The University of Tennessee at Martin
Address: Office of Admissions, 200 Administration Building, 554 University Street, Martin 38238
Phone: 731-881-7020 (Admissions), 731-881-7029 (Admissions Fax), 800-829-UTM1
Enrollment: 7,042 students (fall 2014)
Website: www.utm.edu
Contact: Bud Grimes
Social Media: facebook.com/utmartin, twitter.com/utmartin, youtube.com/utmartin
The University of Tennessee at Martin offers many important features for value-conscious students and families, including high-quality academics, excellent faculty, modern facilities and convenient locations.
UT Martin is a primary campus in the University of Tennessee System and offers undergraduate and graduate educational programs through its main campus in Martin, four West Tennessee centers (Jackson, Parsons, Selmer and Ripley) and UT Online, the University of Tennessee's online education provider. More than 100 program areas involving undergraduate and graduate levels of study prepare students to compete in the global economy.

Local and regional recognitions also support UT Martin’s focus on student success and outcomes:
• UT Martin is listed among the nation’s “Best Value” colleges and universities for 2014 by The Princeton Review.
• UT Martin ranked first among public Tennessee institutions for percentage of success as part of the Complete College Tennessee Act.
• UT Martin students’ satisfaction with their entire educational experience ranked first in the latest survey information among Tennessee public universities.
• The 2014 nursing class achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

UT Martin engineering graduates have achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the national Fundamentals of Engineering Exam.

Also addressing quality, the university received two grants in October from the U.S. Department of Education totaling $5.2 million to enhance student mentoring, as well as the realignment and strengthening of teacher education programs.

Regional and national recognitions also support UT Martin’s focus on student success and outcomes:
• UT Martin is listed as a top-tier university among southern, master’s level institutions in the 2015 edition of America’s Best Colleges, compiled by U.S. News & World Report.
• The Princeton Review has named the university a “Best College in the Southeast” for 12 consecutive years.
• UT Martin was named among the nation’s “Best Value” colleges and universities for 2014 by The Princeton Review.
• Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc. has listed the university in America’s 100 Best College Buys for nine consecutive years.
• UT Martin’s Online Master of Science in Education with a major in counseling is among the best in the nation for 2014 by Best Online Colleges.

“UT Martin continues to demonstrate the ability to offer high-quality, affordable education in a traditional college environment,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chan-
Schools

Continued from Page G39

Cellor: "Outstanding faculty members and student-success support add value to a UT Martin degree."

To complete the college experience, UT Martin offers many student activities that encourage involvement and leadership development. The university competes in NCAA Division I athletics for both men and women and is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference and the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. UT Martin is home to the 2014 national champion men’s rodeo team.

UTM hosting home-school brainstorming session

Posted on November 3, 2014 by Steve James in Local News

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/

Student workers Luke Studard, of Dyersburg, a junior electrical engineering major, and Licia Bass, of Whiteville, a senior social work major, are pictured in the Paul Meek Library where a "Home-School Brainstorm" event is set for 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The event is free and open to the public.

UT-Martin is hosting a home-school brainstorming session Thursday night.

Parents who home-school or are interested in home-schooling their children are invited to participate. Ideas, information and resources for home schooling will be presented to enhance the home-schooling experience.

The "Home-School Brainstorm" is Thursday night from seven until nine at the Paul Meek Library at UTM. The event is free and open to the public.

Reservations are required no later than Wednesday by calling the university.
Small business awards presented at Martin

Five Small Business Awards were announced recently and presented by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. The awards were given at a reception held at the university's Holland McCombs Center.

Awards announced were: John Clark, First State Bank, Tennessee Financial Services Champion Award; Final Flight Outfitters, Rising Star Award; Darlene Adkins, UTM Faculty Star Award; Davis Automotive, Charlie and Karen Davis, Success Story Star Award; and Monograms & More, Anita Allen Bell, Rising Star Award.

Awards information includes the following:
- John Clark is president/CEO of Community Bancshares Inc. and president/CEO of First State Bank. The statewide Tennessee Financial Services Champion Award goes to an individual who assists small businesses through exemplary efforts to increase the usefulness and availability of accounting or financial services. Under Clark's leadership, First State Bank was a significant contributor and supporter of the UTM Martin REED Center, which helps individuals start or improve small businesses.
  - Brothers Kelley Powers, Tripp Powers and John Ed Powers own Final Flight Outfitters in Union City and received the Rising Star Award. Final Flight is a mail-order catalog company, e-commerce site and sidewalk retail store that specializes in high-end hunting products. The family business, which started in 1998 out of a storage trailer, now offers a product showroom covering more than 25,000 square feet.
  - Darlene Adkins is a UT Martin accounting lecturer. The Faculty Star Award honors a UT Martin faculty member who provides time and expertise to TSBDC's entrepreneurs and small business owners. Adkins, who has more than 20 years of experience in accounting and auditing positions, serves as an accounting consultant and teaches QuickBooks classes for the TSBDC at the UT Martin REED Center.
  - Charlie and Karen Davis are the owners of Davis Automotive in Martin. The Success Story Star Award honors one of the region's small business successes and its role in the local economy. Davis Automotive, located at 709 Lindell St., is Weakley County's largest auto repair business. In October 2011, Charlie and Karen Davis purchased and remodeled the former IGA/Save-A-Lot building located across from the former location, converting it into an auto facility with the latest equipment and diagnostic technology. As the business grew, the TSBDC at the UT Martin REED Center provided guidance and consultation for improving the online experience for Davis Automotive customers.
  - Anita Bell is owner of Monograms & More in Martin. The Rising Star Award recognizes entrepreneurs who have demonstrated high growth potential and job creation to create a positive economic impact in the region. Monograms & More is an embroidery, screen-printing and specialty gift shop. This year, the TSBDC at the UT Martin REED Center assisted Bell in obtaining financing to complete a major interior renovation of the Monograms & More building.

To learn more about the TSBDC at the UT Martin REED Center, visit www.utm.edu/reed, or contact the office at (731) 587-7333 to speak with a certified small business counselor.

AWARD WINNERS – Five Small Business Awards were announced and presented recently by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. Among those taking part in the awards reception were (left to right) Dr. Tom Rakes, UTM Martin chancellor; David Bell, Monograms & More; Anita Bell, owner; Monograms & More; Kelley Powers, Final Flight Outfitters; Landy Fuqua, director, REED Center; John Clark, First State Bank; Darlene Adkins, UT Martin; Charlie and Karen Davis, Davis Automotive; Walter Perry, Tennessee district director, Small Business Administration; and Dr. Ross Dickens, dean, UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs.
Small Business Boot Camp participants recognized

Participants in a four-week Small Business Development Boot Camp recently received certificates after completing the camp, designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship.

The Tennessee Small Business Development Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center sponsored the program. The UT Federal Credit Union also provided sponsorship support.

Seventeen aspiring West Tennessee entrepreneurs met for classes Tuesday nights during September in Martin. REED Center director Landy Fuqua directed the classes that covered topics on how to write a business plan, how to finance a business, banking advice and how to pitch a loan.

Special topic speakers included: Beau Pemberton, attorney, who advised the group on legal matters for the small business owner; Darlene Adkins, UT Martin accounting lecturer, who spoke about best accounting practices; and Elizabeth Pritchett, marketing specialist, who advised the group on best marketing practices, including the use of social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The boot camp addressed various needs, ranging from how to begin a small business venture to how owners of existing businesses can obtain new skills for their small business to succeed.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed this small business boot camp. It has been a great experience for me as a young, new small business owner," said Monica White, owner of Jeremiah 1:5 Christian Learning Center in Martin. "I feel I have learned a lot and now know that I have many resources to reach out to when faced with the daily challenges of owning a small business."

Erric and Tricia Kellum, both of Jackson, said that the TSBDC Boot Camp provided them with helpful tools for starting a future business. They described the speakers as "informative, detailed and straightforward," adding that they would recommend the boot camp for any future or existing business owners.

Boot camp graduates included Samuel Bryant, Dresden; Mykia Campbell, Mykia's Therapeutic Massage, Martin; Sharis Diggs-Chandler, Martin; Kenneth Fouse, 411 Marketing Inc., Antioch; Jeff Hayslett, Union City; Sandy Johnson, The Dragonfly Café and Bakery, McKenzie; Erric and Patricia Kellum, Jackson; Blake McGrarity, Martin; Carl Minor, Union City; Daniel Myers, Myer's Inspection, Martin; Dawn Owens, Troy; Anthony Payne, Martin; Bill Reager, 2 in 1 Green Clean, Puryear; Vicki Taylor, Springville; Monica White, Jeremiah 1:5 Christian Learning Center, Martin; and Josh Wilson, Avenger Pools, Martin.

To learn more about the TSBDC at the UT Martin REED Center, visit www.utm.edu/reed. or contact the office at (731) 587-7333 to speak with a certified small business counselor.

BUSINESS BOOT CAMP — Participants in a four-week Small Business Boot Camp recently received certificates after completing the camp. The boot camp was designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship. The Tennessee Small Business Development Center at the University of Tennessee Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center sponsored the program. The UT Federal Credit Union also provided sponsorship support. Among those recognized were (seated, from left) Mykia Campbell, Sandy Johnson, Patricia Kellum and Monica White; (standing) REED Center director Landy Fuqua, Blake McGrarity, Carl Minor, Kenneth Fouse, Bill Reager, Jeff Hayslett, Dawn Owens, Erric Kellum, Sharis Diggs-Chandler, Anthony Payne and Daniel Myers. Not pictured are Samuel Bryant, Vicki Taylor and Josh Wilson.
Homeschool event set

Ideas, information and resources for homeschooling will be presented at a “Home-School Brainstorm” event Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Paul Meek Library on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

It’s free and open to the public.

The event is for individuals interested in learning more about lesson plans, teaching resources, instructional aids, Ellison dies (for bulletin board art and cutouts for graphics) and digital resources to enhance the homeschooling experience.

Reservations are required no later than Wednesday by calling Sara Rachels at (731) 881-7083 or Cindy Gaylord at (731) 881-7078. Reservations can also be made via e-mail at srachel1@utm.edu or cgaylord@utm.edu.

BRAINSTORM SESSION — Student workers Luke Studard of Dyersburg, a junior electrical engineering major, and Liocia Bass of Whiteville, a senior social work major, are pictured in the Paul Meek Library where a “Home-School Brainstorm” event is set for 7-9 p.m. Thursday on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The event is free and open to the public.

‘Home-School Brainstorm’ set for Thursday at UTM

Ideas, information and resources for home schooling will be presented at a “Home-School Brainstorm” event Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Paul Meek Library on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The event is free and open to the public.

The brainstorm is for individuals interested in learning more about lesson plans, teaching resources, instructional aids, Ellison dies (for bulletin board art and cutouts for graphics) and digital resources to enhance the homeschooling experience.

Reservations are required no later than Wednesday by calling Sara Rachels at 881-7083 or Cindy Gaylord at 881-7078. Reservations can also be made via e-mail at srachel1@utm.edu or cgaylord@utm.edu.
Westview, UT Martin grad will sign copies of first novel

By BRAD GASKINS
News editor

Westview High School
and UT Martin graduate
Brad Boals, an industrial
engineer by trade, recently
completed his first
novel.

The idea for the book
first popped into his
head years ago, when
he was a
student at Martin Middle
School. In the winter of
2011, he began outlining
his idea. The end result is
"Last Chance - The Legend
of the Hathmee", the
first novel of a planned five
part series.

"I think it's a good, fun
book," said Boals, who
outlined the novel on a trip to
Alaska. "I think people will
enjoy it."

"The Legend of the
Hathmee" follows April and
her sons, Matthew and
Connor, who have never
known the freedoms that
regular Americans enjoy
every day. They live in a
future time controlled by
a man and mystical device
that determines their fate
on a daily basis. Their lives
are planned out as simply
as we would plan out our
vacations. All that changes
the night that Matthew and
Connor see a blinding light
come from a warehouse
window and a decision has
to be made. Will April and
her family decide to help
an old freedom fighter and
defy the system that they
have known their entire
lives? If so, the search will
begin over 200 years in the
past and will require Mat-
thew and Connor to fit into
a time that they have only
read about. They family
will discover that knowl-
edge, duty, power and com-
passion can either work to-
gether or against each other
as they race against time
and formidable foes to just
have a chance. A chance to
succeed, a chance to decide,
a chance to love or just a
chance to do the right thing
and discover the secrets
of a power that is alien to
them all.

The book takes place in
a fictional future and semi-
fictional past. Residents of
any West Tennessee town
will recognize some of the
places and descriptions in
the book.

Boals will be signing
copies of his new book
starting at noon Saturday
at Wonderland Books and
Games in Martin.

Boals graduated from
Westview High School in
1996 and in 2001 graduated
from UT Martin with an
engineering degree. He is
married to the former April
Laney of Martin, and his
parents are Rosemary and
Benny Boals of Martin.

UT Martin academic speaker to discuss
landmark film ‘The Birth of a Nation’

Dr. Paul McEwan will present "The Birth of a
Nation,' Racist, and the Nature of Cinema: 100
Years of Controversy" at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday
as the 2014-15 Academic Speakers Series continues
at the University of Ten-
nessee at Martin. The presen-
tation is free and open
to the public and will be
held in Campbell Audito-
rium, located in the Andy
Holt Humanities Building.

McEwan is associate
professor of media and
communication and di-
rector of film studies at
Muhlenberg College in Al-
lentown, Penn. He spe-
nalizes in the history of film
and will discuss the land-
mark film “The Birth of a
Nation" directed by D.W.
Griffith that was released
almost 100 years ago. The
film is noted for its ground-
breaking film techniques
and also for its overt rac-
ism and positive portrayal
of the Ku Klux Klan.

He is the author of a
forthcoming volume on
“The Birth of a Nation" in
the BFI Classics series,
as well as articles and es-
says on the film that have
appeared in “Film History
and Cinema Journal." He
also wrote an article on
the legacy of Griffith’s "In-
tolerance" for the forthcoming
"Companion to D.W.
Griffith" and other books
and essays on Canadian
cinema and film pedago-

The Academic Speakers
Series annually brings top
speakers to UT Martin to
meet with the university’s
Honors Programs students
and to offer presentations
that are open to the public.
Honors Programs and oth-
er university organizations
sponsor the series.

The complete list of
2014-15 speakers is found
at http://www.utm.edu/de-
partments/honors/ and se-
lect "Academic Speakers
Program."

Art exhibitions

Three UT Martin se-
niors will present art-
work in exhibitions
scheduled for today through Nov. 14 in the
university’s Fine Arts
Building Gallery.

Featured will be work
by Natalie Wisher, of
Martin, an art education
major; Zach Dickson, of
McEwen, an art educa-

An opening reception
for the three concurrent
shows will be held from
5-6:30 p.m. today (Tues-
day), and the shows will
close Nov. 14.

Gallery hours are 4-8
p.m., Monday–Thursday
and 1-5 p.m. Saturday
through Sunday. All gal-

lery exhibitions are free
and open to the public.
Small business boot camp participants receive certificates

Participants in a four-week Small Business Development Boot Camp recently received certificates after completing the camp, designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship. The Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center sponsored the program. The UT Federal Credit Union also provided sponsorship support.

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The boot camp addressed various needs, ranging from how to begin a small business venture to how owners of existing businesses can obtain new skills for their small business to succeed.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed this small business boot camp. It has been a great experience for me as a young, new small business owner,” said Monica White, owner of Jeremiah 1:5 Christian Learning Center in Martin. “I feel I have learned a lot and now know that I have many resources to reach out to when faced with the daily challenges of owning a small business.”

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REED Center presents Small Business Awards

Five Small Business Awards were announced Oct. 23, presented by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. The awards were given at a reception held at the university's Holland McCombs Center.

Awards announced were: John Clark, First State Bank, Tennessee Financial Services Champion Award; Darlene Adkins, UT Martin, Faculty Star Award; Davis Automotive, Charlie and Karen Davis, Success Story Star Award; Monograms & More, Anita Allen Bell, Rising Star Award; and Final Flight Outfitters, Kelly Powers, Rising Star Award.

Awards information includes the following:
- John Clark is president/CEO of Community Bancshares, Inc., and president/CEO of First State Bank. The statewide Tennessee Financial Services Champion Award goes to an individual who assists small businesses through exemplary efforts to increase the usefulness and availability of accounting or financial services. Under Clark's leadership, First State Bank was a significant contributor and supporter of the UT Martin REED Center, which helps individuals start or improve small businesses.
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Forrester, Dresden’s outgoing mayor, reflects on 12 years in office

By BRYAN GRIFFIN
Special to The Press

Family and friends of outgoing Dresden Mayor Danny Forrester met Friday at Dresden City Hall for a retirement social.

Forrester, who presided over his last Dresden board meeting Monday, did not seek re-election after 12 years in the office. His last day in office is pending and depends upon the Tennessee Election Commission’s confirmation of election results.

Some of the guests on hand to wish the mayor well were General Sessions Judge Tommy Moore and former Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick.

“He has done a fabulous job and has been a pleasure to work with,” Moore said of Forrester.

Patrick also said Forrester is someone who was easy to work with.

Dresden City Recorder Jennifer Branscum, who has worked closely with Forrester during his time as mayor, said of Forrester, “He has been very easy to work with, as he likes to get things done. He is proactive instead of reactive.”

Forrester was born in Union City, but later moved with his family to Martin, where he attended Martin schools until graduation. Forrester attended UT Martin and graduated in 1969, after which he married his wife, Beth. In 1974, the Forrester family moved to Summer, Mo., where they lived until 1982, when the Forrester family moved to Dallas after Danny accepted a job with the Primrose Oil Company. Forrester remains with Primrose Oil as the regional sales director for the southeast sales region. The Forrester family eventually moved to Dresden, where Beth’s family resided.

Forrester began his service in Dresden city government in 2000 when he was elected alderman. In 2002, Forrester was elected mayor following Joyce Hurt, the current president of aldermen for the city.

After his election, former Tennessee Gov. Ned Ray McWherter was a big help to Forrester, offering advice and encouragement. “Governor McWherter is still with us,” Forrester said. “The way he conducted himself and what he meant to Dresden is something we need to strive for. He was a man of character.”

The most memorable events of his three terms as mayor, according to Forrester, have been the partnering of the cities of Weakley County with the Weakly County government to form the Weakley County Economic Development Corporation.

SEE FORRESTER, PAGE 4
This was unique, Forrester said, in that it was the first time that city and county governments had joined together in one unified project.

Another highlight for his administration was paying off of an estimated $750,000 in city debt from the water department, which now has a surplus of over $1 million. Also during his administration, all debt will be paid off after a final payment is made for a police department project in January and no new debt accumulated as Forrester leaves office.

Forrester credits these accomplishments to the many good city boards that have worked with him to make progress possible. He has also been pleased with the participation of the young citizens of Dresden in having a part in building their future.

"I believe that if you are part of the building process, you want to see it grow and prosper," Forrester said. "Your future then becomes somebody else's future. At 67 years old, the measures I take to improve our government will not be seen by me, but by the next generation. The great thing about the younger generation is that they do not know the concept of the impossible. I have been blessed with being able to work with young people who have the knowledge and desire to get things done."

Some of the accomplishments that Forrester saw in his three terms were the downtown renovation project, sidewalk construction project, the Dresden Farmer's Market and the renewal of the Dresden water system. Forrester said that he was not satisfied with the progress made after 12 years, but felt that Dresden was in good shape and that it was the perfect time to leave office.

"There are always issues to address in city government, as government is always evolving," he said. "I can leave knowing that our audits are clean and we don't owe any money."

Forrester chose not to run for re-election because he felt it was a perfect time to leave office, as there were no major issues needing his attention.

Forrester cited family and business commitments as his main reasons for not seeking re-election, adding, "I couldn't have found a better time to leave office, as it was the right time to leave office."

The Forrester's look forward to having time to travel and spend time with their four sons and nine grandchildren. Forrester will seek to continue to have a part in Dresden city government by working in the various organizations, such as the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce.

Forrester's fondest memory of serving as mayor happened just a few days ago when an elderly gentleman came in to City Hall to thank him for his service. The man said that he would miss Forrester being mayor and wishes he would run again. As he left, the gentleman said, "Have a great day." Forrester reflected on this moment, saying, "It's not what you do that people notice. It's what you don't do."

Forrester thanked his administration and the citizens for their backing during his 12 years in office. He said he looks forward to the next administration and seeing Dresden grow and prosper.

"I want to be a good ex-mayor and will seek to offer any help to the next mayor," he said. "I will never criticize the next mayor and will offer him my 100-percent support."
Home-school brainstorm set for Thursday at UT Martin

Ideas, information and resources for home schooling will be presented at a “Home-School Brainstorm” event from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the Paul Meek Library on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The event is free and open to the public.

The brainstorm is for individuals interested in learning more about lesson plans, teaching resources, instructional aids, Ellison dies (for bulletin board art and cutouts for graphics) and digital resources to enhance the homeschooing experience.

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Academic speaker to discuss landmark film ‘The Birth of a Nation’

Dr. Paul McEwan will present “The Birth of a Nation,” Racism, and the Nature of Cinema: 100 Years of Controversy” at 7:30 p.m., today as part of the 2014-15 Academic Speakers Series at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The presentation, which is free and open to the public, will be held in Campbell Auditorium, located in the Andy Holt Humanities Building.

McEwan is associate professor of media and communication and director of film studies at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Penn. He specializes in the history of film and will discuss the landmark film “The Birth of a Nation,” directed by D.W. Griffith and released almost 100 years ago. The film is noted for its groundbreaking film techniques and also for its overt racism and positive portrayal of the Ku Klux Klan.

He is the author of a forthcoming volume on “The Birth of a Nation” in the BFI Classics series, as well as articles and essays on the film that have appeared in “Film History and Cinema Journal.”

Hardy UTM scholarship recipient

An Obion County student has been awarded scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions.

Mikaela Margaret Hardy, a South Fulton High School graduate and daughter of Ben and Barbie Hardy, of South Fulton, will be a sophomore. She received the Sliger Pre-Professional Award and the Chancellor’s Award.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT: Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Landmark film discussed in tonight’s speaker series

Dr. Paul McEwan will present “The Birth of a Nation,” Racism and the Nature of Cinema: 100 Years of Controversy” at 7:30 p.m. tonight as the 2014-15 Academic Speakers Series continues at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The presentation, which is free and open to the public, will be held in Campbell Auditorium in the Andy Holt Humanities Building.

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He is the author of a forthcoming volume on “The Birth of a Nation” in the BFI Classics series, as well as articles and essays on the film that have appeared in Film History and Cinema Journal.

He also wrote an article on the legacy of Griffith’s “intolerance” for the forthcoming “Companion to D.W. Griffith” and other books and essays on Canadian cinema and film pedagogy.

The Academic Speakers Series annually brings top speakers to UT Martin to meet with the university’s Honors Programs students and to offer presentations that are open to the public. Honors Programs and other university organizations sponsor the series.

The complete list of 2014-15 speakers may be found online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/honors/ by selecting “Academic Speakers Program.”

At the college level

An Obion County student has been awarded scholarships for 2014-15 to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin. Mikaela Margaret Hardy, daughter of Ben and Barbie Hardy of South Fulton, received the Sliger Pre-Professional Award and the Chancellor’s Award. She will be a sophomore.
Let’s ‘Brainstorm,’ homeschoolers

Last fall, I attended a workshop for homeschool parents hosted by the Paul Meek Library, located on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Paul Meek Library is a public library, and its resources are available to folks in the community, whether or not they are UTM faculty or students. For homeschool parents, the Paul Meek Library is a veritable gold mine of information and educational resources.

During last year’s workshop, I learned that Paul Meek Library is a state curriculum library. This means, the library has a copy of every textbook used in every classroom of every public school in the state of Tennessee.

Are you curious about what math concepts your student needs to cover in third grade? Paul Meek Library has textbooks on hand for you to review and use as you plan your school year. (They also occasionally have used textbooks for sale, for super cheap prices.)

My favorite room in the library is the Steven E. Rogers Media Center. The media eCenter has everything from Ellison Dies to hand puppets, math manipulatives to art posters, history flashcards to geography puzzles. During the homeschool workshop, parents learned about the numerous teaching resources and instructional aids which can be checked out from the library’s media center.

We also learned about the wealth of on-line resources which can be accessed through the free Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL). Foreign language courses, science lab experiments, math review games — a member of the library staff showed us how to find and utilize these and many other on-line programs and tools.

Well, the staff at Paul Meek Library were so pleased with the turnout for last year’s workshop — and so encouraged by the positive feedback of those who attended — that they are doing it again. Paul Meek Library is hosting “Homeschool Brainstorm” — a workshop for area home-educators — on Thursday from 7-9 p.m.

If you’re a homeschool parent, I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about all the awesome resources and services offered by Paul Meek Library and the library’s friendly, helpful staff. As an added bonus, you will also get to meet other area homeschool parents!

In order to plan and prepare for a successful workshop, the library needs parents to RSVP for the event by today. You can RSVP by phone by calling Cindy Gaylord at (731) 881-7078 or Sara Rachels at (731) 881-7083. Or you can register for the workshop by sending an email to cgaylord@utm.edu or srachell@utm.edu.

Last year’s workshop was fun and informative and I left feeling motivated and better-equipped for the school year ahead. I’m already looking forward to this year’s workshop — hope to see you there!

Editor’s note: Camille Kendall, an Obion County native, is a writer who has been homeschooling for over 20 years. She and her husband, Steve, have seven children and one grandchild. She may be contacted by email at cskendall@hotmail.com; or visit her blog at hurricane-camille.blogspot.com.
Big Cypress Tree Fall Festival celebrates 25th year

Members of UT Martin’s Student Chapter of the National Association Interpretation braved freezing temperatures Saturday morning to explain to visitors the various items they had on display during the 25th annual Big Cypress Tree Fall Festival.

UTM geology student William Abrams displays numerous plant and animal fossils.

UTM Professor Tom Blanchard gave a very informative and entertaining presentation called ‘Snakes of Tennessee.’

‘The story of Davy Crockett as told by himself’ was told by re-enactor UTM Professor Dr. Anthony Hunt.
Small Business Boot Camp

Participants in a four-week Small Business Boot Camp recently received certificates after completing the camp. The boot camp was designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship. The Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center sponsored the program. The UT Federal Credit Union also provided sponsorship support. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Mykia Campbell, Sandy Johnson, Patricia Kellum and Monica White; (back row, left to right) REED Center director Landy Fuqua, Blake McGarity, Carl Minor, Kenneth Fouse, Bill Reagor, Jeff Hayslett, Dawn Owens, Errie Kellum, Sharis Diggs-Chandler, Anthony Payne and Daniel Myers (not pictured, Samuel Bryant, Vicki Taylor and Josh Wilson).

Martin Veterans Parade – Saturday, Nov. 8

The 2014 Veterans Parade, sponsored by Rolling Thunder TN Chapter 6, starts at 10 a.m., Saturday, November 8. The parade line-up will be at UT Martin’s Hardy Stadium parking lot, and the route will follow University Street to Lindell Street in downtown Martin. Veterans will be offered transportation during the parade. There are no entry fees for participating in the parade. For more information about having an entry in the parade, call 731-514-2469.

A Veterans Day ceremony honoring local veterans will be held after the parade at Festival Park in downtown Martin.

One Day ACT Prep course offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering an ACT prep course, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, November 15th, at the UT Martin McNairy County Center. The course is free to McNairy County high school students. ACT Prep Lecture 1 is 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Lecture 2 is 1 to 3:30 p.m. The course will cover ACT Prep. ACT Prep is a multiple choice test including math, science, English, and reading comprehension. The test has 60 questions in 7 sections. Seating is limited, so students are encouraged to register early. To register call the UT Martin Office of Extended Curriculum and Online Studies at 731-881-7063 or register online at http://www.unomaha.edu/departments/edcur/Registration.html.
LCHS Band members receive $450,000 in scholarships
Posted November 6, 2014 at 12:00 am

Eleven senior members of the Lewis County High School Marching Band made history Saturday, November 1, 2014 when they were awarded over $450,000 in collegiate scholarships at the 34th annual Tennessee Division II State Marching Band Championship at Stewarts Creek Campus in Smyrna. "We received the most money and scholarships out of any other band program at State and four of the top five single scholarship totals," Director Justin Bell said.

Bethel University presented over $390,000 scholarship opportunities: Dylan Lomax, $48,000; Seth Miller and Autumn Cardenas, $40,000 each; Shannon Reid and Brooke Wherry, $38,000 each; Desiree Frazier, $36,000; Mackenzie Keeton, Amanda Foster, Alexis Everett, and Brittnay Akins, $34,000 each; and Rose Rasbury, $32,000.

Austin Peay State University presented $4,100 scholarship opportunities to Miller, Frazier, Lomax, Akins; Everett, and Cardenas.

Cardenas and Wherry received $600 scholarships to attend University of Tennessee at Martin. Keeton, Miller, Reid, Rasbury, and Foster were awarded $800 scholarships and Everett a $1,200 scholarship.

Reid was awarded an $8,000 scholarship opportunity to David Lipscomb University, and Wherry received a renewable Union University scholarship for $2,000.

The College of Choice scholarship was presented to Akins for $1,000 payable to any college she wishes to attend.

The band received ratings of one in band, color guard, field commander, and percussion. The percussion was 14th in the state, Color Guard and Field Commander were 16th and the band was 17th.

"Even though Lewis County did not place in the top ten, it was an honor to watch the excitement on the faces of the eleven seniors and the support the entire band gave them following the scholarship award’s program," School Board member Glenda Atkinson commented.

"We are very proud of all the students’ hard work over the last four years. This has led to numerous superior ratings at band contests and overall wins in class. We look forward to the future progress because of the ground work these students have laid," Bell stated.
HONOR CHOIR — The Treble Honor Choir, which consisted of 102 students in grades 4-8 from throughout West and Middle Tennessee, performed Oct. 28 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. "It is very important to us that we do events like this in order to support the local choral programs," said Dr. Johnathan Vest, an associate professor of music and coordinator of music education at the university. "It is also a good way for us to get exposure to UTM."

UTM music department hosts second annual Treble Honor Choir

By SAM CURTIS
Special to The Press

The Department of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin hosted its second annual Treble Honor Choir on Oct. 28 under the direction of Dr. Johnathan Vest, an associate professor of music and coordinator of music education at the university.

The choir consisted of 102 students, grades 4-8, from different schools around West and Middle Tennessee.

"Martin Elementary brought 17 students this year, which we were pleased to see, because this was their first year to participate in the honor choir event," Vest said.

The event was highlighted by a full day of activities planned for the students. Once on campus, the students rehearsed their songs together as a group, for the first time, while different members of the department of music directed them. The students were also given a tour of the music department.

"It is very important to us that we do events like this in order to support the local choral programs. It is also a good way for us to get exposure to UT Martin," Vest said. "These kids are coming here and seeing our wonderful campus and we are able to reach them at a very young age to show them that the University of Tennessee at Martin is a great place to come to school, regardless of if you want to come for the music department or just to go to school."

The students had been working at their respective schools to prepare for the honor choir prior to coming to UT Martin.

At Martin Elementary School, Robin Pape would work with her students after school in order for them to be prepared, because there was no time during the school day for the students to rehearse. There are currently no choral programs in Weakley County, something that Vest wants to see changed.

"Choral programs are very inexpensive because there is no equipment that needs to be purchased," he said. "You basically just need people and a place to sing."

The concert was the last activity that was planned for the students that visited UT Martin's campus.


Throughout the concert, there were also guest musicians that performed. The guest musicians consisted of Dr. Scott Roberts, who played the organ, Delaney Bailey, who played the piano, Dr. Douglas Owens, who played the oboe, and many current UTM students who volunteered.

The Treble Honor Choir is an event that helps to support the local choral programs, and it is an event that Vest hopes that can continue to happen each and every year.
Lion’s Club Telethon to benefit UT Martin’s Infant Stimulation Program

UT Martin’s Infant Stimulation Program has been selected as the beneficiary of this weekend’s Lion’s Club Telethon of the Stars for the state of Tennessee.

The Infant Stimulation program serves children with diagnosed conditions and/or developmental delays throughout Northwest Tennessee. The mission of the UTM Infant Stimulation Program is to provide families with tools, opportunities, and support to help their children reach their highest potential.

“There is a great deal of travel expense for us to serve children in their home,” program director Lori Wilson said. “This is what is best for the child and family, so the money the program receives through the telethon will help us to continue to provide services in the home.”

Ellie Dilbert is the program’s representative for the telethon. Ellie is a fun-loving, free-spirited 2-year-old with a courageous and determined heart. She endured and overcame some of the biggest obstacles a micro-preemie could have faced when she was born at 26 weeks gestation weighing a tiny 1 pound, 9 ounces. During her five and a half month NICU stay, Ellie had a tracheostomy and a feeding tube inserted. She was considered failure to thrive and at 8 months, only weighed a very small 10 pounds.

Despite these seemingly impossible odds, Ellie was determined she could do what any typical child could do. At 8 months of age, when Ellie began home-based therapy through the UT Martin Infant Stimulation Program, she could not sit unassisted, crawl, or communicate. Through weekly home therapy visits, the early interventionist provided activities and information for the family to learn how to support Ellie’s development through their daily routines.

With the efforts of Ellie’s

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TELETHON
FROM PAGE 1

early interventionist at the UT Martin Infant Stimulation Program, as well as her occupational and physical therapists, she is now able to walk, run, use sign language, play with focus and do almost anything she wants to independently.

More than $24 million has been contributed to the Lions Club/WPSD Local 6 Telethon of Stars. UT Martin’s Infant Stimulation Program can continue serving children like Ellie thanks to the continued support of the telethon.

“We are thrilled to have this great opportunity to partner with the Paducah Lion’s Club to be the Tennessee beneficiary of the Telethon of Stars,” said Sharon Waterfield, director of UT Martin’s child and family grant programs. “Some of the children enrolled in our program need speech, occupational and physical therapy. Our funding to provide therapy services was cut June 30. Many of the children physically cannot travel long distances due to their health conditions and families do not have the monetary means for the cost of travel. Through the donations from the telethon, we will have opportunity to provide therapy again so our children and families have the services they need right here at home.”

Headlining the 58th annual telethon are the popular Gatlin Brothers. Also performing will be the acoustic group The Acoustikats, Steve Hornbeak and Ashley Hatfield, Paul Jolley, Amber’s Drive and Karen Peck & New River. Other favorites appearing will be Terry Mike Jeffrey, Eric Horner, Regie Lafaye, variety show Variety! Music, Memories and More, Clint Fisher, Zach Harris and Lew Jetton and 61 South. WPSD Local 6 anchors will serve as emcees again this year.

For more information about the telethon, visit www.telethonofstars.org
Local agency preparing for winter weather

Northwest Tennessee Disaster Services is busy preparing for the winter weather.

Volunteer CEO Rob Adcock said house fires occur more often during the winter months when supplemental heaters are pulled out of closets and fireplaces and primary heaters are being used for the first time of the season.

He suggests residents change the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors if they did not do so during the recent time change.

If residents suspect fires in their homes, they should get out of the buildings and dial 911. If a fire has occurred, Adcock said, residents can then call NTDS at (731) 592-3947 for 24-hour free services.

He said the organization can “provide emergency motel lodging and resources to get you back on your feet again.”

“We want to thank all of our local fire departments for saving countless lives each day. If takes brave individuals to show up on the scene of a blazing fire to help, but it takes heroes to walk into the flames to save a life,” Adcock said.

He and NTDS volunteers have been teaching a series of disaster preparedness courses recently, including a class for the University of Tennessee at Martin School of Nursing. Adcock shared photos and stories of past relief efforts both locally and nationally in which the organization has participated. Members of the senior class, the UTM Student Nurses Association, Dr. Gloria Browning and Dr. Ruby Black collected nearly $400 for the organization.

Adcock also mentioned he was asked to be the regional co-chair of Volunteer Tennessee this year. His class will include nominating 20 volunteers from local counties to be considered for Gov. Bill Haslam’s “Governor’s Stars Awards,” which will be presented at a formal dinner in Franklin this coming March.

ACCEPTS DONATION — Northwest Tennessee Disaster Services volunteer CEO Rob Adcock recently accepted a donation totaling nearly $400 from members of the senior class at the University of Tennessee at Martin School of Nursing, the UTM Student Nurses Association, Dr. Gloria Browning and Dr. Ruby Black to help during local disaster relief in the area.
Tom Hendrix began his college journey at the University of Tennessee at Martin in his 1954 Ford.

Tom Hendrix has written a book about his life as an entrepreneur.

See HENDRIX, Page E3
Hendrix later convinced his high school principal to mark up his credits so he could get into college, on the condition he continued until he graduated.

"That day in that principal's office, when he marked up my credit, was really a big day in my life," Hendrix said. "And you can look at that very negatively, but I look at it in a very positive way, because I know what happens as a result of that day."

Hendrix said that his life has been characterized by "people that were at the right place at the right time to give me a nudge in the right direction." The "right" people continued to show up in Hendrix's life when he started classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1985. He met a man named Dortch Oldham — a Nashville businessman, who brought Hendrix onto his team of Bible salesman.

Oldham helped teach Hendrix the art of salesmanship. Hendrix said in his book that he had previously only sold watermelons — and he essentially gave them away. Oldham taught Hendrix how to have a successful mindset, generating an extra level of confidence and setting him apart from his peers.

Hendrix said he raised enough money for college by working in the summers from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., going door to door to sell Bibles to doctors and farmers alike. He formed a team of 26 additional salesmen through which he learned how to interview, hire, motivate and lead. It was his first taste of business, and Hendrix was hooked.

Hendrix read every biography about successful entrepreneurs that he could find during his senior year of college, including books on Henry Ford and John D. Rockefeller. By the time he graduated, he had a degree in agriculture, Hendrix was dreaming big to start his own national company.

Turning down job offers with large salaries, Hendrix and his wife started a company in processes as they looked for a business idea that they could take to a national level. After eight years of hardships, Hendrix launched his first successful business selling stools via a school fundraising company called NASCO.

"Those were the best years of my life," Hendrix said. "I learned who Tom Hendrix was. It strengthened my resolve; it made me more determined to carry out my mission."

Despite his lack of formal business training, Hendrix said NASCO continued to grow into a successful company. Due to conflicting ideas with his business partner, Hendrix resigned after realizing he could not properly carry out the service mentality Oldham taught him years before — to focus on the person and not the profit.

Hendrix went on to establish another successful school fundraising company named Henco, which he and Sherry began with a $3,500 loan in a small building in Selmer. He said the company went national, with nearly 1,800 employees on the payroll in its heyday of helping schools raise money through selling items that Henco manufactured.

Hendrix isn't unfamiliar with failure, however. He experienced it at Hendrix when cheap imports overshadowed the company's fundraising products, eventually leading to the company's bankruptcy. Hendrix said he avoided a defeatist attitude and simply used the free time to pursue new business opportunities in unfamiliar territory.

In addition to running the state's largest peach orchard in Tennessee and designing harnesses for emus over the years, Hendrix said he decided to open Henco Furniture in Selmer after his second fundraising company closed. Not knowing anything about the furniture business, he and Sherry hopped in their motorhome and traveled to the top 10 furniture businesses in the country as "students" to observe and ask the professionals questions.

"When we got through, we had a yellow pad full of the best ideas from the most successful furniture store in the United States," Hendrix said. "We took that and began to brainstorm what we wanted our store to be like, knowing that if we can visualize it, we can build it."

Hendrix said his employees were always more than hired labor. He created a work environment where the people viewed their jobs as more than work — it was their passion. Hendrix said he wanted his employees to have a positive mindset, to pursue their goals in life and to establish healthy lifestyles.

Whether he encouraged people to attend health fairs or helped them set budgets to meet their financial goals, Hendrix knew that in order to have a successful company, he needed successful people as employees.

"I really think the philosophy you have in working with people is so darn important," Hendrix said. "I've never heard about this at school or anywhere, but it was obvious that Dortch believed in servant leadership. It wasn't about making money; it was about building people."

Hendrix closed Henco Furniture in 2013 after 17 years of business. He lives with his wife at Pickwick at said he isn't finished making contributions in life.

"His bank is yet another way he hopes to give back to others and encourage people to develop their own potential."

"I don't think you're living unless you're making a contribution," Hendrix said. "Let's develop your potential, let's grow, let's become the people we should become. It should not be buried in the cemeteries at the end of the day."

"The best way to grow toward God is doing as much as I can for other people," he said.

For more information about Hendrix and his book, visit www.mrhencos.com

Reach Beth Knoll at (731) 425-6641. Follow her on Twitter @BKnollTJSun.
UTM’s final Fall Preview Day set for this Saturday

Posted on November 10, 2014 by Steve James in Local News

This Saturday is the final Fall Preview Day at UT-Martin.

Current high school juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend with their family, but any students with an interest in UTM are welcome to attend this Saturday’s event.

Check-in starts at 9:00, followed by a welcome and informational session, then an academic fair at 10:30, and campus tours from 11:30 until 1:00.

Any student interested about UTM's Fall Preview Day should call the office of admissions.

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False alarm evacuates UTM library

Posted on November 10, 2014 by Steve James in Local News

Students and faculty scattered quickly when an alarm went off sending patrons outside the Paul Meek Library on the UT-Martin campus around 11:30 this morning.

A library spokesperson said technicians working on the heating and cooling unit apparently caused the alarm to sound and those that were inside evacuated the building promptly.

Patrons were allowed to return a short time later.
Robison named UTM homecoming queen

Hannah Robison (center), a senior chemistry major from Springville, representing Alpha Omicron Pi, was crowned queen for Homecoming 2014 on Oct. 25 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Joining Robison in the homecoming court were (from left) Alley Hargrove of Dickson, Brittany Berry of Collierville, Nathurnica Holland of Covington and Abis Harmon of Lewisburg. Hannah is the daughter of Rusty and Tam Robison.

UT Martin Extended Campus offers LEGOS Mindstorms Robotics Camps

LEGOS Mindstorms Robotics Camps will be held November 15, 22 and December 13, at the University of Tennessee Martin Jackson Center. The WeDo Camp is for children ages 5-7, and the NXT Camp is for ages 8-14.

The WeDo Camp will be held from 9:30-11:30 a.m. where students will build, design and control their own motorized robots. Students will build LEGO models featuring working motors and sensors, program their models and explore a series of cross-curricular, theme-based activities.

The NXT Camp will be held from 1-4 p.m. where students will build and program real-life robotic solutions using the LEGO Mindstorms Education NXT Software. Students will be encouraged to explore the world of engineering by building complex control systems.

LEGOS Camps are offered for $40 per session. Call 731-881-7082 for more information about the course or to register.
HOMECOMING COURT — Hannah Robison (center), a senior chemistry major from Springville and representing Alpha Omicron Pi, was crowned queen for Homecoming 2014 on Oct. 25 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Joining Robison in the homecoming court were (from left) Alley Hargrove of Dickson, a senior health and human performance major representing Chi Omega; Brittany Berry of Collierville, a senior agriculture major representing Zeta Tau Alphu; Rashunica Holland of Covington, a junior integrated studies major representing Alpha Kappa Alpha; and Kayla Harmon of Lewisburg, a junior studying pre-physical therapy and representing Alpha Delta Pi. The homecoming theme was “Streaking Back to Martin,” as students, alumni and friends celebrated the event with 1970s TV show themes. Activities included rope pull, pyramid competition, the 10th annual Quad City and the homecoming football game with Austin Peay.

HOMECOMING — UT Martin students Chris Mansfield of Martin, Jackie Woodward of Brighton and Caleb Pond of White House attended UT Martin’s 2014 Homecoming and Quad City on Oct. 25.

SKYHAWK PRIDE — John Hatler of Weakley County, Jamie Rayburn Bowling of Indiana, and Steve Vantresse, Judy Rayburn, Charlie Rayburn and Jim Byford, all of Weakley County, attended UT Martin’s 2014 Homecoming and Quad City on Oct. 25.

SKYHAWK FAMILY — UT Martin alumni Jim (1993) and Stacey (1994), and sons Blake and Brandon, all of Martin, attended UT Martin’s 2014 Homecoming and Quad City on Oct. 25. This year’s theme was “Streaking Back to the Past.”
Scenes from Big Cypress Tree State Park’s annual Fall Festival

KNOT A PROBLEM — UT Martin park administrator major Luke Mercker (left) demonstrates the “bow knot” for Cody Black during the annual Fall Festival on Nov. 1 at Big Cypress Tree State Park near Greenfield.

WANNA ROCK? — UT Martin Geology faculty member Elanor Gardner (left) and geology senior William Abrams display rocks, minerals and fossils taken by students in their search for earth’s answers in its minerals.
Veterans honored at UT Martin

By Katie Shambo
By kshambo@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Nov 11, 2014 at 10:59 PM CST
Story Updated: Nov 11, 2014 at 11:31 PM CST

MARTIN, Tenn. -- Veterans, prisoners of war and those still missing in action were honored Tuesday at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Veterans Day ceremony was put on by the school's Skyhawk Veterans Association and the Rolling Thunder.

The northwest Tennessee chapter of the Rolling Thunder performed the missing man ceremony to honor those who have not returned from service.

83,000 is the number of prisoners of war and missing in action service members dating back to World War II.

"That's 83,000 families that have no clue where their loved ones are at they can't have a closure they have no one to bury," Randy Edwards from the Rolling Thunder said.

Edwards said the group serves to educate the public that there are still that many members missing. He said he has performed the ceremony hundreds of times and still gets emotional.

The table is set for six representing Americans missing from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and civilians.

A sergeant from UT Martin's Skyhawk Veteran Association experienced the ceremony for the first time this Veterans Day.

"I had to wipe tears off my eyes when I was through. I don't know if it's just, it was emotional," Sergeant first class John Nanney said.

A cadet from the school's ROTC program said Tuesday was inspirational.

"It was good to see some of these members here today and see how much this means to them even though they've ended their career 20, 30 years past they're still very passionate about what they do," Cadet Dustin Hopper said.

Edwards said performing the ceremony is an honor and the Rolling Thunder performs it throughout the year free of charge.

"If you take every man, woman and child in Jackson, Tennessee and have no clue where they're at and no way to have closure on that that's the impact you gotta think about," Edwards said.

UT Martin was the Rolling Thunder's third stop on Veterans Day also performing another ceremony in Martin and one in Kentucky.

Edwards said the group is made up of 60 percent of veterans.
National FFA Organization selects 2014-15 officers

LOUISVILLE -- Students from Georgia, Arkansas, Colorado, Tennessee, Kentucky and New Mexico have been elected by delegates from throughout the United States to serve on the 2014-15 National FFA Officer team.

Andy Paul of Georgia, an agricultural education major at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, was elected president.

Victoria Maloch of Arkansas, an agricultural business and pre-law major at University of Arkansas, will serve as secretary.

Kristen Schmidt of Colorado, an animal science and agricultural business major at Colorado State University, was elected central region vice president and Stephen McBride of Tennessee, an agricultural business major at University of Tennessee at Martin, will serve as southern region vice president.

Ruth Ann Myers, an agricultural education major at University of Kentucky, was elected eastern region vice president and Caleb Gustin of New Mexico, an agricultural business and agricultural economics major at New Mexico State University, will serve as western region vice president.

Each year at the National FFA Convention & Expo, six students are elected by delegates to represent the organization as National FFA officers. Delegates elect a president, secretary and vice presidents representing the central, southern, eastern and western regions of the country.

National officers commit to a year of service to the National FFA Organization. Each travels more than 100,000 national and international miles to interact with business and industry leaders, thousands of FFA members and teachers, corporate sponsors, government and education officials, state FFA leaders, the general public and more. The team will lead personal growth and leadership training conferences for FFA members throughout the country and help set policies that will guide the future of FFA and promote agricultural literacy.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 610,240 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,665 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
AT HOMECOMING — Dr. Victoria Seng (center), a 1980 University of Tennessee at Martin graduate, and her daughters, Holly (left) and Tori, all of Union City, attended UT Martin’s 2014 Homecoming and Quad City recently. Holly is a senior at Union City High School and Tori is a communications major at UT Martin. Dr. Seng is the university’s associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies. The homecoming theme was “Streaking Back to Martin” as students, alumni and friends celebrated the event with 1970s TV show themes.

HOMECOMING HAPPINESS — University of Tennessee at Martin students (from left) Erin Kelley and Brittany Hatfield, both of Milan, and Marissa Howard of Union City recently attended UT Martin’s 2014 Homecoming and Quad City. Activities included rope pull, pyramid competition and the homecoming football game.

Ensemble to perform

The UTM Piano Ensemble, under the direction of professor music Dr. Elaine Harris, will present a program at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Blankenship Recital Hall in the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Performers will include UT Martin students John Alex Warner of Union City, Sarah Miller of Clarksville, Amy Mclemore of Ripley, Jayelon Carr of Memphis, Stephen Downing of Hendersonville, Patrick Hill of Trenton and Hannah Morton of Springfield.

Additional performers will include Madison Butner of Union City, Alex Quinn of South Balcon, Helen Kendall of Troy and Macy Yates of Hickman, Ky., as well as Linda Farmer and Anna Johnson, both of Dresden; Gian Garma and Nathan Williamson, both of Martin; and William McDonald of McKenzie.

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

UTM plans last preview

The final Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be held Saturday in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on campus.

Check-in will start at 9 a.m., followed by a welcome and information session, an academic fair at 10:30 and campus tours from 11:30 to 1 p.m.

Current high school juniors and seniors are urged to attend with family, but all students with an interest in UT Martin are welcome. Registration for participants may be completed online at www.utm.edu/fallpreview.
Jala Winters and Olivia Armstrong, students from Scotts Hill Elementary and Jake Chandler and Jake Feehan, students from South Side Elementary, were chosen to attend the FutureStar Leadership Summit at UTM on October 30. They were accompanied by their school counselor, Teresa Nowell. FutureStar Summit is a leadership program designed for West Tennessee’s potential leaders. Students were welcomed by Dr. Tom Rakes, Chancellor of UTM, Mr. Charley Beal, Executive Director of WestStar, and Dr. Gail Stephens, Interim Dean of the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences. Students participated in leadership activities and had an individualized tour of the department they were interested in. The luncheon speaker was Mr. Darron Billings, Chief of Police, Jackson State Community College and he had an amazing story to tell regarding overcoming obstacles and setting goals. The last activity they participated in before departure was the Drum Circle in the Fine Arts Building with Dr. Julie Hill, Associate Professor, Dept. of Music at UTM. All four students appreciated this learning opportunity.
UT Martin Plans Fall Preview Day

The University of Tennessee at Martin has scheduled a fall preview day for Saturday, November 15th, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Check-in starts at 9 a.m.; at 10:30 welcome and information session and an academic fair; and 11:30 to 1 p.m. campus tours.

Current high school juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend with family members, but all students with an interest in UT Martin are welcome.

Registration is online at www.utm.edu/fallpreview.

Attending Homecoming

BRIANA PATRICK, second from left, of Halls, a University of Tennessee at Martin graduate, along with her Alpha Kappa Alpha sisters, from left, Bosede Afolami, of Memphis, UT-M graduate, and Bria Brown, Klarke White and Briana Brown, all of Memphis, UT-M students, attended UT Martin’s 2014 Homecoming and Quad City October 25th. The homecoming theme was “Streaking Back to Martin” as students, alumni and friends celebrated the event with 1970s TV show themes. Other activities included rope pull, pyramid competition, the homecoming football game with Austin Peay, and the naming of the homecoming queen and court.
UT Martin students Meagan Stedman, of Memphis, Courtney Pearson, of Jackson, Sarah Killingsworth, of Adaísville, Daniel Holt, of Savannah, Krysten Hawley, of Jackson, Kelli McNeill, of Clarksville, and Rachel Mowbray, of Arlington, attended UT Martin's 2014 Homecoming and Quad City on Oct. 25. The homecoming theme was "Streaking Back to Martin" as students, alumni and friends celebrated the event with 1970s TV show themes. Other activities included rope pull, pyramid competition, the homecoming football game with Austin Peay State University, and the naming of the homecoming queen and court. Additional information about UT Martin alumni activities can be found at utmforever.com.
WestStar program celebrates 25th year at Discovery Park

Discovery Park of America in Union City provided the backdrop recently for the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 25th anniversary celebration.

About 200 program alumni and guests reconnected and mingled amid Dinosaur Hall exhibits as they celebrated a leadership program that includes 710 graduates since its beginning. The program’s board of trustees recently selected the 26th class that begins its WestStar experience in December.

Among those attending the event were Dr. Bob Smith and Dr. Nick Dunagan, co-founders and both former program executive directors. Smith is president emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, and Dunagan is UT Martin chancellor emeritus, Charley Deal, the program’s current executive director and UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations, and Virginia Grimes, longtime WestStar coordinator, also attended, along with members of the program’s board of trustees, alumni council, and event planning committee. Deal emceed the event.

WestStar is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program and was created in 1989 to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. Class members typically come from diverse professions and have varied volunteer experience.

25TH ANNIVERSARY MARKED — The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 25th anniversary celebration was recently held at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

Among those attending were (from left) Charley Deal, WestStar executive director and UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations; Dr. Bob Smith, president emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania; Virginia Grimes, longtime WestStar coordinator; and Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus. Smith and Dunagan are credited as WestStar co-founders and are both former program executive directors.

WestStar... (Continued from Page 1)

A common bond among WestStar participants is devotion to individual civic responsibility.

LaRenda Scarbrough of Huntingdon, who began a 25-year real estate career at the time of her WestStar experience, was a member of the program’s 1996 inaugural class. Then as now, she recalled that the program formed to bring leaders together for the region’s benefit. “West Tennessee is always struggling to keep up from an economic standpoint with the rest of the state,” she said. “And we just felt like as a group we could do more to bring attention to all of the good points about West Tennessee.”

Scarbrough said that WestStar fills an important role because “leaders within a community feed upon other leaders that they respect from the other parts of West Tennessee” and benefit from being “with other people who have aspirations.”

The program includes nine specially designed seminar programs that address contemporary issues important to West Tennessee’s future. Following an orientation session in December, two-day seminars follow from January through June in locations throughout West Tennessee, including a Nashville stop as the Tennessee General Assembly is in session. Class members complete their experience with a June graduation event in Jackson.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said WestStar’s role is important “because of the demographics and the location for the folks in this part of Tennessee.”

“We don’t have the metropolitan base that so many areas have, and these are the movers and shakers for our region who come through the same leadership program,” he said. “None of us can manage it by ourselves anymore, and this (WestStar) gives us a structure, an infrastructure, and somebody 25 years ago was smart to get ahead of this. And with 700-plus folks that have graduated from it, we actually have our own little network that can go on for years and years.”
Anthony Haynes, Trenton native and University of Tennessee vice president for government relations and advocacy, joined Dr. Keith Carver, a Crockett County native and executive assistant to UT President Joe DiPietro, in representing the UT System at the event. Haynes is a regular WestStar presenter, and Carver is a 2009 program graduate.

"It (WestStar) brings together some of the best leadership and the brightest minds that are going to help improve the quality of life, improve the opportunity for economic development (for West Tennessee)," Haynes said, comparing WestStar with the best leadership programs. "I think the way it's approached, its core content and its aspirations for its leaders far exceed anything that I've ever read about or experienced myself."

WestStar not only conducts each WestStar class but also offers leadership-development opportunities annually to the public. Among those are the African American Leadership Conference, the Working Women's Conference and the West Tennessee Small Business Conference, in addition to assisting with youth leadership development. The FutureStar Leadership Summit for middle school students and the RisingStar Leadership Summit for high school juniors and seniors, both in their fourth years, provide leadership-education experiences at UT Martin's main campus.

Bob Smith sees what he calls "the magic of WestStar" remaining strong through its leadership and board members staying true to the program's original purpose of teaching and promoting regionalism.

"There was just a real belief in this region that we needed to look at things on a regional level, that all boats would rise, that we didn't need to be in internal competition with each other within our communities, within our counties," Smith said. "I mean we're in this together, and when something good happens within this region, then it happens for all of the region."

Even with the support that the program enjoys, Smith said that WestStar program leaders must look ahead to remain relevant. "(WestStar's) got to continue to evolve and stay ahead of where the current thinking is about the needs for West Tennessee," he said. "And the next stage of that is going to be a bold and courageous strategic plan to set the path ahead."

As for the program's longevity and celebrating a quarter of a century of leadership education, he added, "We had a vision for what leadership should be like. The vision captivated leaders in this region such that each succeeding class embraced it to carry the program forward."
Who's new at...
Briarwood School

Heather Kee

Grade/Subject: 3rd Grade Special Education
Hometown: Camden
Heather received her Bachelor of Science in Education, Special Education K-12 and Elementary Education K-6, UT Martin. Her parents are Todd & Kathy Kee and her brother is Alex Kee. When not teaching, Heather enjoys crafting and traveling. She is also the Junior High Assistant Softball Coach.

Chelsea Latimer

Grade/Subject: 4th Grade: Language Arts, Math & Social Studies
Hometown: Camden
Chelsea received her B.S. in Integrated Studies K-6. Her family includes her son Noah Latimer, her mother Cynthia Stigall and father John Latimer. When not teaching, Chelsea enjoys spending time with her son. Cabbage soup is her favorite food and she attended 5-12 at Camden and college at UTM.
FINAL UT MARTIN FALL PREVIEW DAY SET FOR NOV. 15 IN THE ELAM CENTER

MARTIN, Tenn. — The final Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be held Saturday, Nov. 15, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Check-in starts at 9 a.m., followed by a welcome and information session, an academic fair at 10:30 and campus tours from 11:30 to 1 p.m. Current high school juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend with family members, but all students with an interest in UT Martin are welcome. Registration is online at www.utm.edu/fallpreview. Additional information about Fall Preview Day is available by calling the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by e-mailing admitme@utm.edu.

SMALL BUSINESS BOOT CAMP PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES

MARTIN, Tenn. — Participants in a four-week Small Business Development Boot Camp recently received certificates after completing the camp, designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship. The Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center sponsored the program. The UT Federal Credit Union also provided sponsorship support.

Seventeen aspiring West Tennessee entrepreneurs met for classes Tuesday nights during September in Martin. REED Center director Landy Fuqua directed the classes that covered topics on how to write a business plan, how to finance a business, banking advice and how to pitch a loan.

Special topic speakers included: Beau Pemberton, attorney, who advised the group on legal matters for the small business owner; Darlene Adkins, UT Martin accounting lecturer, who spoke about best accounting practices; and Elizabeth Pritchett, marketing specialist, who advised the group on best marketing practices, including the use of social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The boot camp addressed various needs, ranging from how to begin a small business venture to how owners of existing businesses can obtain new skills for their small business to succeed.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed this small business boot camp. It has been a great experience for me as a young, new small business owner," said Monica White, owner of Jeremiah 1:5 Christian Learning Center in Martin. "I feel I have learned a lot and now know that I have many resources to reach out to when faced with the daily challenges of owning a small business."

Eric and Tricia Kellum, both of Jackson, said that the TSBDC Boot Camp provided them with helpful tools for starting a future business. They described the speakers as "informative, detailed and straightforward," adding that they would recommend the boot camp for any future or existing business owners.

Boot camp graduates included Samuel Bryant, Dresden; Mykla Campbell, Mykla's Therapeutic Massage, Martin; Sharis Diggs-Chandler, Martin; Kenneth Fouse, 411 Marketing, Inc., Antioch; Jeff Hayslett, Union City; Sandy Johnson, The Dragonfly Café and Bakery, McKenzie; Eric and Patricia Kellum, Jackson; Blake McGarity, Martin; Carl Minor, Union City; Daniel Myers, Myer's Inspection, Martin; Dawn Owens, Troy; Anthony Payne, Martin; Bill Reagor, 2 in 1 Green Clean, Puryear; Vicki Taylor, Springville; Monica White, Jeremiah 1:5 Christian Learning Center, Martin; and Josh Wilson, Avenger Pools, Martin. To learn more about the TSBDC at the UT Martin REED Center, visit www.utm.edu/reed, or contact the office at 731-587-7333 to speak with a certified small business counselor.
Final Fall Preview Day is Saturday

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Piano ensemble set for Tuesday

The UTM Piano Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, will present a program at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Blankenship Recital Hall in the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Music to be presented includes works for one piano, four hands; one piano, six hands; two pianos, four hands; and two pianos, 12 hands. The ensemble will present Milhaud’s “Scaramouche Suite,” Bach’s “Sheep May Safely Graze,” “Sonata in G” by Vanhal; “Bolero” by Stravinsky, “Five Images” by Dello Joio, “Valse Noble” by Gurlitt, Field’s “Nocturne No. 5” arranged by Liszt, and a newly published work, “Three Waltzes for Two Pianos,” by Anderson.

Performers include UT Martin students Sarah Miller of Clarksville; Amy Mclemore of Ripley; John Alex Warner of Union City; Jayelon Carr of Memphis; Stephen Downing of Hendersonville; Patrick Hill of Trenton; and Hannah Morton of Springfield.

Additional performers include Linda Farmer and Anna Johnson of Dresden; Gian Garma and Nathan Williamson, both of Martin; William McDonald of McKenzie; Madison Butner of Union City; Alex Quinn of South Fulton; Helen Kendall of Troy; and Macy Yates of Hickman, Ky.

There is no admission charge, and the public is invited to attend.
FACULTY RECOGNITION — UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes hosted a recent dinner at the Dunagan Alumni Center to recognize university faculty members who have received a promotion, were granted tenure or have received a faculty award. Pictured are (front row, from left) Michelle Horton, professor; Dr. Daphne Henderson, associate professor with tenure; Dr. Becky Cox, 2014 Outstanding Advisor Award; Dr. Peggy Davis, associate professor; Dr. Richard Garlitz, associate professor with tenure; and Dr. Kevin Pitz, tenure; middle row, left to right: Dr. David Carithers, 2014 Coffey Outstanding Teacher Award; Dr. James Butler, 2014 UTAA Outstanding Teacher Award; Dr. Joyce Swan, associate professor with tenure; Dr. Randal Garza, professor; Dr. Scott Parrott, tenure; Dr. Stuart Currie, Ray and Wilma Smith Faculty Development Endowment; Dr. Curtis Kunkel, Ray and Wilma Smith Faculty Development Endowment; Dr. Somsak Sukittanon, 2014 Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award; Rakes; (back row) Dr. Todd Winters, tenure; Tim Hacker, Ray and Wilma Smith Faculty Development Endowment; Dr. Johnathan Vest, associate professor; Dr. Todd Sherman, associate professor with tenure; Dr. Matthew Pritchett, tenure; Dr. Daniel Nappo, professor; and Dr. Chris Karmosky, Ray and Wilma Smith Faculty Development Endowment. Unable to attend were: Dr. Teresa Collard, associate professor; Dr. Ross Dickens, tenure; Alicia Donaldson, associate professor with tenure; Dr. Stan Dunagan, 2014 Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award; Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, Ray and Wilma Smith Faculty Development Endowment; Alissa Parrish, tenure; Dr. Robbie Montgomery, tenure; Dr. Paula Moore, 2014 UTAA Outstanding Teacher Award; Dr. Phillip Shelton, associate professor; and Dr. Glenna Sumner, tenure.
WestStar Leadership Program celebrates 25th anniversary

Discovery Park of America in Union City provided the backdrop Nov. 6 for the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 25th anniversary celebration. Approximately 200 program alumni and guests re-connected and mingled amid Dinosaur Hall exhibits as they celebrated a leadership program that includes 710 graduates since its beginning. The program’s board of trustees recently selected the 26th class that begins its WestStar experience in December.

Among those attending the event were Dr. Bob Smith and Dr. Nick Dunagan, credited as WestStar co-founders and both former program executive directors. Smith is president emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and Dunagan is UT Martin chancellor emeritus. Charley Deal, the program’s current executive director and UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations, and Virginia Grimes, longtime WestStar coordinator, also attended along with members of the program’s board of trustees, alumni council and event planning committee. Deal emceed the event.

WestStar is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program and was created in 1989 to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. Class members typically come from diverse professions and have varied volunteer leadership experiences. Chamber of commerce and economic development professionals, bankers, government personnel, health-care professionals, educators, business professionals and elected officials are regularly represented in classes.

In its 25-year history, WestStar graduates have taken leadership roles for the growth and development in their communities, counties and the state. Graduates have gained elected office, been driving forces in many local and regional initiatives and have taken volunteerism to a higher level. Still others have made it a priority to see that the networks and collaborations formed by class members during the program thrive and that WestStar continues to prepare participants to assume leadership roles.

A common bond among WestStar participants is devotion to individual civic responsibility.

Huntingdon’s LaRenda Scarbrough, who began a 25-year real estate career at the time of her WestStar experience, was a member of the program’s 1990 inaugural class. Then as now, she recalled that the program formed to bring leaders together for the region’s benefit. “... West Tennessee is always struggling to keep up from an economic standpoint with the rest of the state,” she said. “And we just felt like as a group maybe we could do more to bring attention to all of the good points about West Tennessee.”

Scarbrough said that WestStar fills an important role because “leaders within a community feed upon other leaders that they meet from the other parts of West Tennessee” and benefit from being “with other people who have aspirations.”

The program includes nine specially designed seminar programs that address contemporary issues important to West Tennessee’s future. Following an

SEE WESTSTAR, PAGE 5
WESTSTAR
FROM PAGE 1

orientation session in December, two-day seminars follow from January through June in locations throughout West Tennessee, including a Nashville stop as the Tennessee General Assembly is in session. Class members complete their experience with a June graduation event in Jackson.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said WestStar’s role is important “because of the demographics and the location for the folks in this part of Tennessee.”

“We don’t have the metropolitan base that so many areas have, and these are the movers and shakers for our region who come through the same leadership program,” Rakes said, adding, “None of us can manage it by ourselves anymore, and this (WestStar) gives us a structure, an infrastructure, and somebody 25 years ago was smart to get ahead of this. And with 700-plus folks that have graduated from it, we actually have our own little network that can go on for years and years.”

Anthony Haynes, Trenton native and University of Tennessee vice president for government relations and advocacy, joined Dr. Keith Carver, a Crockett County native and executive assistant to UT President Joe DiPietro, in representing the UT System at the event. Haynes is a regular WestStar presenter, and Carver is a 2009 program graduate.

“It (WestStar) brings together some of the best leadership and the brightest minds that are going to help improve the quality of life, improve the opportunity for economic development (for West Tennessee),” Haynes said. He also compared WestStar with the best leadership programs. “I think the way it’s approached, its core content and its aspirations for its leaders far exceed anything that I’ve ever read about or experienced myself.”

WestStar not only conducts each WestStar class, but also offers leadership development opportunities annually to the public. Among those are the African American Leadership Conference, the Working Women’s Conference, and the West Tennessee Small Business Conference, in addition to assisting with youth leadership development. The FutureStar Leadership Summit for middle school students and the RisingStar Leadership Summit for high school juniors and seniors, both in their fourth years, provide leadership education experiences at UT Martin’s main campus.

Recognizing the benefits of WestStar, sponsors provide annual support to the program. Sponsors include Alexander, Thompson & Arnold, CPA; Benk of Ripley; Shannon Cotter, First Bank; First State Bank; HTL Advantage; Haywood County/City of Brownsville; Northwest Tennessee Development District/Human Resource Agency; Hardee, Martin, Donahoe, Owens & Wright P.A./The Victory 93.7 FM; Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell, PLC; Southwest Tennessee Development District; Tennessee Valley Authority; The TENERGY Corp.; Tennessee District of the TRANE Company; TLM Associates, Inc.; USDA Rural Development, Cary Vaughn; West Tennessee Healthcare; West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation; and the West Tennessee Industrial Association.

Bob Smith sees what he calls “the magic of WestStar” remaining strong through its leadership and board members staying true to the program’s original purpose of teaching and promoting regionalism.

“There was just a real belief in this region that we needed to look at things on a regional level, that all boats would rise, that we didn’t need to be in internal competition with each other within our communities, within our counties,” Smith said. “I mean we’re in this together, and when something good happens within this region, then it happens for all of the region.”

Even with the support that the program enjoys, Smith said that WestStar program leaders must look ahead to remain relevant. “(WestStar’s) got to continue to evolve and stay ahead of where the current thinking is about the needs for West Tennessee,” he said.

“And the next stage of that is going to be a bold and courageous strategic plan to set the path ahead.”

As for the program’s longevity and celebrating a quarter of a century of leadership education, he added, “We had a vision for what leadership should be like. The vision captivated leaders in this region such that each succeeding class embraced it to carry the program forward.”
UTC Student Was One Of 9 Selected To Lead Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature

Monday, November 17, 2014

Adrienne Dooley, a student at UTC, was selected for the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, a forum for the state’s student campus leaders to learn how government works, exchange ideas and express their opinions. The four-day meeting was held at the Tennessee Capitol.

TISL’s structure parallels the structure of Tennessee state government with a governor, legislative leaders, constitutional officers, and the Tennessee Intercollegiate Supreme Court. More than 400 students from 43 public and private colleges in the state attended the TISL General Assembly on Nov. 13-16.

In elections Saturday, students voted in these officers:

Governor Brandon Chrisman of Nashville, a senior at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Mr. Chrisman first came to TISL as a page from Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet School and has served as speaker of each house plus a year on the Board of Directors.

Lt. Governor Olivia O’Brien of Griffin, Ga., a sophomore at Sewanee: The University of the South.

House Speaker Jolie-Grace Wareham of Chicago, a sophomore at Rhodes College in Memphis.

Senate Speaker Pro Tem John Domanski of Bon Aqua, a senior at the University of Tennessee-Martin. Mr. Domanski held the same position two years ago.

House Speaker Pro Tem Adrienne Dooley of Effingham, Ill., a sophomore at UTC.

Secretary of State Elizabeth Sanders of Smithville, a junior at UT-Martin.

State Treasurer Nicole Nelson of Johnson City, a junior at King University.

Other members of the TISL executive council are:

Chief Justice Rachel Washburn of Ethridge, a junior at UT-Martin. Ms. Washburn was appointed last week by outgoing TISL Governor Jamie Arnett, a 2014 graduate of UT-Martin.

Attorney General Skyler Schmanski of Nashville, a junior at Belmont University. Schmanski was appointed Saturday by the five-member TISC.

The Members of the 2014 TISL Senate and House of Representatives wrote and filed more than 200 bills, which were considered by committees and then debated and voted on during sessions in the Capitol’s legislative chambers. While the legislature met, TISC presided over the Appellate Mock Court Collegiate Challenge, a mock court competition for non-law students.

TISL is a nonprofit leadership and civic engagement program for college students founded in 1966. Alumni include Tennessee constitutional officers, justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court, state legislators and numerous other public officials in multiple states.

First Kansas State Equestrian, Now UT Martin to Discontinue Equine Competition After 2015-2016

November 17, 2014 | Filed under: Breaking News | Filed by: editors

MARTIN, Tenn. – University of Tennessee at Martin officials met with the Skyhawk equestrian team on Sunday, Nov. 16 to notify them that the 2015-16 academic year would be their last year of varsity competition.

"This was a very difficult decision for our university but upcoming changes within the NCAA necessitated this move," UT Martin athletics director Julio Freire said. "We have to be proactive in protecting our Division-I status within the NCAA. Moving forward, we will honor the scholarship of each equestrian student-athlete through their fourth academic year."

UT Martin athletics department participates in the NCAA at the Division-I level and sponsors the minimum number of sports (14) to remain at this level. UT Martin officially added equestrian in 2005 as an NCAA-recognized emerging sport, which means the sport has 10 years to accumulate 40 school-sponsored teams. Only two universities (Southern Methodist in 2005, Baylor in 2008) have officially added equestrian since the Skyhawks joined, bringing the current list of teams to 21. Kansas State officially discontinued equestrian in October of this year.

"In anticipation of the Committee on Women's Athletics recommended legislation, we believe that at this time it is in our university's best interest to discontinue equestrian from our list of sponsored sports after the 2015-2016 academic year," Freire said. "This move has been resisted for over a half a year but unfortunately it is time to act. We just do not believe that there is a realistic path to add enough schools to achieve sustainability as a fully recognized NCAA championship sport."

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and the university leadership team are working with Freire and other athletics administrators to formalize the plans related to UT Martin's next women's varsity athletic team, which will begin competition in the 2016-17 academic year.

“Our equestrian team has the very best student-athletes who represent UT Martin academically, athletically and socially," Freire said. "They represent everything that is good and right within intercollegiate athletics. I'd like to thank the coaches and student-athletes who have made this program one of our finest here at UT Martin. A special thank you goes out to head coach Meghan Conlin, who started the program and kept it running smoothly. She is a wonderful mentor and we would never have reached the heights we did without her leadership and guidance."
UTM Piano Ensemble to perform Tuesday night

Posted on November 15, 2014 by Steve James in Local News

The UTM Piano Ensemble will have a free performance Tuesday night at UT-Martin.

Music to be presented includes works for one piano, four hands; one piano, six hands; two pianos, four hands; and two pianos, 12 hands. The ensemble will present Milhaud’s “Scaramouche Suite,” Bach’s “Sheep May Safely Graze,” “Sonatina in G” by Vanhal, “Bolero” by Streabog, “Five Images” by Dello Joio, “Valse Noble” by Gurlitt, Field’s “Nocturne No. 5” arranged by Liszt, and a newly published work, “Three Waltzes for Two Pianos,” by Anderson.

Performers include UT Martin students Sarah Miller, of Clarksville; Amy McLemore, of Ripley; John Alex Warner, of Union City; Jayelon Carr, of Memphis; Stephen Downing, of Hendersonville; Patrick Hill, of Trenton; and Hannah Morton, of Springfield.

Additional performers include Linda Farmer and Anna Johnson, of Dresden; Gian Garma and Nathan Williamson, both of Martin; William McDonald, of McKenzie; Madison Butner, of Union City; Alex Quinn, of South Fulton; Helen Kendall, of Troy; and Macy Yates, of Hickman, Ky.

The UTM Piano Ensemble is under the direction of Professor of Musics, Dr. Elaine Harriss.

The performance is Tuesday night at 7:30 in the Blankenship Recital Hall in the Fine Arts Building.

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

UTM equestrian program to be discontinued

Posted on November 17, 2014 by Steve James in Local Sports

The UT-Martin Skyhawk equestrian program will be discontinued after next year.

School officials met with the Skyhawk equestrian team on Sunday to notify them that next year would be their last year of varsity competition.

UTM athletics director Julio Freire says that upcoming changes within the NCAA necessitated the move, but that the university will honor the scholarship of each equestrian student-athlete through their fourth academic year.
UT–Martin Plans to Discontinue Women’s Equestrian after 2015-16

APHA.com
Published 11/17/2014 - 12:00 p.m. CDT

APHA and the entire horse industry is saddened to hear the University of Tennessee–Martin has decided to discontinue its varsity Women's Equestrian program following its 2015–2016 season—read the full UT-M release here. This follows on the heels of Kansas State University's announcement in October that their program is being dissolved—click to read that October 16 apha.com news story.

In light of this announcement, it's more important than ever to rally support for Women's Equestrian's status in the National Collegiate Athletic Association and its future at participating institutions. Discussion points as well as pertinent contact information is outlined on apha.com/ncaa-equestrian, and APHA members are encouraged to contact decision-makers—including NCAA officials, university presidents, university athletic directors and Women's Equestrian coaches—to voice their support for the future of varsity equestrian programs and their value to the horse industry.

- Women's Equestrian Talking Points
- NCEA Contacts

Two key events that impact the future of Women's Equestrian and its affiliation with the NCAA are planned for December 2014. On December 2-3, a meeting of NCAA-level Women's Equestrian coaches will take place in Dallas, Texas; a meeting for athletic directors from institutions that offer NCAA-level Equestrian programs will take place December 12, also in Dallas.

Originally, there was a plan to convene a meeting at the NCAA Convention in January of athletic directors to finalize their legislative game plan. In light of the UT-Martin announcement, however, the decision was made to engage athletic directors and involved athletic conferences into an immediate campaign of support to NCAA leadership. The campaign will focus on the level of resources already committed toward their Equestrian programs and place a formal request for the CWA recommendation to be reconsidered. The pending recommendation and the uncertainty of the NCAA timeline have put institutions in a precarious situation.

Varsity Women's Equestrian programs offer important benefits to young equestriennes and the horse industry at large.

http://www.gohorseshow.com/
PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATED — Visitors from Hirosaki University visited UT Martin in October and were honored with a lunch hosted by Chancellor Tom Rakes in the Dunagan Alumni Center. The gathering acknowledged and celebrated the longstanding partnership between the universities. Pictured at the event are (front row, from left): Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor, Division of Student Affairs; Amy Fenning, director, Office of International Programs and International Admissions; Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese, UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages; Mikiko Takeda, public relations/international affairs, Hirosaki University; Dr. Hiroyuki Sato, science and technology faculty, Hirosaki University; and Nancy Yarbrough, interim vice chancellor, Division of Finance and Administration. (back row) Masami Ishidoya, administrative chief, faculty of education, Hirosaki University; Victor Carpenter, professor, faculty of humanities, Hirosaki University; Rakes; Dr. Taiji Wake, vice president, Hirosaki University; Kazushi Akeoka, contracts department, Hirosaki University; Satoshi Aihiko, faculty of education administration, Hirosaki University; and Robert "Glen" Byrd, associate director of academics, Office of International Programs and International Admissions.
Speaker to discuss groundwater use, growth of ag irrigation

The impact of agricultural irrigation on groundwater use is the topic of the next Academic Speakers Series presentation at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Stan Dunagan, UT Martin associate professor of geology, will present "Groundwater Use and the Proliferation of Agricultural Irrigation in West Tennessee: Is it time to panic?" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, in Campbell Auditorium, located in the Andy Holt Humanities Building. The presentation is free and open to the public.

The Academic Speakers Series annually features top speakers who meet with the university's Honors Programs students and offer presentations to the public. Honors Programs and other university organizations sponsor the series.

Dunagan is a 2014 Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award winner and teaches in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources. He was raised in Martin and earned his bachelor's degree in geoscience in 1993 from UT Martin. He received his doctorate in geology in 1998 from UT Knoxville, where his research focused on the ancient wetlands and lakes associated with the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation in Colorado.


An avid traveler, he has been to 27 countries on five continents and to 48 states. Dunagan has also led travel study trips for more than 50 students to Belize, Mexico, Colorado, Puerto Rico, the Pacific Northwest and other locations. His most recent research has focused on sedimentation rates in Reelfoot Lake and the growth of irrigation systems in West Tennessee.

The Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award will be presented before Dunagan's presentation. The award is named for the university's late director of budgeting and payroll. The award endorses her vision to recognize outstanding student performance and to develop experiential learning opportunities.

The complete list of 2014-15 speakers is found at http://www.utm.edu/departments/honors/ and select "Academic Speakers Program."

Empty Bowls fundraiser to benefit We Care Ministries

David McBeth and his UT Martin ceramics students aren't afraid to get their hands dirty to address the region's hunger issues. For the 11th year, they will produce the bowls for the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser to support the hunger-relief efforts of We Care Ministries Inc. in Martin.

This year's event is set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday in the university's Fine Arts Building. The event will be held in the Little Theatre and is sponsored by the university's Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, Martin Area Ministries, and several community organizations.

For a $10 donation at the door, participants receive an original bowl made by McBeth, professor of art, and his students. Bowls are filled with homemade soup, and all proceeds go to We Care Ministries to help fight hunger. Tables and chairs will be set up in the Little Theatre so that participants can enjoy the meal.

Making the bowls is no small feat, starting with the clay. McBeth and a student recently spent some five hours producing clay to use for this year's bowls. That's just to make the clay — the real work begins when each individually handcrafted bowl is made.

"This year again we're attempting to make 500 bowls," McBeth said, adding, "I can form a bowl in about 20 seconds, but it's nowhere near ready to use at that point." He counts more than 12 "touches" along the way to produce each bowl. Students from his advanced ceramics class volunteer to help make the bowls.

Besides his ceramics students, university graphic design students also help. See Bowls, Page 4

EMPTIES BOWLS — The 11th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser is set for Saturday at UT Martin's Fine Arts Building. The fundraiser will support the hunger relief efforts of We Care Ministries in Martin.
Bowls
From Page 1

design students are assisting with publicity and have created a poster that’s being distributed for display and also finding its way to social media. Student potters will also receive T-shirts bearing an original design that recognizes their work.

McBeth and his students know they are helping to address a real need.

“In Tennessee, one in six Tennesseans has hunger issues,” he said. “They don’t know where their next meal’s coming from or if there’ll be a next meal. We’re blessed in West Tennessee to have We Care who provides a wonderful food relief (program) for that, but they need help.”

Persons wanting to support Empty Bowls but not needing another bowl are encouraged to make donations for hunger relief and then donate their bowls to a women’s shelter or other organization.

The Mirror Exchange, Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Owens attends WestStar 25th Anniversary

WESTSTAR CLASS OF 2014 - MARTIN, Tenn., Nov. 13, 2014 — Bradley Owens, WestStar Class of 2014, and his wife, Alicia, of Medina, attended the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 25th anniversary celebration Nov. 6 at Discovery Park of America in Union City. Approximately 200 program alumni and guests gathered to celebrate the leadership program that includes 710 graduates since its beginning. The program’s board of trustees recently selected the 26th class that begins its WestStar experience in December.
Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser Set For November 22

David McBeth and his UT Martin ceramics students aren't afraid to get their hands dirty to address the region’s hunger issues. For the 11th year, they will produce the bowls for the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser to support the hunger-relief efforts of We Care Ministries Inc. in Martin.

This year's event is set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 22, in the university's Fine Arts Building. The event will be held in the Little Theatre and is sponsored by the university's Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, Martin Area Ministerial Alliance churches and other community organizations.

For a $10 donation at the door, participants receive an original bowl made by McBeth, professor of art, and his students. Bowls are filled with homemade soup, and all proceeds go to We Care Ministries to help fight hunger. Tables and chairs will be set up in the Little Theatre so that participants can enjoy the meal.

Making the bowls is no small feat, starting with the clay. McBeth and a student recently spent some five hours producing clay to use for this year's bowls. That's just to make the clay – the real work begins when each individually handcrafted bowl is made.

"This year again we're attempting to make 500 bowls," McBeth said, adding, "I can form a bowl in about 20 seconds, but it's nowhere near ready to use at that point." He counts more than 12 "touces" along the way to produce each bowl. Students from his advanced ceramics class volunteer to help make the bowls.

UTM dropping equestrian team

University of Tennessee at Martin officials met with the Skyhawk equestrian team on Sunday to notify them that the 2015-16 academic year would be their last year of varsity competition.

UT Martin athletics department participates in the NCAA at the Division-I level and sponsors the minimum number of sports (14) to remain at this level. UTM officially added equestrian in 2005 as an NCAA-recognized emerging sport, which means the sport has 10 years to accumulate 40 school-sponsored teams. Only two universities (Southern Methodist in 2009, Baylor in 2006) have officially added equestrian since the Skyhawks joined, bringing the current list of teams to 21. Kansas State officially discontinued equestrian in October of this year.
Jackson schools name new human capitol officer

By WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
By news@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Nov 18, 2014 at 11:23 AM CST
(Story Updated: Nov 18, 2014 at 7:40 PM CST)

MADISON COUNTY, Tenn. -- A Jackson educator and administrator will take the reigns as the new chief human capital officer for the Jackson-Madison County School System.

Superintendent Dr. Verna Ruffin announced Tuesday that Dr. Tiffany Green will take over the position, according to a release from the school system.

Green currently serves as principal for Whitehall Pre-K Center, a position she has held for four years, according to the release. She also serves as the district’s Pre-K director.

"I am just excited to be able to do this, to serve in this capacity for our district, to make sure that all of our students have the most effective employees working with them to help us move forward," Green said.

Green received a doctoral degree in leadership and professional practice and master’s degree in educational leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, the release states. She also serves as an adjunct professor for the university.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Martin and also is licensed as a Pre-K-3 teacher and Pre-K-12 administrator, according to the release.

Green previously has taught in Humboldt City Schools.

She is a graduate of Gibson County High School in Dyer.
CONCERT CREW — Six students from Hillcrest Elementary School in Troy were part of the 100-plus member University of Tennessee at Martin Treble Honor Choir recently. Students from West Tennessee learned the music at their schools, spent the day rehearsing with UTM’s Dr. Johnathan Vest and then performed six compositions for a concert in the Harriet Fulton Theater in the UTM Fine Arts Building. Hillcrest was represented by (from left) Cloe Weak, daughter of Chip and Amanda Weak; Avery Hicks, daughter of Chad and Missy Hicks; Isabella Knox, daughter of Jody and Cindy Knox; Harly Gantt, daughter of Johnny and Courtney Gantt; Mick Aaron, son of Michael Aaron and Teresa and Shane Upchurch; and Sydney Messick, daughter of Jason and Sharon Messick. Not pictured was their director, Beth McDavid.

TREBLE TEAM — Ten fifth-grade students from Union City Elementary School recently participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin Treble Honor Choir. They joined 193 students and six schools from across Middle and West Tennessee. Participants rehearsed all day and performed a concert that night under the direction of Dr. Johnathan Vest, interim chair of the Department of Music at UTM. UCES students who participated were (from left, front) Jesse Amesquita, Annie-Grace Wade, Maggie Suiter, Chandler Douglas, Evan Alexander, (back) director Josh Gatlin, Olivia Tanner, Gaby Jones, Angel Edwards, Abbi Nicks and Arden Stanley.
Empty Bowls fundraiser set for Saturday at UTM

David McBeth and his University of Tennessee at Martin ceramics students aren’t afraid to get their hands dirty to address the region’s hunger issues.

For the 11th year, they will produce the bowls for the Empty Bowls fundraiser to support the hunger relief efforts of We Care Ministries Inc. in Martin.

This year’s event is set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in the university’s Fine Arts Building. It will be held in the Little Theatre and is sponsored by the university’s Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, Martin Area Ministerial Alliance churches and other community organizations.

For a $10 donation at the door, participants receive an original bowl made by McBeth, professor of art, and his students. Bowls are filled with homemade soup and proceeds go to We Care Ministries to fight hunger.

Making the bowls is no small feat, starting with the clay. McBeth and a student recently spent some five hours producing clay for this year’s bowls. The real work begins when each handcrafted bowl is made.

Besides ceramics students, graphic design students are assisting with publicity and have created a poster. Student potters will also receive T-shirts bearing an original design.

McBeth and his students know they are helping address a real need.

“In Tennessee, one in six of Tennesseans has hunger issues,” he said. “They don’t know where their next meal’s coming from or if there’ll be a next meal. We’re blessed in West Tennessee to have We Care, which provides a wonderful food relief (program) for that, but they need help.”

People wanting to support Empty Bowls but not needing another bowl are asked to make a donation for hunger relief and donate their bowls to a women’s shelter or other organization.
Dunavant makes presentation to Criminal Justice class

On Monday, November 17, 25th Judicial District Attorney General Mike Dunavant made a presentation to Professor Robert Lee's Criminal Justice class at UT Martin in Selmer. Dunavant discussed with students the role and function of the District Attorney.
UTM Student In Piano Program

Amy McLemore, of Ripley, was scheduled to perform, along with other students of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Piano Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, in a program at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 18th, in the Blankenship Recital Hall in the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

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

Piano students perform

Several piano students from the class of Linda Williams were some of the more than 70 students that participated in a Fall Music Festival at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently.

Each entrant performed two pieces and received encouraging comments from the adjudicator.

The annual event, sponsored by the Martin Area Music Teachers Association, is designed to provide students a venue to perform and receive helpful suggestions for further musical study.

Participating in this year's event were Carol Anne Clanton, Kate Crabtree, Chloe Cook, Anna Cursey, Katie Cursey, Helen Kendall, Rizpah Melton, Caleb Parker, Alex Quinn, Abigail Wiggins and Macy Yates.
Fighting hunger with Empty Bowls

Art professor David McBeth and his University of Tennessee at Martin ceramics students aren't afraid to get their hands dirty to address the region's hunger issues. For the 11th year, they will produce the bowls for the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser to support the hunger-relief efforts of We Care Ministries Inc. in Martin, according to a news release.

This year's event is set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today in the university's Fine Arts Building. The event will be held in the Little Theatre and is sponsored by the university's De-

Bowls are filled with homemade soup, and all proceeds go to We Care Ministries to help fight hunger. Tables and chairs will be set up in the Little Theatre so that participants can enjoy the meal.

McBeth and a student recently spent some five hours producing clay to use for this year's bowls. That's just to make the clay — the real work begins when each individually handcrafted bowl is made.

"This year again we're attempting to make 500 bowls," McBeth said, adding, "I can form a bowl in about 20 seconds, but it's nowhere near ready to use at that point." Students from his advanced ceramics class volunteer to help make the bowls.

Besides his ceramics students, university graphic design students are assisting with publicity and have created a poster that's being distributed for display and also finding its way to social media. Student potters will receive T-shirts bearing an original design that recognizes their work.

People who do not need another bowl are encouraged to make donations for hunger relief and then donate their bowls to a women's shelter or other organization.
UT Martin faculty member named new Special Olympics Area 7 director

Posted: Nov 23, 2014 5:30 PM CST
Updated: Nov 23, 2014 5:39 PM CST

James Long | CONNECT

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - A University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member is the new director of Area 7 Special Olympics. Tennessee. Dr. Clinton Smith, assistant professor with the Department of Educational Studies, will lead the region.

Region 7 includes Lake, Obion, Weakley and Henry counties.

According to a news release, Smith's goals are to increase local collaboration with schools and businesses to support Special Olympics, and to increase the number of sports.

"Area 7 has a rich history of strong support and leadership, and I'd like to see that build and continue so that we can provide opportunities for involvement for children and adults with disabilities in our communities," Smith said.

Full participation is granted to every athlete regardless of his or her economic circumstances. The ultimate goal of Special Olympics is to help persons with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of society at large by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports training and competition. Special Olympics also increase the public's awareness of participants' capabilities and needs.

Smith has been a certified Special Olympics coach in basketball and athletics since 1993 and has also served as a coach and a volunteer in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee.

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25 years of moving West Tennessee forward

UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program celebrates anniversary

Story by UT Martin

MARTIN — Discovery Park of America in Union City provided the backdrop Nov. 6 for the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 25th anniversary celebration.

Approximately 200 program alumni and guests reconnected and mingled amid Dinosaur Hall exhibits as they celebrated a leadership program that includes 710 graduates since its beginning. The program’s board of trustees recently selected the 26th class that begins its WestStar experience in December.

Among those attending the event were Dr. Bob Smith and Dr. Nick Dunagan, credited as WestStar co-founders and both former program executive directors. Smith is president emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, and Dunagan is UT Martin chancellor emeritus.

Charley Deal, the program’s current executive director and UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations, and Virginia Grimes, longtime WestStar coordinator, also attended along with members of the program’s board of trustees, alumni council and event planning committee. Deal emceed the event.

WestStar is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program and was created in

See WESTSTAR, Page A6
WestStar

Continued from Page A3

1989 to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. Class members typically come from diverse professions and have varied volunteer leadership experiences. In its 25-year history, WestStar graduates have taken leadership roles for the growth and development in their communities, counties and the state. Graduates have gained elected office, been driving forces in many local and regional initiatives, and have taken volunteerism to a higher level. Still others have made it a priority to see that the networks and collaborations formed by class members during the program thrive and that WestStar continues to be in place for participants to assume future leadership roles.

A common bond among WestStar participants is devotion to individual civic responsibility. LaRenda Scarbrough, of Huntingdon, who began a 25-year real estate career at the time of her WestStar experience, was a member of the program’s inaugural class. Then as now, she recalled that the program was formed to bring leaders together for the region’s benefit. “West Tennessee is always struggling to keep up from an economic standpoint with the rest of the state,” she said. “And we just felt like as a group maybe we could do more to bring attention to all of the good points about West Tennessee.”

The program includes nine specially designed seminar programs that address contemporary issues important to West Tennessee’s future. Following an orientation session in December, two-day seminars follow from January through June in locations throughout West Tennessee, including a Nashville stop as the Tennessee General Assembly is in session. Class members complete their experience with a June graduation event in Jackson.

Keith Carver, a Crockett County native and executive assistant to UT President Joe DiPietro, in representing the UT System at the event. Haynes is a regular WestStar presenter, and Carver is a 2009 program graduate. "It (WestStar) brings together some of the best leadership and the brightest minds that are going to help improve the quality of life, improve the opportunity for economic development (for West Tennessee)," Haynes said.

WestStar also offers leadership-development opportunities annually to the public. Among those are the African American Leadership Conference, the Working Women’s Conference and the West Tennessee Small Business Conference, in addition to assisting with youth leadership development. The FutureStar Leadership Summit for middle school students and the Rising Star Leadership Summit for high school juniors and seniors, both in their fourth year, provide leadership-education experiences at UT Martin’s main campus.

Bob Smith sees what he calls “the magic of WestStar” remaining strong through its leadership and board members’ staying true to the program’s original purpose of teaching and promoting regionalism. “There was just a real belief in this region that we needed to look at things on a regional level, that all boats would rise, that we didn’t need to be in internal competition with each other within our communities, within our counties,” Smith said. “I mean, we’re in this together, and when something good happens in this region, then it happens for all of the region.”

Even with the support that the program enjoys, Smith said that WestStar program leaders must look ahead to remain relevant. “(WestStar’s) got to continue to evolve and stay ahead of where the current thinking is about the needs for West Tennessee,” he said. “And the next stage of that is going to be a bold and courageous strategic plan to set the path ahead.”
UT Martin faculty members named to Special Olympics post

A University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member is the newly named director of Area 7 Special Olympics Tennessee. Dr. Clinton Smith, assistant professor, Department of Educational Studies, will lead the region that includes Lake, Obion, Weakley and Henry counties.

Smith's goals are to increase local collaboration with schools and businesses to support Special Olympics and to increase the number of Special Olympics sports offered in the area.

"Area 7 has a rich history of strong support and leadership, and I'd like to see that build and continue so that we can provide opportunities for involvement for children and adults with disabilities in our communities," he said.

The mission of Area 7 Special Olympics Tennessee is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The experience gives participants opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Full participation is granted to every athlete regardless of his or her economic circumstances. The ultimate goal of Special Olympics is to help persons with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of society at large by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports training and competition. Special Olympics also increases the public's awareness of participants' capabilities and needs.

Smith has been a certified Special Olympics coach in basketball and athletics since 1993 and has also served as a coach and a volunteer in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. He has attended the Special Olympics National Games and served as an assistant coach for athletics in 2006, head basketball coach for Team Tennessee in 2010 and head athletics coach for the 2014 National Games.

Smith's 2010 team won a gold medal in Division I men's basketball, and his Unified Basketball teams from Shadowlawn Middle School in Bartlett won four state championships in their division in 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2008.
Santa’s Village celebrates 30 years

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

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

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

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 13; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 14, the event will feature the “Enchanted Forest” which provides scenes depicting the holidays, MTD model train display, amusement rides, vendor booths and wagon rides on Friday through Sunday.

Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and a petting farm will add to the festivities. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

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

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

“Santa’s Village is a wonderful, family-oriented holiday event and we encourage people to come out and visit,” said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director. She states the annual event would not be possible without the sponsors and volunteers who contribute time and money. “A couple of additions this year are: Curious George, who will be on hand from 1-4 p.m.; and a Talent Contest will take place from 4-6 p.m.

“Talent will not be a professional photographer, so we would like to remind visitors to bring their own camera to get that special picture of their little one visiting with Santa,” Kirby said.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Smith is new Special Olympics director

A University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member is the newly named director of Area 7 Special Olympics Tennessee. Dr. Clinton Smith, assistant professor, Department of Educational Studies, will lead the region that includes Lake, Obion, Weakley and Henry counties.

Smith’s goals are to increase local collaboration with schools and businesses to support Special Olympics and to increase the number of Special Olympics sports offered in the area.

"Area 7 has a rich history of strong support and leadership, and I’d like to see that build and continue so that we can provide opportunities for involvement for children and adults with disabilities in our communities," he said.

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Jake and Alyssa Bynum

Locals attend WestStar anniversary celebration

Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum, WestStar Class of 2014, and his wife, Alyssa, of Dresden, attended the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 25th anniversary celebration Nov. 6 at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

Approximately 200 program alumni and guests gathered to celebrate the leadership program that includes 710 graduates since its beginning.

The program’s board of trustees recently selected the 26th class that begins its WestStar experience in December.

Charley Deal, who is the program’s current executive director and UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations, and Virginia Grimes, a WestStar coordinator, also were on hand along with former program executive directors Bob Smith and Nick Dungagan. Deal handled the event’s emcee duties.
NEW TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Leea Spurlock, originally from Woodland Mills, Tenn., now resides in Union City. She teaches English to grades six through eight at Humboldt Middle School.

She is a 1991 graduate of Obion County Central High. At the University of Tennessee at Martin Spurlock earned her bachelor of arts in 1998 and her master of science in 2014.

She wants to find a way to help students understand and enjoy the writing process.

Her inspiration to teach came from her mother, a teacher of 40 years.

When asked about the biggest challenge she foresees, she replied, "I wish I had the history that experienced teachers in the Humboldt system possess. I would like to have that connection to my students' family and know everyone."

Local residents attend WestStar Anniversary

Submitted Photo

Ted Moore, WestStar Class of 2001, his wife, JoRica, and their guest, Peggy Daniel, of Selmer, attended the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 25th anniversary celebration Nov. 6 at Discovery Park of America in Union City. Approximately 200 program alumni and guests gathered to celebrate the leadership program that includes 710 graduates since its beginning. The program's board of trustees recently selected the 26th class that begins its WestStar experience in December.
Assistant professor chosen area director for Special Olympics

A University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member is the newly-named director of Area 7 Special Olympics Tennessee.

Dr. Clinton Smith, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Studies, will lead the region that includes Lake, Obion, Weakley and Henry counties.

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Smith’s 2010 team won a gold medal in Division I men’s basketball and his Unified Basketball teams from Shadowlawn Middle School in Bartlett won four state championships in their division in 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2008.
Artists to hold holiday bazaar at UTM

The League of Striving Artists, the University of Tennessee at Martin student art organization, will hold a Holiday Art Bazaar Dec. 4-6 in the Fine Arts Gallery, located in the university's Fine Arts Building.

The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts is the event sponsor.

The bazaar will be open 7-9 p.m. Dec. 4; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec. 5; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 6.

Visitors can see and purchase a wide selection of handmade gifts produced by UT Martin art students, art faculty and alumni. All items will be available for purchase by cash, check or credit card. Proceeds from sales will support the local art community.

Support the Arts (STARTS) contributors can join students and faculty for an early "insider" opening from 6-7 p.m. Dec. 4. Information about the STARTS Program and how to become a STARTS contributor can be found at www.utm.edu/starts or by calling (731) 881-7400.

The League of Striving Artists encourages the blossoming of art enthusiasts and artists in academics, community, service, leadership and artistic development. LSA also works to foster art in the community with service projects.

WestStar celebrates 45th anniversary

ATTEND CELEBRATION – Attending the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 25th anniversary celebration held recently at Discovery Park of America in Union City were Katie Pace, WestStar Class of 2012, and Anna Page, WestStar Class of 2014, both from Jackson; Tammy Hall, WestStar Class of 2014, of Dyersburg; Sandy Stanfill, WestStar Class of 2014, of Lexington; Shelby Kee, WestStar Class of 2013, of Trenton; and Brooxie Carlton, WestStar Class of 2014, of Nashville.
WESTSTAR - Lyda Kay Ferree, of Jackson, WestStar Class of 1999; Pat Riley, of Trenton, WestStar Class of 2002; and Brenda Horner, of Trenton, WestStar Class of 2004 (upper photo, from left), attended the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 25th anniversary celebration held November 6 at Discovery Park of America in Union City. Also attending were Bill Joyner, WestStar Class of 2014, and his wife, Kayla, of Trenton (left photo). Approximately 200 program alumni and guests gathered to celebrate the leadership program that includes 710 graduates since its beginning. The program's board of trustees recently selected the 26th class that begins its WestStar experience in December.
Attends Celebration

GREG YORK, left, accompanied by his wife, Emily, attended the 25th anniversary celebration of WestStar November 6th at Discovery Park of America in Union City. York, of Marvin Windows and Doors, is a 2012 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership program. He joined approximately 200 program alumni and guests gathered to celebrate the leadership program that includes 710 graduates since its beginning.
The cowboy way

By Christiaan DeFranco cdefranco@daltoncitizen.com | Posted: Thursday, November 27, 2014 11:46 pm

Tanner Phipps lives the life of a cowboy. He’s always on the move, traveling from one town to the next, to compete on the rodeo circuit.

“I’ve been involved with rodeo since I was a little kid,” Phipps said. “My dad and uncle do it, and my cousin is a rodeo coach in Alabama. It has become a lifestyle for us.”

Phipps, 22, a Dalton native and a 2011 graduate of Southeast Whitfield High School, travels throughout the South, but also has competed in Colorado, Texas, Utah, Wyoming and other places out West. He’s a roper — and, in fact, possesses multiple rodeo skills — but his specialty is bareback riding.

“It’s just a lot of fun,” he said. “I’ve always enjoyed it.”

Phipps also enjoys winning, because he isn’t just a cowboy, he’s a national champion cowboy.

Now a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, he’s there on a rodeo scholarship, and he was an integral part of the Skyhawks team that competes in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and won the national championship at the 66th annual College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo., this past season.

“It was an awesome experience,” Phipps said. “Six of us went to represent our team, and we’re all really close friends.”

It was the first time a school east of the Mississippi River has won the national rodeo title. Plus, everyone on the team was from the East.
“He’s a good guy and has a good family,” UT-Martin rodeo coach John Luthi said of Phipps. “He’s a very nice young man, and he’s also a really good student. He represents the program in a positive manner, and he’s a true asset.”

Each of the six UT-Martin rodeo competitors scored points at the national championship, which helped the Skyhawks earn a victory with 755 points — 25 better than second-place Tarleton State University of Stephenville, Texas.

“Tanner is totally a team player, and our team was blessed that day,” Luthi said. “What makes Tanner so good at bareback is that he has a strong desire to be good, and he works hard at it. He’s an excellent athlete.”

Phipps wrestled and played football while at Southeast, setting the single-season record for total tackles (136) during his time with the Raiders.

According to Phipps, a key to bareback riding — hanging on to a bucking bronco without a saddle — is having strong feet, dragging them on the animal and getting them above the horse’s shoulders while the rider hangs on for dear life. But, Phipps said, mental preparation is even more important.

“Coach Luthi is great with that,” Phipps said. “He holds meetings, and we really work on attitude and keeping on the right mental track.”

Being mentally strong is especially important in a sport like rodeo, where bumps, bruises and broken bones come with the territory.

Phipps has been lucky about injuries compared to some riders, but he has had his fair share, including a dislocated collarbone and broken sternum.

Phipps studies animal science and agriculture at UT-Martin, but he plans to pursue a professional rodeo career after college.

“I think I can make a pretty good living at it,” he said.

He has participated in 36 different rodeo competitions in the past year, with the highlights including winning $4,000 at an event in Jackson, Miss. He recently won the bareback championship at the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Southeastern Circuit Finals in Davie, Fla.

“I’ve made good friends all over in rodeo, and we’re always calling each other,” Phipps said. “It’s a pretty tight-knit community. We always help each other out if anybody ever needs anything.”

In addition to his personal pursuit of the sport and his experiences with the UT-Martin team, Phipps gained knowledge and inspiration from working for Stace Smith in Athens, Texas, last year. He is the founder of Smith Pro Rodeos, which produces rodeos for the Professional Rodeo...
Cowboys Association and Professional Bull Riders, Inc., as well as invitational and private convention rodeos.

Smith has been named the PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year multiple times.

"That was a great experience, working for him," Phipps said. "I learned a lot about the business side of rodeo and what all goes into it. He's a great guy, and it was really valuable for me to go out there."

As for the travel that goes along with being involved in rodeo, Phipps doesn't mind, even though he's sometimes gone for a month at a time.

"I like the road," he said.

It's a cowboy's life indeed.

Families hand pick Christmas trees at local farm

By Bryan Carnaggio
By bcarnaggio@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Nov 26, 2014 at 6:21 PM CST
(Sky Update: Nov 26, 2014 at 7:19 PM CST)

BEECH BLUFF, Tenn. -- With Thanksgiving over, now the journey for the perfect Christmas tree begins.

People from all over West Tennessee came out to the Ward Grove Christmas Tree Farm in hopes of finding the perfect spruce to adorn with decorations.

"The best part about finding a Christmas tree is coming out with family and searching for the perfect one together," John Sellers said.

The Sellers family cut down their first Christmas tree ever after previously using artificial trees while living in Nepal for four years for mission work.

"It is a lot different in Nepal this time of year," Sarah Sellers said. "There's nothing like it here. There are so many decorations and so many trees — I love it."

The Ward Grove Christmas Tree Farm has been operating since 1986 when they planted their first trees. The first tree to be cut down and sold at the farm was in 1990.

"We love to share traditions with families," said Emily Knight with the tree farm. "We have so many repeat customers. It's nice to see them come back and watch them grow up with us."
FEATURED FACULTY SCHOLAR — Dr. Arthur Hunt (center), associate professor of communications in the UT Martin Department of Communications, is the Featured Faculty Scholar for the 2014 fall semester. He was honored with a reception Nov. 19 in the Paul Meek Library, where examples of his major scholarly accomplishments will be on display until the 2015 spring semester scholar is chosen. Pictured with Hunt are (from left) Dr. Robert Nanney, communications department chair; Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor; Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; and Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean, UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Hunt teaches public speaking, honors public speaking and honors media ecology, and his writings have appeared in Touchstone, Salvo, Modern Age, The Christian Research Journal, Explorations in Media Ecology and other publications. He is the author of two books: The Vanishing Word (Crossway, 2003) and Surviving Technopolis (Pickwick, 2013). He is on the editorial board of Second Nature, an online journal about technology, sociology and Christian ethics. Hunt also portrays Davy Crockett for schools and civic organizations. Before coming to UT Martin in 2006, Hunt taught at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa., and Pensacola Christian College in Pensacola, Fla. He received his bachelor of religious education in 1983 from Clarksville Baptist College and bachelor's and master's degrees in 1989 and 1994 respectively from Marshall University. He received his doctorate in 1998 from the University of Southern Mississippi.
Santa’s Village celebrates 30 years

The legacy of Santa’s Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected through its 29 years. Those donations, totaling $1,091,958, have been distributed to area residents who need them. Santa’s Village will mark its 30th anniversary, Dec. 11-14, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment. To date, 288,211 people have attended Santa’s Village.

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

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

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

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

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at (731) 587-6784.
Students from the University of Tennessee at Martin groove during the Roots of Rhythm performance at the Krider Performing Arts Center this year. Events like these are made possible with the help of the Paris-Henry County Arts Council.
UT MARTIN HOMEComing

Homecoming court, from left; Alley Hargrove, of Dickson; Brittany Berry, of Collierville; Hannah Robison, queen, of Springville; Rashunica Holland, of Covington; and Kayla Harmon, of Lewisburg.

Meagan Stedman, of Memphis; Courtney Pearson, of Jackson; Sarah Killingsworth, of Adamsville; Daniel Holt, of Savannah; Krysten Hawley, of Jackson; Kelli McNeill, of Clarksville; and Rachel Mowbray, of Arlington.
MASH TV show set created by the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences (clockwise from center front): Rachel Stanford, of Dickson; Hailey Smith, of Ridgely; Cassie Burks, nursing faculty member; Ryan Leatherbarrow, of Smyrna; Kristen Williams, of Palmyra; Staci Fuqua, of Education Student Services; and Dr. Sandy Murray, education faculty member.

From left: Students Taylor Branch, of Bells; Lawson Lee, of Dickson; and Grant Taylor, also of Bells.

From left: Students Erin Kelley and Brittany Hatfield, both of Milan, and Marissa Howard, of Union City.
Tim and Stacey McCollum, 1993 and 1994 UT Martin graduates, respectively, and sons Blake and Brandon, all of Martin.

UT Martin professor Gary Steinke, Department of Communications, and Randy O’Daniel, 1981 graduate, of Jackson.

Students Olivia Kramer, of Jackson; Morgan Sanders, of Lawrenceburg; and Hailey Williford, of Greenbrier.

UT Martin celebrated Homecoming 2014 on Oct. 25 as alumni, students, faculty, staff and visitors gathered at the 10th annual Quad City in the heart of the main campus. Tents and other displays were created using 1970s TV show themes. Other Homecoming Week activities included a rope pull, pyramid competition, the homecoming football game with Austin Peay and the naming of the homecoming queen and court. Homecoming award recipients, from left, include 1969 graduate Lin Dunn, of Dresden; 2007 graduate Jennifer Horbelt, of Paducah; and Dr. Bob Smith, of Franklin.