacher Consultants.

Through teaching demonstrations of best classroom practices, discussions, and reading, teachers discover innovative ways to meet standards and to implement goals differentiated instruction. They learn methods of assessment that are both teacher-driven and student-driven and approaches to writing and reading that develop critical thinking among students.

Teachers receive six hours of graduate credit which may be used as part of a master’s program in education at UT Martin, for recertification, for points toward Highly Qualified Status or for hours above a master’s degree. The invitational institute is offered as English 700-701. Tuition is covered by grants from the National Writing Project. Participants cover incidental expenses associated with participation.

All teachers accepted to the invitational institute must be accepted for graduate study at UT Martin. The application deadline is Feb. 22. Early applications are encouraged.

For more information about Graduate Studies at UT Martin, contact Linda Arant at (731) 881-7012 or larant@utm.edu.

For more information about the institute or to request an application, Margrethe Ahlischwede, WTWP director, at (731) 881-7290 or (731) 881-7300 by phone or (731) 881-7276 by fax or e-mail wtwp@utm.edu. To download the informational brochure and application materials, visit the WTWP website at www.utm.edu/wtwp.

Tanner to Speak at UT Martin November 30

MARTIN, Tenn. - Tennessee's Eighth District U.S. Representative John Tanner will speak at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 4 p.m., November 30, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. His presentation, The United States and the New World Order, is open to the public.

The presentation is sponsored by the UT Martin Department of Management, Marketing and Political Science, International Studies and the Center for Global Studies and International Education. For more information, contact the Center for Global Studies at 731-881-1023.

Get Out! • Nov. 24, 2005

RECENTAL
Presented by Dr. Amy Yeung, assistant professor of music at the UT Martin. 8 p.m. Monday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin. The recital will feature Dr. Amy Simmons playing the clarinet, Dr. Kurt Gorman playing the trumpet, Dr. Elaine Harris playing the flute, and Allison Loebba and Delana Easley playing the piano. Admission: free.

FACULTY ART EXHIBITION
Opening reception 5 p.m. Tuesday and exhibit on display through Dec. 16 in the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin.

UT MARTIN WIND ENSEMBLE
8 p.m. Tuesday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin. Admission: free.

LOCAL STUDENT WINS AWARD AT LITTLE INTERNATIONAL SHOWMANSHIP - Bryan Barnes, of Milan, was the grand champion sheep professional and overall professional grand champion at the Sixth Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattlemen's Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association.

LOCAL STUDENT WINS AWARD AT LITTLE INTERNATIONAL SHOWMANSHIP - Jacob Whitman, of Medina, was the third-place steer amateur at the Sixth Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattlemen's Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association.
AQUACULTURE RESEARCH BOOSTED BY GRANT

Successful production of freshwater prawns and caged catfish in the same ponds in the summer and caged trout during the winter will be the subject of research following the receipt of a grant from the U.S. Freshwater Prawn and Shrimp Growers Association to the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The grant to the UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the only one presented to a university this year, will enhance aquaculture research already under way at UT Martin. The department has completed two successful prawn harvests in fall 2004 and 2005 using six specially designed ponds on campus.

"We hope to find some ways to add income for farmers who want to try aquaculture," said Dr. Jim Byford, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. "We're pleased to have the confidence and support of the U.S. Freshwater Prawn and Shrimp Growers Association.

The association was formed in 2002 to provide information to its members pertaining to permitting, licensing, spawning, hatching, producing, harvesting, transporting, stocking, management and marketing of farm-raised prawn and shrimp and to assimilate and disseminate information to its members. The association also strives to encourage and promote educational programs pertaining to farm-raised prawn and shrimp production, management and marketing.

WIN AWARDS — Tim Storey (left) of Union City was the fifth-place swine amateur at the Sixth Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex, while Emily Davis of Kenton was named the fifth-place steer professional. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattlemen's Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association.
MISS UT MARTIN ROYALTY — Former Miss University of Tennessee at Martin winners were guests at a special dinner hosted by Chancellor Nick Dunagan prior to the recent Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant. Jennifer Roberts, right, of McEwen, was crowned Miss UT Martin 2006 and joined other winners after the pageant. Also pictured are, from left, Linda Workman Shumate, Union City, Miss UT Martin 1967; Miss Tennessee 1967; Nancy Hicks Williams, Gleason, 1968; Deborah McLean, Alamo, 1974; Marilyn Harper Cooper, Jackson, 1975; Celia Caroluthers Jordan, Jackson, 1982; Mindy Duncan Anderson, Nashville, 1986; Patricia Lewis Hamby, Nashville, 1991; Christie Jackson, Woodland Mills, 1995; Dawn Newton Wright, Maitland, Fla., 1995; Valli Kugler Kelly, Martin, Miss UT Martin 2000 and 2002; Miss Tennessee 2002; and Mandy Hopper, Milan, 2005. UT Martin awards $2,200 in scholarship money each year for this pageant.

Piano ensemble to present music
The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present a program of music by Franz Schubert at 3 p.m., Dec. 4, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. Schubert was an early 19th century composer revered by pianists for his enormous contribution to four-hand piano literature.
A preconcert lecture on Schubert and his piano duo music will be presented at 2:15 p.m., by Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music and director of the piano ensemble. The lecture will be held in Room 148 of the Fine and Performing Arts Building.
The program will include Schubert’s “Fantasie in F Minor,” “Grand Sonata in B-flat Major,” two polonaises, a landler, and his popular “March Militaire.” In addition, a special arrangement for five pianos of Schubert’s well-known “Serenade” will be performed by UT Martin’s faculty piano quintet consisting of Harriss, Dr. Scott Roberts, Dr. Fred Spano, Dr. Allison Nelson and Janet Finch. Special guests on the program include four area high school students, Andrew Moore of South Fulton, Justin Crouch of Paris, Chad Kealheky of Kenton, and Letitia Lavander from Union City. They are from the studios of Linda Williams of Union City, Betty Ford of Paris, and Elaine Harriss of Martin. UT Martin students on the program include Linda Farmer of Dresden, Crystal Crockett of Summertown, Valerie Sanderson of Kenton, Rachel Chadwick of Martin, and Patricia Hernandez of Franklin. There is no admission charge and the public is invited to attend.

Vocal studio recital to be held at UTM
A special evening of art songs and operatic arias performed by University of Tennessee at Martin students will be at 8 p.m., Dec. 5, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. The recital will feature 14 vocal students, who will perform one song each. Delana Easley will accompany the performers on piano. The recital is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Amy Yeung, assistant professor of music, at 881-7408 or ayeung@utm.edu.

UT Martin Choral Ensembles to perform concert
The University of Tennessee at Martin’s University Singers and new Pacer Singers will perform their fall choral concert at 8 p.m., Dec. 1, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. The fall choral concert is the final stop of their tour across Tennessee. The ensembles have performed this concert in Chattanooga, Knoxville and Nashville during the past month. The program features a wide variety of music. It includes “Requiem,” by Canadian composer Eleanor Daley. This piece features several soloists. The program also includes several spirituals. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Mark Simmons, choral director, at 881-7412 or marks@utm.edu.
Dedicated volunteers heart of Santa’s Village

“Everywhere needs help.” That’s the motivation prompting Rebecca Moses, a University of Tennessee at Martin freshman from Chapel Hill, to volunteer during the 21st annual Santa’s Village in Martin.

Countless volunteers of all ages help make Santa’s Village happen each year. Youth groups, college organizations and the adults who supervise them provide a lot of “sweat equity” as the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex is transformed into a winter wonderland.

The event is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11 on the UT Martin campus. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., Dec. 8. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E.

Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of non-perishable foods and/or toys.

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, UT Martin associate professor of agricultural economics, urges his students to help by giving extra credit to volunteers, but students seem to view service to Santa’s Village as more than

See Santa’s Village, Page 4

Santa’s Village

From Page 1

something they can do to help themselves.

Moses, for instance, brought with her to college a sense of service to others, having volunteered as a high school student in organizations such as 4-H, FFA, Beta Club and others.

“I really enjoy getting together with everyone else to help,” said Moses. And, noting that this is her “adopted” community, she added, “We still need to help.”

Becky Dykes, a transfer student from Dyersburg, also has assisted with charitable efforts in her hometown. Dykes said she has lived in Martin since June and is looking forward to being involved in community activities.

The best part for her will be “seeing all the people being really excited and know that I helped. Everyone does Santa’s Village. It’s a lot of fun.”

Freshmen Ryan Pope of Yorkville and Cody Powell of Mt. Juliet are new to the Santa’s Village experience. “It will help the little kids celebrate the holiday,” said Pope.

“Some may not have the opportunities that other kids do,” Powell added that it is good experience to help and pointed to the food drive as an important part of the effort.

Dr. James Butler Jr., UT Martin associate professor of agricultural education, spoke about another group of volunteers.

“Annually, UT Martin Collegiate FFA provides Santa’s Village volunteer student workers, and particularly, Santa Claus. Many of our students seek out the opportunity to participate in this very worthwhile community activity.”

John Taylor, Boy Scout Troop 11 scoutmaster, originally became involved in the event when Boy Scouts were asked to provide the flag ceremony to open Santa’s Village. That was 11 years ago.

“A couple of years ago, I took a week of vacation to help with the setup,” said Taylor.

“It was amazing to go into the empty arena and, in just a few days, see a wonderful world of delight for the eyes. I love to see the looks on people’s faces when they step inside for the first time. I am always amazed by the generosity of those who come and visit.”

“As a volunteer over the years, I have had the great fortune of meeting people who share the desire to help others. Everyone involved has a deep care and commitment to their fellow man. The spirit of helping is contagious and being involved with something like this makes you glad you can catch it.”

Taylor said the scouts “take pride in doing their best.” He added, “Scouts are taught about citizenship from the minute they put on the uniform ... and those who make it to Eagle Scout learn to make it a part of their lives. I have some older scouts that come back to see what’s accomplished each year. Some of them fondly recall the service they were able to give the community.”

Service agencies that will split the donations this year include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers and Chimes for Charity. This year, those agencies plan to assist more than 1,571 families.

Santa’s Village includes lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Among features are a giant poinsettia tree, horse-drawn wagon rides, Jingle Bell Square, with miniature shops, a skating pond and gazebo, an 8’ snow globe, Frosty the Talking Snowman, MTD train display, Clifford the Big Red Dog, horse-drawn wagon rides, the Silver Bell Carillon Tower, erected with 2,006 canned foods and 54 arts and crafts booths.

Sponsors of the event to date, include: Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza of Tenn., Hamilton-Ryker, Rural King, First State Bank, Green ball, Inc., E.W. James and Sons Grocery, MTD Products Inc., Tyson Foods Inc., First Choice Rentals, Puckett Lumber Company, Office Products, Southern Source and Sitter’s Clean and Shine.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at (731) 587-6784.
LINA'S FREEDOM CLAIMS NATIONAL TITLE — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Lina’s Freedom 315N was chosen as the 2005 National Champion Belted Galloway Female. Lina’s Freedom is a Sept. 11, 2003, daughter of Driftwood Kingsize, born and raised at UT Martin. She recently captured the title at the 2005 North American Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky., and was selected from approximately 70 other females in the show. Lina’s Freedom is a result of a four-year breeding project that the UT Martin farm has undergone, involving Belted Galloway cattle, donated to the university from Driftwood Plantation in Aynaw, S.C. Pictured with Lina’s Freedom are (from left) Rachel Fogle, Congerville, Ill.; Chad Wilson, owner-manager Wilson Cattle Co., Cloverdale, Ind.; and Charlie Rowlett, UT Martin farm manager.

Acree to offer consulting services

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED) in Martin, Tenn. from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 8. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping.

UTM fall choral concert Dec. 1

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s University Singers and New Pacer Singers will perform their fall choral concert at 8 p.m., Dec. 1, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus.

The fall choral concert is the final stop of their tour across Tennessee. The ensembles have performed this concert in Chattanooga, Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn. and Nashville, Tenn. during the past month.

The program features a wide variety of music. It includes “Requiem,” by Canadian composer Eleanor Daley. This piece features several soloists. The program also includes several spirituals.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Mark Simmons, choral director, at 731-881-7412 or marks@utm.edu.

UTM plans artist market

The UT Martin Visual Arts Society is planning the Left Bank Artist Market for the holidays for two Saturdays in December. The informal market will occupy the Farmers’ Market space in the parking lot between C.E. Weldon Public Library and railroad tracks on Main Street from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Dec. 3 and 10. UT Martin students and local artists will have works for sale, including pottery, paintings, weaving, turned wood bowls and stained glass creations. The Left Bank Art Market provides access to locally produced works of art for holiday shoppers.

Artists from the community are invited to participate in the market. All that is required is that the work be original art and created by the artist. Artists are asked to bring their own tables. For more information, call David McBeth, UT Martin professor of visual and theatre arts.
Mezker to present percussion workshop

Kenneth Mezker, an acclaimed Miami percussionist, will present a Latin Percussion Workshop from 6-10 p.m., Nov. 30, in the Harriet Fulton Theater in the Fine and Performing Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The workshop is open to the public and will be a valuable experience from beginners to the most advanced of drummers wanting to learn more about hand drumming and Cuban percussion. Workshop fee is $10. Participants may take a conga or djembe. The evening will conclude with a mass Drum Circle Jam.

The Paducah Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will ring in the holiday season with the “Gala Holiday Concert,” Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. in the Carson Four Rivers Center. This holiday-themed concert is always a Symphony favorite and this year is no exception. The Symphony Chorus will be performing the Christmas portion from Handel’s “Messiah” along with audience sing-a-longs, and will feature a special appearance by the Symphony Children’s Chorus.

Of significant note this year is the world premiere of “Lo, New Born Jesus,” commissioned by the Paducah Symphony for its Children’s Chorus. The work is by world-renowned choral composer, Roland Martin of Buffalo, New York.

The Orchestra, Chorus and Children’s Chorus will be under the direction of Dr. Bradley Almquist, director of choral activities and professor of music at Murray State University.

Shaw was an NBC chorus conductor during the 1950s, and he directed the San Diego Symphony during that same period. In the early 1960s, George Szell recruited Shaw to be the director of the Cleveland Orchestra and Chorus, and in the late 1960s, Shaw went on to conduct the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, watching both groups grow from small, local ensembles to become world-renowned, musical institutions. He died in 1969, and today he is known as one of the greatest teachers of choral direction and composers of festive Christmas music.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the Paducah Symphony Box Office at (270) 444-0065 or (800) 738-3727. Prices are $30, $25 and $17 for adults and $24, $20 and $14 for students.

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UTM vocal recital Dec. 5

A special evening of art songs and operatic arias performed by University of Tennessee at Martin students will be at 8 p.m., Dec. 5, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus.

The recital will feature 14 vocal students, who will perform one song each. Delana Easley will accompany the performers on piano.

The recital is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Amy Yeung, assistant professor of music, at (731) 881-7408 or at yeung@utm.edu.
Volunteers help with Santa's Village

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For more information about Santa's Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Miss UT Martin Royalty and former Miss UTM winners honored

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Local student wins award at Little International Showmanship Contest

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UTM students, other volunteers offer time and talents to Santa's Village

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

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UT Martin piano ensemble to present music by Franz Schubert

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present a program of music by Franz Schubert at 3:30 p.m., December 5, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. Schubert was an early 19th century composer revered by pianists for his enormous contribution to four-hand piano literature.

A pre-concert lecture on Schubert and his piano duo music will be presented at 2:15 p.m., by Dr. Elaine Harrius, UT Martin professor of music and director of the piano ensemble. The lecture will be held in Room 148 of the Fine and Performing Arts Building.

The program will include Schubert’s “Fantasie in F Minor,” “Grand Sonata in B-flat Major,” two polonaises, a landler, and his popular “March Militaire.” In addition, a special arrangement for five pianos of Schubert’s well-known “Serenade” will be performed by UT Martin’s faculty piano quintet consisting of Harriss, Dr. Scott Roberts, Dr. Fred Spano, Dr. Allison Nelson and Janet Finch. Special guests on the program include four area high school students: Andrew Moore of South Fulton, Justin Crouch of Paris, Chad Keathley of Kenton, and Petite Hart and Patricia Hernandez of Franklin.

There is no admission charge and the public is invited to attend.
UT Martin choral ensemble to perform fall concert December 1

The University of Tennessee at Martin's University Singers and New Pacer Singers will perform their fall choral concert at 8:00 p.m., December 1, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus.

The fall choral concert is the final stop of their tour across Tennessee. The ensembles have performed this concert in Chattanooga, Knoxville and Nashville during the past month.

The program features a wide variety of music. It includes "Requiem," by Canadian composer Eleanor Daley. This piece features several soloists. The program also includes several spirituals.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Mark Simmons, choral director, at 731-881-7412 or marks@utm.edu.

Project wins accolade

Kevin Teets

University of Tennessee at Martin's Kevin Teets' "Writing on the Wall" project, sponsored on campus from November 6-11, 2004, received first place in the Co-curricular Awards Category at the recent Annual American Democracy Project South Conference. His project was selected first in a field of seven projects. A symbolic "wall of hate," 10 feet tall and more than 35 feet wide, was constructed on campus as part of the Writing on the Wall Project, designed to symbolize a dramatic shared community experience of taking personal action to confront human rights atrocities and acts of oppression in society. The wall was covered with epitaphs of hatred painted by students to represent labels that serve to divide society and to draw attention to the barriers that separate society. As part of Diversity Week on campus, the wall was torn down by students, faculty and staff.

Laman, Morris receive college scholarship offers

Adam Laman and Ashley Morris were two of 16 students that received scholarship offers at the 2005 Tennessee State Division II Marching Band Championship on November 5, hosted by Goodpasture High School in Madison.

These scholarships are based on academic and artistic ability as well as need. There were over $115,000 in scholarships given from eight Tennessee universities.

Both are senior members of the Trenton Peabody High School Marching Band. Morris, clarinet player, received offers of a $2,400 scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Martin and $2,000 from Union University. Laman, baritone and euphonium player, received an offer from Lipscomb University and an offer of $2,400 scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Laman also received the Sam Ash Music Corporate Scholarship of $1,000. He was selected over all senior applicants.

Acclaimed Miami percussionist to give workshop at UT Martin

Kenneth Mezker, an acclaimed Miami percussionist, will present a Latin Percussion Workshop from 6-10 p.m., November 30, in the Harriet Fulton Theater in the Fine and Performing Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The workshop is open to the public and will be a valuable experience from beginners to the most advanced of drummers wanting to learn more about hand drumming and Cuban percussion. Workshop fee is $10. Participants may take a conga or djembe. The evening will conclude with a mass Drum Circle Jam.

Contact Julie Hill for more information at 731-881-7418 or jhill@utm.edu.

Wins award

Jake Mathenia of Trenton was the grand champion steer professional at the Sixth Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattlemen's Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association.

Award winner

Ryan Pope, of Yorkville, was the fourth-place steer professional at the Sixth Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattlemen's Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association.
Volunteers offer time and talents to Santa's Village

"Everywhere needs help," That's the motivation prompting Rebecca Moses, a University of Tennessee at Martin freshman from Chapel Hill, to volunteer during the 21st annual Santa's Village in Martin.

Countless volunteers of all ages help make Santa's Village happen each year. Youth groups, college organizations and the adults who supervise them provide a lot of "sweat equity" as the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex is transformed into a winter wonderland.

The event is slated for 6-9 p.m., December 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., December 10; and 1-5 p.m., December 11 on the UT Martin campus. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., December 8. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, UT Martin associate professor of agricultural economics, urges his students to help by giving extra credit to volunteers, but students seem to view service to Santa's Village as more than something they can do to help themselves.

Moses, for instance, brought with her to college a sense of service to others, having volunteered as a high school student in organizations such as 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Beta Club and others.

"I really enjoy getting together with everyone else to help," said Moses. And, noting that this is her "adopted" community, she added, "We still need to help."

Becky Dykes, a transfer student from Dyersburg, also has assisted with charitable efforts in her hometown. Dykes said she has lived in Martin since June and is looking forward to becoming involved in community activities. The best part for her will be "seeing all the people being really excited and know that I helped. Everyone does Santa's Village. It's a lot of fun."

Freshmen, Ryan Pope of Yorkville and Cody Powell of Mt. Juliet are new to the Santa's Village experience. "It will help the little kids celebrate the holiday," said Pope. "Some may not have the opportunities that other kids do." Powell added that it is good experience to help and pointed to the food drive as an important part of the effort.

Dr. James Butler Jr., UT Martin associate professor of agricultural education, spoke about another group of volunteers. "Annually, UT Martin Collegiate FFA provides Santa's Village volunteer student workers and particularly, Santa Clauses. Many of our students seek out the opportunity to participate in this very worthwhile community activity."

John Taylor, Boy Scout Troop 11 scoutmaster, originally became involved in the event when Boy Scouts were asked to provide the flag ceremony to open Santa's Village. That was 11 years ago.

"A couple of years ago, I took a week of vacation to help with the setup," said Taylor. "It was amazing to go into the empty arena and, in just a few days, see a wonderful world of delight for the eyes. I love to see the looks on people's faces when they step inside for the first time. I am always amazed by the generosity of those who come and visit.

"As a volunteer over the years, I have had the great fortune of meeting people who share the desire to help others. Everyone involved has a deep care and commitment to their fellow man. The spirit of helping is contagious and being involved with something like this makes you glad you can catch it."

Taylor said the scouts "take pride in doing their best." He added, "Scouts are taught about citizenship from the minute they put on the uniform... and those who make it to Eagle Scout learn to make it a part of their lives. I have some older scouts that come back to see what's accomplished each year. Some of them fondly recall the service they were able to give to the community."

Service agencies that will split the donations this year include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa's Helpers and Chimes for Charity. This year, those agencies plan to assist more than 1,571 families.

Santa's Village includes lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Among features are a giant poinsettia tree, horse-drawn wagon rides, Jingle Bell Square, with minature shops, a skating pond and gazebo, an eight-foot snow globe, Frosty the Talking Snowman, MTD train display, Clifford the Big Red Dog, horse-drawn wagon rides, the Silver Bell Carillon Tower, erected with 2006 canned foods and 54 arts and crafts booths.

Sponsors of the event to date, include: Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza of Tenn., Hamilton-Ryker, Rural King, First State Bank, Greenball, Inc., E.W. James and Sons Grocery, MTD Products, Inc., Tyson Foods, Inc., First Choice Rentals, Puckett Lumber Company, Office Products, Southern Source and Suiter's Clean and Shine.

For more information about Santa's Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
UTM piano ensemble to present music by Franz Schubert Dec. 4

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present a program of music by Franz Schubert at 3 p.m., December 4, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine and Performing Arts Building on campus. Schubert was an early 19th century composer revered by pianists for his enormous contribution to four-hand piano literature.

A pre-concert lecture on Schubert and his piano duet music will be presented at 2:15 p.m., by Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music and director of the piano ensemble. The lecture will be held in Room 148 of the Fine and Performing Arts Building.

The program will include Schubert’s “Fantasie in F Minor,” “Grand Sonata in B-flat Major,” two polonaises, a tarantella, and his popular "March Militaire." In addition, a special arrangement for five pianos of Schubert’s well-known "Serenade" will be performed by UT Martin’s faculty piano quintet consisting of Harriss, Dr. Scott Roberts, Dr. Fred Spano, Dr. Allison Nelson and Janet Finch. Special guests on the program include four area high school students: Andrew Moore of South Fulton, Justin Crouch of Paris, Chad Keathley of Kenton, and Letitia Lavender from Union City. They are from the studios of Linda Williams of Union City, Bettie Godfrey of Paris, and Elaine Harriss of Martin. UT Martin students on the program include Linda Farmer of Dresden, Crystal Crockett of Summertown, Valerie Sanderson of Kenton, Rachel Chadwick of Martin, and Patricia Hernandez of Franklin.

There is no admission charge and the public is invited to attend.

EARN ACOLADE — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Kevin Teets’ Writing on the Wall project, sponsored on campus Nov.6-11, 2004, received first place in the Co-curricular Awards Category at the recent Annual American Democracy Project’s South Conference. His project was selected first in a field of seven projects. A symbolic “wall of hate,” 10 feet tall and more than 35 feet wide, was constructed on campus as part of the Writing on the Wall project, designed to symbolize a dramatic shared community experience of taking personal action to confront human rights atrocities and acts of oppression in society. The wall was covered with epitaphs of hatred painted by students to represent labels that serve to divide society and to draw attention to the barriers that separate society. As part of Diversity Week on campus, the wall was torn down by students, faculty and staff.

OFFERED SCHOLARSHIPS — Obion County Central High School senior marching band member Michael Dozier (second from right) was one of 16 high school students who received scholarship offers at the 2005 Tennessee State Division II Marching Band Championship recently hosted by Goodpasture High School in Madison. Dozier, a percussionist, received offers of $2,400 scholarships from the University of Tennessee at Martin and of $6,000 from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville. At the recent championship competition, the scholarships were based on academic and artistic ability, as well as need, with over $113,000 in scholarships given from eight Tennessee universities. Afterward, University of Tennessee at Martin band director Brian Amaral (left) joined several of the Division II high school band members who received scholarship offers, including (from left, continuing with second from left) Alexius Luckey of Gibson County High School, Spencer McCallister of Cheatham County Central High School, Ashley Morris and Adam Laman, both of Trenton Peabody High School, Amy Jones of Gibson County High School, Dozier and Joseph Manley of South Side High School.
Miss UT Martin, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowned

As with previous winners, the third time competing in the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Pageant was the charm for Jennifer Roberts. The UT Martin junior from McEwen claimed the 2006 title and the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Pageant in June in Jackson.

Also headed to the Miss Tennessee Pageant is Holly Buchanan of Brighton, a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, who won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. She also was chosen Miss Congeniality.

The winners led a field of 11 contestants at the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant held recently on the UT Martin campus. Miss UT Martin 2005 Mandy Hopper crowned Miss Roberts and Miss Buchanan was crowned by Kayla Hockett, 2005 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

“I am incredibly excited. I can't wait to go to Miss Tennessee (Pageant). Mandy's going to help me go there and I am just thrilled.” Miss Roberts said she's been in five pageants, the last three as a contestant in the Miss UT Martin Pageant. The new Miss UT Martin clogs and will refine her talent for the statewide competition. “Clogging is unique and native to Tennessee. I think it brings a good aspect to the pageant, but there are ways that I definitely can improve that and make it more appealing.”

Kelly Roberts' platform is “March of Dimes: Saving Babies Together.” She said, “I will work on promoting my platform even more to the community and to the State of Tennessee.” Miss Roberts added she will work on interview skills, stage presence and public speaking.

“It's a dream come true. This is my seventh pageant over two years' time,” said Miss Buchanan, who performed a classical piano selection during the talent competition. “I have worked so hard for this title, and I think it is the biggest honor to be chosen. I am in complete shock. It just doesn't seem real.”

“I am going to work on my talent and work out every day and do everything for the all-around pageant,” Miss Buchanan said, about her plans to prepare for the Miss Tennessee Pageant. Buchanan's platform is “Reach out and Read: Combating Illiteracy.”

Runners-up for the Miss UT Martin crown were: Rachel Mansfield of Dresden, first; and Melissa Dixon of Bolivar, second. All members of the Miss UT Martin court must be UT Martin students. Both are seniors.

For Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Bethany Jones, a Milan High School senior, was first runner-up, and Jenna Howard, of Brighton, a UT Martin senior, was second runner-up.

Tabitha Covington of Kenton, a Dyersburg State Community College student, was the non-finalist talent winner, and Sabree Danner, a Martin Westview High School student, was the non-finalist swimsuit winner.

Vallie Kugler Kelly, a former Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee 2002, was hostess for the evening. Entertainment was provided by Miss Hockett, and pageant choreographer Jenny Norris Light of Nashville. Lynn Gibson of Martin directed the pageant for the third year.

“It was a real delight this year working with 11 wonderful young ladies,” said Ms. Gibson.

“It was a great thrill to see Jennifer crowned. She has been in the Miss UT Martin pageant since I began directing, and she has grown each year in the competitive areas.

“I look forward to working with both Jennifer and Holly. I am certain both girls will work very hard to represent the City of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin with pride in the 2006 Miss Tennessee Pageant.”
MISS SOYBEAN FESTIVAL CROWNED — Holly Buchanan of Brighton (second from left) won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant held recently at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UT Martin. First runner-up was Bethany Jones of Milan (left) and second runner-up was Jenna Howard of Brighton (right). Miss Buchanan is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Miss Jones is a Milan High School student and Miss Howard is a senior at UT Martin. Miss Buchanan was crowned by the 2005 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Kayla Hackett of Humboldt.

MISS UT MARTIN ROYALTY — Former Miss University of Tennessee at Martin winners were guests at a special dinner hosted by Chancellor Nick Dunagan prior to the recent Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant. Jennifer Roberts (right) of McEwen was crowned Miss UT Martin 2006 and joined other winners after the pageant. Also pictured are (from left) Linda Workman Shumate of Union City, Miss UT Martin 1967, Miss Tennessee 1967; Nancy Hicks Williams of Gleason, 1968; Deborah McLean of Alamo, 1974; Marilyn Harper Cooper of Jackson, 1975; Celia Carothers Jordan of Jackson, 1982; Mindy Duncan Anderson of Nashville, 1986; Patricia Lewis Hamby of Nashville, 1991; Christie Jackson of Woodland Mills, 1995; Dawn Newton Wright of Maitland, Fla., 1996; Valli Kugler Kelly of Martin, Miss UT Martin 2000 and 2002, Miss Tennessee 2002; and Mandy Hopper of Milan, 2005. UT Martin awards $2,200 in scholarship money each year for this pageant.
The UT Martin Visual Arts Society is planning Left Bank Artist Market for the holidays for two Saturdays in December.

The informal artist's market will occupy the Farmers Market space in the parking lot between C.E. Weldon Public Library and the railroad tracks on Main Street in Martin from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 10. UT Martin students and local artists will have works for sale, including pottery, paintings, weaving, turned wood bowls and stained glass creations.

The Left Bank Art Market provides access to locally-produced works of art for holiday shoppers. "This artist's market is a good chance to buy local artwork for Christmas presents," said Jody Stokes, a Visual Arts Society member from Humboldt. "It might help a struggling student artist."

Artists from the community are invited to participate in the market. All that is required is that the work be original art and created by the artist. Artists are asked to bring their own tables.

Santa's Village Marks 21st Year of Being True Santa's Helper

MARTIN - Santa's Village will celebrate its 21st year of being a true Santa's helper this year and continues to set records in donations of food, toys and attendance. The holiday fantasyland, which provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas, is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event is slated for 6-9 p.m. December 8-9, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. December 10, and 1-5 p.m. December 11. Opening ceremony is set for 8:45 p.m. December 8. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C. E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

"Isn't it great to see the level of involvement?" said Dennis Suiter, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director, at the annual Santa's Village kick-off luncheon for representatives of sponsors, service agencies and volunteers. "We truly are looking forward to another great year."

Suiter highlighted the efforts of sponsors and volunteers, who contribute time and money to the annual event, and the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa's Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year. "They're doing a marvelous job, and aren't we pleased Santa's Village can be a part of it," said Suiter.

Service agencies include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa's Helpers and Chairs for Charity. This year, those agencies plan to assist more than 1,571 families.

In the past five years, an average of 31,750 food items has been collected at Santa's Village and attendance has averaged 12,244. The average value of the donations has been $54,943.

In 20 years, Santa's Village has collected $602,189 worth of food and toys, and 163,756 visits have been made to the community event. Last year, the value of the donations reached $59,000, and 15,009 people attended.

"All of that happened because of the people in this room and people behind the scenes," Suiter said.

Suiter also praised the work of the WCMT Can Caravan, which involves allWeakley County Schools in a canned food collection. A total of 15,000-15,000 pounds of food was collected last year. "Before we open the doors of Santa's Village, we have a huge food collection," Suiter said of the school donations.

"It's a lot of work, but we look forward to doing it again this year," said Misty Menses, WCMT operations manager.

Service agency representatives were called on during the luncheon and cited the benefits of Santa's Village.

"We just want to say thanks so much for letting us be a part of this," said Cindy Stephens, representing Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council. Betty Stockdale, American Red Cross Obion County executive director, pointed to the extra need this year with hurricane victims in the area, in addition to area residents who need assistance. "This will really help," Stockdale said. "Thanks for all you do," Betty Stockdale, We Care Ministries director, said, noting that 86,000 pounds of food was distributed by the agency last year.

The event will feature 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Features include a giant poinsettia tree, horse-drawn wagon rides, Jingle Bell Square, with miniature shops, a skating pond and gazebo, an 8' snow globe, Frosty the Talking Snowman, MTD train display, Clifford the Big Red Dog, horse-drawn wagon rides, the Silver Bell Carillon Tower, erected with 2006 canned foods from E.W. James and Sons Grocery, and 54 arts and crafts booths.

A blimp, outfitted with a minicam, will capture this year's activities as they happen and project them on a large screen in Santa's Village.

Sponsors of the event to date, include: Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza of Tenn., Hamilton-Ryker, Rural King, First State Bank, Greenhill, Inc., E.W. James and Sons Grocery, MTD Products, Inc., Tyson Foods, Inc., First Choice Rentals, Puckett Lumber Company, Office Products, Southern Source and Suiter's Clean and Shine.

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