Local UT Campus hosts UTM Travel Study Coordinator

Ms. Jackson informed students of upcoming trips scheduled through the university and provided details on scholarships and financial aid available to help fund travel study.

The UT Selmer/McNairy Center is currently the only off campus site to provide a scholarship dedicated solely to UT Selmer students for travel study. If any student missed the Round Table discussion and would like further details, please visit the Writing Center for additional information and resources.

The UT Selmer Writing Center welcomed Ms. Lorrie Jackson, UTM Travel Study Coordinator, on Wednesday to host a Round Table discussion on travel study opportunities.
SES Hosts Performance

Left to right Dr. Julie Hill; director of U.T. Martin's percussion ensemble encourages student participation during their performance of "Roots of Rythem" at SES.

Jerry Emmons is a former SES student and is now a music performance major at U. T. Martin.

Kerry Radcliffe, current music instructor at Selmer Elementary and former U.T. Martin percussion ensemble member is invited to play during performance at SES.
UTM inducting '15 HoF class next weekend

MARTIN – The Class of 2015 for the University of Tennessee at Martin Athletics Hall of Fame has been announced, as former athletics director Phil Dane (2000-13), former soccer player Dani Myrick-Devore (2002-05), former golfer Chris Jones (1997-2001) and former football player Mike Taylor (1984-87) will be enshrined during the 32nd annual Letter Winner’s Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 10. This year’s Hall of Fame ceremony will be held in the Student Life Center at 7:30 a.m.

A Martin native, Dane administered facility upgrades for seven different Skyhawk programs and oversaw 21 Ohio Valley Conference championship teams in his tenure, 15 of which came from 2009-13. Seven different athletic programs captured an OVC championship under Dane, five of which went on to win their first-ever OVC title. UT Martin athletics also produced a new program record for OVC Medal of Honor (4.0 Grade Point Average) and OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll (at least a 3.25 GPA) honorees in three straight years under Dane from 2010-13.

Myrick-Devore’s presence is still felt throughout the Skyhawk soccer record book, as she is the career leader in points (91), goals (35), assists (21) and game-winning goals (eight). A three-time All-OVC honoree under head coach Nathan Pifer, Myrick-Devore also is the record holder for points in a single season (39 as a freshman in 2002) and points in a single match (eight in 2002) while she was the first player in program history to rack up two career hat tricks (both in 2002). The Midwest City, Okla. native will be the first soccer player enshrined into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame.

A four-year letterman under head coach Grover Page, Jones was the first golfer in UT Martin history to earn a spot on both the All-OVC and OVC All-Tournament squad in the same season, accomplishing that feat as a sophomore in 1999. The Dyersburg, Tenn. native won the New Orleans Classic before finishing in fifth place with a final score of 217 (72-74-71) in the 1999 OVC Championships before leading the Skyhawks with a 74.2 scoring average as a senior in 2000-01.

Taylor was a four-year starter on UT Martin’s offensive line, logging 44 consecutive starts at either the center or guard position for head coaches Fred Pickard and Don McLeary. The Jackson native has been ranked as the top football line judge in the Southeastern Conference and has worked numerous postseason assignments, including four SEC Championships, the 2005 National Championship and the 2015 Rose Bowl—the first-ever BCS national semifinal game.

Hughes to speak to Martin Rotary

Scottie Nell Hughes, news director for the Tea Party News Network, will speak at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Martin, Tenn., at noon on Thursday, Oct. 8. The club meets in the University Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Hughes has covered stories with some of the notorious names in both politics and Hollywood. Her interviews have been linked to top websites, including Drudge Report, The Blaze and World Net Daily. She is a frequent guest on CNN, Fox News, Fox Business, Newsmax, CBS and RT. Her first book, Roar: The New Conservative Woman Speak Out is widely available and was ranked number one on Amazon’s female political book list for several weeks.

Hughes also services as a columnist for Townhall.com, ChristianPost.com and is a former Politichick. She won the 2012 Blog Video of the Year by the National Bloggers Club. In addition, she serves on the faculty of the Leadership Institute. Hughes has been a part of numerous broadcasts from both the Republican and Democrat National Conventions and was assigned to the White House Press Corps for Inauguration 2005.

A Magna Cum Laude graduate for the University of Tennessee at Martin with a broadcast communications/political science degree, Hughes continues to consult with several campaigns at both the state and national levels, in regard to media relations and public relations. She lives in Brentwood, Tenn., with her husband Chris and their two children.
Past AD
Dane joins UT Martin Hall class

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This year’s Hall of Fame ceremony will be held in the Student Life Center at 7:30 a.m.

A Martin native, Dane administered facility upgrades for seven different Skyhawk programs and oversees 21 Ohio Valley Conference championship teams in his tenure, 15 of those coming in the years 2009-13.

Seven different athletic programs captured an OVC championship under Dane, five of which went on to win their first-ever OVC title.

UT Martin athletics also produced a new program record for OVC Medal of Honor (4.0 Grade Point Average) and OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll (at least a 3.25 GPA) honorees in three straight years under Dane from 2010-13.

"It’s an honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame," Jones said. "It is something I never would have dreamed of while playing golf there. Some of my fondest memories at UT Martin include playing some great golf courses, the friendships made with my teammates and traveling to different parts of the country that I might not have gotten to see otherwise."

Taylor was a four-year starter on UT Martin’s offensive line, logging 44 consecutive starts at either the center or guard position for head coaches Fred Pickard and Don McLeary.

The Jackson native has been ranked as the top football line judge in the Southeastern Conference and has worked numerous postseason assignments, including four SEC Championships, the 2005 National Championship and the 2015 Rose Bowl - the first-ever BCS national semifinal game.

"This is an honor that I am very appreciative of but this award is truly a team effort in my case," Taylor said. "I accept this on behalf of all of my teammates and coaches that helped an average player be a productive member of those teams. I was able to take what I learned at UT Martin and apply that to officiating and life."

Myrick-Devore’s presence is still felt throughout the Skyhawk soccer record book, as she is the career leader in points (91), goals (35), assists (21) and game-winning goals (eight).

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The Midwest City, Okla., native will be the first soccer player enshrined into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame.

"This is a very huge honor," Myrick-Devore said. "I enjoyed my time at UT Martin more than anything — we were always the underdogs when I was there. I always enjoyed just being a part of the team and I have made friends for a lifetime from those teams.

My biggest dream was to play Division-I women’s college soccer, and UT Martin provided me that opportunity."

A four-year letterman under head coach Grover Page, Jones was the first golfer in UT Martin history to earn a spot on both the (See Page 11, Col. 1)

Past...
(Continued from Page 10)

All-OVC team and OVC All-Tournament squad in the same season, accomplishing that feat as a sophomore in 1999.

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DELEGATION VISITS UTM — Tennes-see General Assembly members from West Tennessee visited the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus Sept. 24 to hear updates from UT Martin Interim Chancellor Bob Smith (center) and UT President Joe DiPietro (r). Discussions were held in the university's Dunagan Alumni Center. Also pictured are (l to r) Dr. Keith Carver, executive assistant to President DiPietro, and 24th District State Sen. John Stevens (R-Huntingdon), a 1996 UT Martin graduate.

New class for UTM Hall of Fame includes former AD Dane

The Class of 2015 for the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame has been announced as former athletics director Phil Dane (2000-13), former soccer player Dani Myrick-Devore (2002-05), former golfer Chris Jones (1997-2001) and former football player Mike Taylor (1984-87) will be enshrined on Oct. 10.

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“It’s an honor to be inducted because of the association with the current Hall of Fame members,” Dane said. “Since Martin is my home and I worked here for 34 years, I know most of them personally. But I really share this honor with all the great students, staff, coaches, administrators, donors and faculty who worked together to achieve the goals we reached over my 14 years.”

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Story of Babar to be featured in recital

Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will perform a faculty recital featuring the music of French composer Francis Poulenc at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Blankenship Recital Hall of the UT Martin Fine Arts Building. The program will open with Poulenc’s musical setting for piano of “L’Histoire de Babar.” This piece is based on “The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant,” a children’s book written and illustrated by Jean de Brunhoff. Dr. Bob Smith, interim chancellor, will narrate the story with accompanying illustration slides prepared by Lane Last, professor of art at UT Martin.

Dr. Johnathan Vest, associate professor of music, will accompany Dr. Harriss during the second half of the program in a performance of Poulenc’s “Sonata for Two Pianos.” This piece was composed in 1953 and is considered a masterwork in the literature for two pianos.

The recital Tuesday night is free and open to the public.

UT Martin to host guest tuba lecturer

Dr. Alexander Lapins, lecturer of tuba and euphonium at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, will give a solo tuba recital at 3 p.m. Saturday at UT Martin.

The event will be held in Blankenship Recital Hall of the Fine Arts Building.

Lapins grew up in northern Virginia and earned degrees from James Madison University, the University of Michigan and Indiana University. He has taught at Northern Arizona University since 2009 and is currently on a leave of absence from Knoxville. He previously taught at Indiana State University and the University of Indianapolis.

He will give a masterclass with select UTM students performing afterward. This event is free and open to the public.

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/
http://www.kfvs12.com/

UT-Martin to host second Fall Preview Day October 24th

The last Fall Preview Day at UT-Martin for 2015 is set for October 24th.

High school students interested in attending UTM are encouraged to register for the event. Students and their parents/guardians can tour the campus and receive information on a variety of topics alongside other potential students.

Registration begins at 9:00 and will be followed by an official university welcome at 9:30. Attendees will be given a tour of the UTM campus at 10:30 and have the opportunity to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon. Representatives will also be available to discuss financial aid options, housing, meal plans, special programs and campus life activities.

All activities will take place in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Advance registration is required and there’s no fee to attend. Students may register up until the morning of the event at utm.edu.
The UT Martin psychology program will host a 5K run or one-mile walk Saturday beginning with registration at 7 a.m. The run will begin in the parking lot across from The Sideline in downtown Martin at the corner of Oxford and Neal streets. The race begins at 7:30 a.m. and will finish in the same area. Awards and door prizes will be available, and all registration funds will benefit student scholarships.

Registration forms can be obtained from Dr. Michelle Merwin, professor of psychology, at (731) 881-7543 or by email at mmerwin@utm.edu. The fee to participate in the run and receive a T-shirt is $15 per person. T-shirts may also be purchased individually for $12 each. Participants can sign up on race day, however day-of registrants are not guaranteed a shirt. Pre-registration ends today.

Registration forms can be obtained from Dr. Michelle Merwin, professor of psychology, at (731) 881-7543 or by email at mmerwin@utm.edu. The fee to participate in the run and receive a T-shirt is $15 per person. T-shirts may also be purchased individually for $12 each. Participants can sign up on race day, however day-of registrants are not guaranteed a shirt. Pre-registration ends today.

**THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015**

**David Belote will announce House run**

By CLAY SMITH

The Press

David Belote will announce his intentions to run for the Tennessee House of Representatives at the courthouse in Dresden at 5 p.m. on Thursday, according to a spokesperson for his campaign. Belote is the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and a First Year Initiative Coordinator at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He also serves as an alderman for the City of Martin. Belote is seeking the representation of the 76th district. Rep. Andy Holt (R) of Dresden currently holds this title.

Belote is running for the Republican nomination, which will be held in Aug. 2016. The general election for the position will be held Nov. 8, 2016.

According to the University of Tennessee’s Human Resources’ website, “David Belote has devoted his professional career to the development of students. He is responsible for the overall management of student activities, directs the Leaders-in-Residence program and co-directs the University’s First-Year Initiative program.”

The district Belote plans to represent, District 76, includes all of Weakley County, as well as parts of Obion and Carroll Counties.

As of the last election 73 Republicans in the Tennessee House of Representatives.
West Tennesseans who’ve hesitated to believe eyewitness accounts of cougars roaming the woods and back country of the area now have reason to believe.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has confirmed a photo taken by a camera owned by Blake Spencer on Sept. 20 legitimately depicts a cougar roaming an area he likes to hunt in south Obion County and the town of Mason Hall.

“We talked with the game wardens with the TWRA and waited for their confirmation, and they confirmed our picture is accurate and we haven’t messed with it,” said Spencer, who is a 19-year-old sophomore wildlife and fisheries biology major at UT Martin. Spencer graduated from Gibson County High School in 2014.

“That area is on a fence row that a friend of mine owns and

See COUGAR, Page A6

BRANDON SHIELDS
bjshields@jacksonsun.com

Cougars have been slowly migrating west in the United States for a few decades now. Cougars are known to live in the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas and Missouri, with a number of confirmed sightings.

The TWRA imposed images of deer taken with the same camera in the same area to get an idea of how large the cat is.

“Obviously, the animal in the photo is too big to be a house cat,” the statement said.

“It is almost as long as a deer, even though not as tall.”

This is the first confirmed sighting of a cougar in Tennessee.

A lot of the sightings in eastern Arkansas and Missouri are young males, so it’s uncertain if there’s a sustainable population of the cats in those areas yet.

The TWRA said this cat in Mason Hall appears to be a young male.

“Current-ly, however, the TWRA does not know for certain the origin of the cougar, whether it is a truly wild cougar or a pet, or where it now is.”

Spencer said he’s been back to the area hunting a handful of times since the photo was taken. He admits it crosses his mind as he walks through the woods.

“I would be lying if I said I don’t watch my back a little more knowing that thing’s been there in the last couple weeks,” Spencer said with a chuckle.

“But it’s pretty rare for a cougar to attack a human. I think there’s maybe four deaths per year.”

“They usually lay low unless a human wanders up on them and startles them, or if we come upon something they’ve killed and they’re protecting it.”

When asked what he’d do if the cougar is still there and plans to take something Spencer kills as its own, the hunter said he’ll play it safe.

“I’m not allowed to shoot it unless I’m defending myself, so I’ll let him have it if I guess,” Spencer said.

The TWRA warns there is no open season on cougars, so killing or trapping the animal is an illegal offense that could warrant fines and jail time.

The TWRA has a set of criteria to determine the legitimacy of photos. Spencer’s photo matches the criteria.

“The photo is date stamped and the individual who got the picture on his trail camera provided the original SC card to the TWRA for analysis.

“The photo is stamped Sept 19, but he informed the TWRA that he set the date wrong by a day and the photo was actually taken on Sept 20. There was also no evidence that a cougar photo had been cut and pasted into a background photo.

“When the cougar image is zoomed up close, there is no evidence of irregularities around the edges.”

Spencer is glad to have the photo confirmed.

“I’ve had a hard time believing other people when they said they saw them, so I knew others would have a hard time believing this,” Spencer said.

“But the TWRA backs me up, and I’m glad we got it.”

Reach Brandon Shields at (731) 425-9751.
DSCC and UT Martin sign dual admission partnership agreement

Special to the State Gazette

Dyersburg State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin signed a dual admission partnership agreement Sept. 18 that will "provide a seamless and guaranteed transition from a DSCC associate degree program to a UT bachelor's degree program by providing one curriculum plan for earning both degrees."

"DSCC and UT Martin have a long history of working together to promote student success and progression from an associate degree to a baccalaureate degree," Bowyer said.

please see DSCC, 3
bachelor's degree," stated Dr. Karen Bowyer, DSCC president. "Many students who have completed an associate degree at DSCC are very successful in their junior and senior years at UT Martin."

Students at DSCC who meet current admission criteria at UT Martin and major in an eligible Tennessee Transfer Pathway baccalaureate program can take advantage of the new agreement. Students must have either started their college careers at DSCC or have transferred to DSCC with fewer than 15 college-level semester hours.

"This is a benefit to both institutions because it provides a seamless transition for the accomplishment of a four-year degree," said Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor. "We know that 96 percent of all the good jobs that have occurred since the recession of 2008-2009 have required a four-year degree, so having a good start at Dyersburg State Community College and then transitioning to UT Martin is a great benefit to the student."

Eligible DSCC students will be contacted by the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions or may complete an application for dual admission, available through either institution's website. Students need not be entering freshmen to apply; all current DSCC students will be considered.

Participating students who meet UT Martin admission requirements upon completion of the two-year DSCC program will be guaranteed admission to UT Martin as juniors to continue their four-year bachelor's degree programs. Students transferring under this agreement will have their initial application fees waived.

The dual admission partnership also provides several additional advantages for community college students. Participating students will be assigned to both DSCC and UT Martin academic advisers to make sure they are meeting full requirements to complete both degrees.

Students will have access to DSCC's Learning Resource Center and UT Martin's library, as well as access to both institution's computer labs and student affairs offices.

Those who elect to pay applicable student fees will be able to attend UT Martin sporting events and participate in campus activities as well.

Participating DSCC students will also save money by completing their first two years at a community college with lower tuition and fees.

"Opportunities to connect community college students with a four-year college or university encourages their determination to succeed," stated Larenda Fultz, DSCC dean of student services. "Knowing that they are guaranteed to use their credits and able to talk with a UTM adviser before transferring helps them to be more confident that they are taking the right steps on
the front-end. This partnership will encourage students to be more persistent in their studies and in overall completion.

For a complete list of Tennessee Transfer Pathway programs available through Dyersburg State Community College, visit http://www.dscc.edu/programs of study/transfer programs. For more information on the dual admission partnership agreement, contact Tracie Langley, DSCC admissions counselor, at 731-286-3324 or by email at langley@dscc.edu. You may also contact Matt Borden, UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions, at 731-881-3101 or by email at mborden5@utm.edu.

On hand for the dual admission signing event between DSCC and UTM was (left to right) Margaret Jones, DSCC assistant director of admissions; Dr. Ross Dickens, dean, UT Martin College of Business and Fine Arts; Dr. Brandy Cartmell, interim director, UT Martin Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement; Dr. Jerold Ogg, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor; Dr. Karen Bowyer, DSCC president; Pat Walker, DSCC director of records and admissions; Larenda Fultz, DSCC dean of student services; Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean, UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts; Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Dr. Teri Maddox, DSCC vice president for the college; and Julie Frazier, DSCC interim dean of business, technology and allied health.
Big beats and world rhythms

UT Martin percussion ensemble performs Roots of Rhythm show

By Steve Short

Booming beats from drums of all kinds filled the gym at Milan Elementary School when 22 students from the Univ. of Tennessee Martin World Percussion Ensemble performed a Roots of Rhythm show Sept. 21.

The musicians were directed by Dr. Julie Hill, Dr. Dan Piccolo and Micah Barnes. Dr. Hill defined percussion instruments as anything that could be struck, shaken or scraped.

The show included sounds of steel drums and tamboo bamboo instruments from Trinidad, marimbas from Zimbabwe, Brazilian samba instruments, claves, glass bottles and pots and pans. Songs in the program included rhythms and sounds from six countries - Ghana, Zimbabwe, Trinidad, Columbia, Brazil and the United States.

Dr. Hill said instruments and rhythms were carried from Africa to other parts of the world by millions of people on slave ships centuries ago. The UTM students created an orchestra playing tamboo bamboo of different lengths and junkyard scrap metal. The students also performed dances in colorful Ghana clothing.

Steel drums of different pitches were played. Dr. Hill said steel drums were first made in Trinidad from empty, 55-gallon oil drums that were discarded by the British after World War II.

The UTM students also pounded out loud rhythms on Brazilian drums. "If you cover your ears, you won't hurt our feelings," Dr. Dan Piccolo told Milan students. "This music is made to be played outdoors, but we're inside in a giant echo chamber here."

"I'm so impressed with Milan Elementary School and how well behaved you are," Dr. Hill told Milan students.

Milan band director John Scruggs began the effort to bring the UTM musicians to Milan two years ago. A small group of Milan band students also visited UTM. "This kind of thing is essential to a well-rounded education of Milan students and to having arts in the schools," said Dr. Scruggs.

"The UTM Percussion Ensemble did a wonderful job of exposing us to music, history and cultures of other countries," said MES music teacher Suzanne Trull. "As the MES music teacher, I know the students enjoyed seeing and hearing a variety of percussion instruments played by college students live in concert. Both the audience and the performers had a great time interacting together."

Middle School band Director Lisa Bryant brought several band students to the show, including Elias Martinez and Jordan Presscott who previously visited UTM and met Dr. Hill.

"I learned a lot about different cultures and where music came from," said Presscott. "I enjoyed the rhythms and how the music electrified the audience. We got to go to UTM with our counselor, and Julie Hill wants us to go to their college. I've been thinking about that a lot."

"I enjoyed hearing every single drum," said Elias Martinez about the show. "Some rhythms I had heard before, but some I had not heard."

"It was amazing; the rhythms make you want to dance," added student Shelby Trimmer.

MES students said they appreciated the program. "I liked the show; we got to have fun while learning," said fourth grader Kaylin Lambert who plays drums. "I liked the songs and how they got the dancers to come out. It was really loud at times; they let the whole world hear it."

Elijah Aldridge said he plays drums and guitar. "I liked the combination of instruments, especially the big white xylophone instruments," he said. "I liked their tone. We should do more of these programs and be able to learn stuff while having fun." Aldridge said his ancestors traveled on slave ships from Ghana, one of the countries highlighted in the program.

"The show was excellent; I liked the different beats, rhythms and pitches," added student Kaleb Shook. "It taught me about the beats and instruments that are part of different cultures."
YOUNG AUDIENCE – Children at Milan Elementary School listened to the UT Martin World Percussion Ensemble perform their Roots of Rhythm show.

GHANA DANCE COSTUMES were worn by UTM students as they performed for Milan students during the Roots of Rhythm show.

BIG DRUMS like those used in South America were played during the UT Martin Roots of Rhythm show at Milan Elementary.
Prevention Alliance of Lauderdale County held its monthly meeting at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center on Sept. 26. Pictured are Douglas Buckner, Nikka Sorrell, guest speaker John Thompson of the 25th Judicial District Drug Task Force, Franz Nolen, Robert Lacy, Stacy Maclin, Jalen Smith, Diandra Henderson, Rachel Medford, Jaclyn Stafford, Hayden Austin, Aliyah Maclin, Angela Montgomery, Traketha Jacox Reed, Brenda Andrews, Lisa Kent, Dr. Cyronose Spicer, Joseph Dobbins, Thazer Currie and Xavier Lawrence Andrews, Coalition Coordinator. The topics that were discussed included actually getting permission or allowance for the Coalition getting involved in the school systems to talk to the youth about the effects of drugs, tobacco, and binge drinking. Topics discussed as well were having the coalition set up a table with information to give out about the effects of tobacco, alcohol and prescription drugs at one of the Halls High and Ripley High School football home games. Also discussed was the Drug Take Back for Lauderdale County. Guest speaker John Thompson of the Drug Task Force gave a powerful presentation on how the District Attorney's office and the coalition worked together in the Drug Tack Back to eliminate the use of un-used prescription drugs and how important it is to dispose of old drugs. The next coalition meeting will be held at the UTM Ripley Center on Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. The anti-drug coalition encourages all concerned citizens to get involved in the fight for children. For more information, contact Xavier Lawrence Andrews, PAL Coordinator, at 612-6337 or email xandrews@utm.edu.
UTM VISIT — Caroline Rushing (front, left) of Fulton and Hailey Slaughter (front, right) of South Fulton recently attended an Honors Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students who were invited were able to tour the campus and hear presentations on university honors programs, financial aid, campus life, housing and academic departments. Miss Rushing is a senior at Fulton City High School and Miss Slaughter is a senior at South Fulton High School. They were joined on campus by their parents (back, from left) Susan and Robert Rushing and Kim and Jimmy Slaughter.

ON CAMPUS — Lucian Freeze (center) of Troy attended an Honors Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently. Invited students were able to tour the campus and hear presentations on university honors programs, financial aid, campus life, housing and academic departments. Freeze is a senior at Obion Central High School. He was joined at UT Martin by his brother, Silas Freeze, and his mother, Dana Freeze.
3 to be honored at homecoming

Kent Landers of The Coca-Cola Company; Duane Campbell, formerly of Microsoft; and Reginald Hill of LifePoint Health will all be honored during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s homecoming football game Saturday against Tennessee State University.

The game will begin at 2:30 p.m. in Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

The award-winners will be recognized during the game’s halftime show.

Prior to that, Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, will present the awards during the Chancellor’s Brunch and Awards Program in the Paul Meek Library, slated to begin at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Landers will receive the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the recipient’s chosen profession. The recipient must not be more than 40 years of age.

He serves as group director of corporate media relations for The Coca-Cola Company at its corporate headquarters in Atlanta. He has been responsible for overseeing global media relations since 2011 and completed a one-year international assignment as vice president of public affairs and communications for the company’s Japan business unit in December 2014.

Campbell is chosen to receive the Outstanding Alumni Award, which recognizes an alum for outstanding achievement in his or her chosen profession.

He worked with Microsoft Corporation from 1985-2013 as a software development engineer, engineering lead, technical lead, development manager and director of development. He spent a majority of his tenure helping to develop the Microsoft Word and Excel programs.

Hill will be awarded the Chancellor’s Award for University Service, which recognizes exemplary service to the university.

He has been named chief compliance officer by LifePoint Health. He leads the company’s ethics and compliance department, overseeing compliance initiatives for LifePoint and its nearly 60 hospitals.

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Final preview event scheduled at UTM

The final 2015 Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin will begin at 9 a.m. Oct. 24.

High school students interested in attending UT Martin are urged to register for the event. Students and their parents or guardians can tour the campus and receive information on a variety of topics.

All activities will take place in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Advance registration is required and there is no fee to attend. Students may register until the morning of the event. To register, visit www.utm.edu and select “Fall Preview Day Registration” under the “Discover menu... Students may also call the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu for additional details.

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Woodwind trio featured

The LCD Faculty Woodwind Trio will perform a recital, “LCD and Friends,” at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Blankenship Recital Hall of the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The LCD Woodwind Trio features UT Martin faculty members Charles Lewis, lecturer of music, on flute; Dr. Liz Aleksander, assistant professor of music, on clarinet; and Dr. Doug Owens, assistant professor of music, on oboe and bassoon.

This event is free and open to the public.
UT Martin homecoming to celebrate mascot’s 20th

The University of Tennessee at Martin introduced the Captain Skyhawk mascot in the fall of 1995 during a football game against Bethel University.

This year, the university will celebrate “Captain’s” 20th birthday during annual homecoming festivities Friday through Sunday.

Traditional events — including the rope pull and pyramid building competitions, pep rally, awards program and alumni reunions — return in celebration of Captain Skyhawk. Quad City, with its live music, petting farm, college tents and “Hawk Walk,” will be open to the public from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The Skyhawks will face Tennessee State University at 2:30 in Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

The following is a schedule of events:

**Friday**
- 3:30 p.m. — Rope Pull championships, Pacer Pond
- 6 p.m. — Volleyball vs. Morehead State, Skyhawk Fieldhouse
- 7 p.m. — University Choirs Dessert Evening, Fine Arts Building (admission, $18 for adults; $12 for children ages 12 and younger; see related story, this page)
- 7 p.m. — Pyramid and Pep Rally, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center (admission, $5 per person)

**Saturday**
- 7:30 a.m. — Letter Winners’ Breakfast and Hall of Fame inductions, Student Life Center (admission fee)
- 9 a.m. — Chancellor’s Brunch and Awards Program, Paul Meek Library
- 10:30 a.m. — Quad City opens; judging begins
- 11 a.m. — Football team’s “Hawk Walk,” near Paul Meek Library
- 2:30 p.m. — Football game vs. Tennessee State University, Hardy M. Graham Stadium
- 5:30 p.m. — Black Alumni Reception, Bob Carroll Football Building
- 7 p.m. — Young Alumni Reception, The Stables in downtown Martin
- 7 p.m. — NPHC Step Show, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center (admission fee)
- 7 p.m. — University Choirs Dessert Evening, Fine Arts Building (admission fee)

**Sunday**
- 10 a.m. — “Walk in the Quad”
- 10:30 a.m. — Homecoming brunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall, Boling University Center.

Homecoming shirts are available in the alumni office or at the alumni tent during Quad City. Short-sleeve shirts are $10 each, with an additional $2 for sizes 2X and above. Call the Office of Alumni Relations at (731) 881-3610 or email alumni@utm.edu to place an order.

For more homecoming information, visit www.utmforever.com.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dessert evening set</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Music will host its annual dessert evening at 7 nightly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The UT Martin University Singers and New Pacer Singers ensembles will perform each night, alongside several soloists, while audience members enjoy a trio of dessert choices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This event is open to the public. Admission is $18 for adults and $12 for children ages 12 and younger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To reserve tickets or for more information, contact Sherry Adams at (731) 881-7402 or by email at <a href="mailto:sadams@utm.edu">sadams@utm.edu</a>.</td>
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Tom Elam Center (admission, $5 per person)
OVER THE EDGE — Dr. Clinton Smith, assistant professor of special education at the University of Tennessee at Martin and area director for Special Olympics of Upper West Tennessee, recently prepared to rappel down the I-Bank Tower in downtown Memphis as part of his fourth Over the Edge for Special Olympics fundraising event. Smith raised more than $1,200.

UT Martin faculty member goes over the edge for SO

Dr. Clinton Smith, assistant professor of special education at the University of Tennessee at Martin, went “Over the Edge” for Special Olympics recently by rappelling 30 stories down the I-Bank Tower in downtown Memphis.

Smith serves as area director for Special Olympics of Upper West Tennessee and raised more than $1,200 for the organization as part of the Over the Edge event.

Smith has been an active participant and supporter of the Special Olympics program for 27 years and this was his fourth year to rappel the I-Bank Tower.

He coached the Team Tennessee athletics team in 2006 and 2014 and served as head basketball coach for the 2010 Team Tennessee traditional basketball team at the Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Neb., where they won the gold medal.

“I have seen so many students over the years increase their self-esteem, improve their social skills by making friendships with their peers with and without disabilities, and develop their skills in various sports,” Smith said. “I have also seen the peers without disabilities become more accepting toward their peers with disabilities.”

The mission of Special Olympics of Upper West 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 continuing 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 people with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of society by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate skills and talents through sports training and competition.

Special Olympics also increases the public’s awareness of participants’ capabilities and need.

Special Olympics of Upper West Tennessee serves Henry, Lake, Obion and Weakley counties.

For more information, contact Smith at (731) 881-7167 or by email at csmit279@utm.edu.
UT Martin & Dyersburg State sign dual admission partnership agreement

DUAL ADMISSION PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT – Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, and Dr. Karen Bowyer, Dyersburg State Community College president, signed a dual admission partnership agreement Sept. 18 which will “provide a seamless and guaranteed transition from a DSCC associate degree program to a UT bachelor’s degree program by providing one curriculum plan for earning both degrees.”
The University of Tennessee at Martin and Dyersburg State Community College recently signed a dual admission partnership agreement that will "provide a seamless and guaranteed transition from a DSCC associate degree program to a UT bachelor's degree program by providing one curriculum plan for earning both degrees."

Students at DSCC who meet current admission criteria at UT Martin and major in an eligible Tennessee Transfer Pathway baccalaureate program can take advantage of the new agreement. Students must have either started their college careers at DSCC or have transferred to DSCC with fewer than 15 college-level semester hours.

"This is a benefit to both institutions because it provides a seamless transition for the accomplishment of a four-year degree," said Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor. "We know that 96 percent of all the good jobs that have occurred since the recession of 2008-2009 have required a four-year degree, so having a good start at Dyersburg State Community College and then transitioning to a high-quality academic program at UT Martin is a great benefit to the student."

Eligible DSCC students will be contacted by the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions or may complete an application for dual admission, available through either institution's website. Students need not be entering freshmen to apply; all current DSCC students will be considered.

Participating students who meet UT Martin admission requirements upon completion of the two-year DSCC program will be guaranteed admission to UT Martin as juniors to continue their four-year bachelor's degree programs. Students transferring under this agreement will have their initial application fees waived.

The dual admission partnership also provides several additional advantages for community college students. Participating students will be assigned to both DSCC and UT Martin academic advisers to make sure they are meeting full requirements to complete both degrees.

Students will also have full access to the UT Martin Paul Meek Library, computer labs and student affairs offices before full admission. Those who elect to pay applicable student fees will be able to attend UT Martin sporting events and participate in campus activities as well.

Participating DSCC students will also save money by completing their first two years at a community college with lower tuition and fees.

"Any time you can connect a community college student with their four-year school increases that opportunity and awareness and encourages persistence to the four-year school," said Larendra Fultz, DSCC dean of student services. "Having that connection on the front end, knowing they are taking the right steps to transfer and that they're going to be able to use their credits at UTM and be guaranteed of that, being able to go over to UTM and sit down with their adviser... that will help them make that connection that we see really makes a difference in persistence."

UT Martin plans to create similar agreements with other community colleges in the future to better serve all students in the West Tennessee area.

For a complete list of Tennessee Transfer Pathway programs available at UT Martin, visit www.tntransferpathway.org/campuses/university-tennessee-martin.

For more information on the dual admission partnership agreement, contact Matt Borden, UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions, at 731-881-3101 or mborden5@utm.edu. DSCC students may also contact Tracie Langley, DSCC admissions counselor, at 731-286-3324 or langley@dssc.edu.
UTM plans Homecoming celebration

The University of Tennessee at Martin introduced the Captain Skyhawk mascot in the fall of 1995 during a football game against Bethel University. This year, the university will celebrate “Captain’s” 20th birthday during annual homecoming festivities, Oct. 9-11.

Traditional events, including the rope pull and pyramid building competitions, pep rally, awards program and alumni reunions, return in celebration of Captain Skyhawk. Quad City, with its live music, petting farm, college tents and “Hawk Walk,” will be open to the public from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10. The Skyhawks will face Tennessee State University at 2:30 in Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

The following is a schedule of events:

- **Friday, Oct. 9**
  - 3:30 p.m. - Rope Pull championships, Pacer Pond
  - 6 - Volleyball vs. Morehead State, Skyhawk Fieldhouse
  - 7 - University Choirs Dessert Evening, Fine Arts Building (admission: $18 for adults, $12 for children ages 12 and under)

- **Saturday, Oct. 10**
  - 7:30 a.m. - Letter Winners’ Breakfast and Hall of Fame inductions, Student Life Center (admission)
  - 9 - Chancellor’s Brunch and Awards Program, Paul Meek Library
  - 10:30 - Quad City opens, judging begins
  - 11 - Football team’s “Hawk Walk,” near Paul Meek Library
  - 2:30 - Football game vs. Tennessee State University, Hardy M. Graham Stadium
  - 5:30 - Black Alumni Reception, Bob Carroll Football Building
  - 7 - Young Alumni Reception, The Stables in downtown Martin
  - 7 - NPHC Step Show, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center (admission: $5 per person)

- **Sunday, Oct. 11**
  - 10 a.m. - “Walk in the Quad”
  - 10:30 - Homecoming brunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall, Boling University Center

Homecoming shirts are available in the alumni office or at the alumni tent during Quad City. Short sleeve shirts are $10, with an additional $2 for sizes 2X and above. Call the Office of Alumni Relations at 731-881-3610 or e-mail alumni@utm.edu to place an order.

For more homecoming information, visit www.utmforever.com.
Top teacher selected for council

KATHERINE BURGESS
kburgess@jacksun.com

Cathy Whitehead said being named Teacher of the Year by the Tennessee Department of Education was a “huge surprise.”

“I think my initial reaction was just shock,” Whitehead said. “It has taken a while to sink in, and I don’t think it really has yet.”

A third-grade teacher at West Chester Elementary in Henderson, Whitehead received the state’s top teaching honor during the annual Teacher of the Year banquet on Sept. 24.

Part of the recognition is that Whitehead will serve on the Teacher Advisory Council. She said she is eager to represent Tennessee teachers as she runs roundtable discussions, does personal outreach and takes feedback from the classroom to the state.

“Tennessee has done some incredible things, and I know that starts in the classroom,” she said. “I’m really excited and I think it’s a great way for us to be able to have two-way communication.”

Whitehead has taught at West Chester for six years. She holds a master’s degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and also went back for additional certification as a reading specialist.

Whitehead said parents tell her a good teacher is one who truly knows the children.

“I think that a great teacher has a really good ability to develop deep relationships with the student and know deeply where they are and where they need to grow,” she said.

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748. Follow her on Twitter: @kathsburgess

UT Martin Fall Preview Days Set

The last 2015 Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin will begin at 9 a.m., October 24th. High school students interested in attending UT Martin are encouraged to register for the event. Students and their parents/guardians can tour the campus and receive information on a variety of topics alongside other potential students.

Registration at 9 a.m. will be followed by an official university welcome at 9:30 a.m. Attendees will be given a tour of the campus at 10:30 a.m. and have the opportunity to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon. Representatives will also be available to discuss financial aid options, housing, meal plans, special programs and campus life activities.

All activities will take place in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Advance registration is required and there is no fee to attend. Students may register up until the morning of the event. To register, visit www.utm.edu and select “Fall Preview Day Registration” under the “Discover” menu. Students may also call the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu for additional details.

Martin alderman to run for Tenn. House

A city of Martin alderman will publicly announce his candidacy for 76th District state representative today, according to a news release.

David Belote will run in the August 2016 Republican Primary for the seat currently held by Andy Holt of Dresden.

Belote will make his announcement at 5 p.m. today at the Weakley County Courthouse.

The 76th District is comprised of Weakley County and parts of Carroll and Obion counties.
First confirmed cougar sighting in Tennessee in over 100 years

This adult male cougar shows the typical coloration of the species. The so-called ‘black panthers’ often reported by casual observers are extremely rare and probably cases of mistaken identity.

This photo from a game camera near Mason Hall, Tenn. has been confirmed as a genuine photo of a cougar. Whether it's wild or an escaped pet, is still unknown.

TWRA verifies photo taken in Obion County

KEN JONES
kjones@stategazette.com

Big cats are coming back to Tennessee, and it's about time, or is it? The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has confirmed a Sept. 20 photo taken by Blake Spencer, of Mason Hall, Tenn., is indeed a cougar. Spencer was using an automatic game camera with motion sensors. The photo depicts a cougar roaming an area he likes to hunt in south Obion County near the town of Mason Hall.

Many sightings and tales about “black panthers” and other large cat-like creatures being found in Tennessee have circulated over the years. But hard evidence has been tough to come by, until now.

The big cats have been documented in Missouri and Arkansas for many years, but Spencer’s photo may be the first of its kind here in Tennessee.

According to the Jackson Sun, Spencer said this: "We talked with the game wardens with the TWRA and waited..."
Continued from Page 1

for their confirmation, and they confirmed our picture is accurate and we haven't messed with it," said Spencer, who is a 19-year-old sophomore wildlife and fisheries biology major at UT Martin. "That area is on a fence row that a friend of mine owns and lets me hunt on. We put the cameras out there about a month before hunting season to get an idea of what kind of deer we have out there and when they normally come through the area."

The TWRA released a statement confirming the photo Tuesday morning and said cougars have been slowly migrating east in the United States for a few decades now. Cougars are known to live in the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas and Missouri, with a number of confirmed sightings. This is the first confirmed sighting of a cougar in Tennessee. A lot of the sightings in eastern Arkansas and Missouri are young males, so it's uncertain if there's a sustainable population of the cats in those areas yet. The TWRA said this cat in Obion County, Tennessee, "The TWRA can confirm there was, on Sept. 20, 2015, a cougar in Obion County, Tennessee." the statement said. "Currently, however, the TWRA does not know for certain the origin of the cougar, whether it is a truly wild cougar or a pet, or where it is now."

There are many other names that Puma concolor goes by such as puma, cougar, mountain lion, panther, painter, catamount, leopard, etc. and it is the second-largest cat, by weight, in the Americas. Only the South/Central American Jaguar is heavier. A large male cougar can weigh over 200 pounds and is capable of leaping 40 feet and running 40-50 mph. Some biologists believe that the cat is making a comeback and expanding its range eastward due to the increase in the number of deer and other prey species. The TWRA warns there is no open season on cougars, so killing or trapping of the animal is an illegal offense that could warrant fines and jail time. Unless, of course, it's in self-defense!
Roots Of Rhythm Tours West Tennessee

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble presented a unique performance called "Roots of Rhythm" to nearly 3,000 West Tennessee students and community members Sept. 21-22. The 11th annual Roots of Rhythm tour included stops at the Milan, Selmer, Bells and Medina elementary schools and a public concert in Selmer's Rockabilly Park. Roots of Rhythm showcases African percussion music and instruments and uses maps, flags and historical information to illustrate the migration of music around the world through the slave trade. Musical selections from countries such as Brazil, Trinidad, Cuba, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Columbia help introduce audience members to instruments used in other parts of the world.

Drs. Julie Hill, professor and interim chair, UT Martin Department of Music, and Dan Piccolo, lecturer and assistant director of percussion, direct the ensemble. The 2015 Roots of Rhythm tour is sponsored by the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Zildjian Cymbals, Innovative Percussion, Amro Music, Evans Drumheads and the UT Martin Percussion Society.

For more information on the tour or to inquire about upcoming performances, contact Hill at 731-881-7418 or by email at jhill@utm.edu.

UTM homecoming — and Captain Skyhawk's birthday

The University of Tennessee at Martin introduced the Captain Skyhawk mascot in the fall of 1995 during a football game against Bethel University. This year, the university will celebrate Captain Skyhawk's 20th birthday during annual homecoming festivities, through Oct. 11.

Traditional events, including the rope pull and pyramid building competitions, pep rally, awards program and alumni reunions return in celebration of Captain Skyhawk. Quad City, with its live music, petting farm, college tents and "Hawk Walk," will be open to the public from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

For more homecoming information, visit www.utmforever.com.
Published: October 9, 2015

Journeys in Community Living is proud to announce George Cunningham as the successor to current Executive Director Betty McNeely, who is set to retire from Journeys after nearly 40 years of service on Nov. 1.

Cunningham has been in Journeys' number two position as assistant director for the past 30 years. His duties include overseeing its residential program, facility training and programming for the persons served and coordinating Journeys’ protection from harm system.

Cunningham completed a bachelor’s degree in psychology at the University of Tennessee Martin, a master’s degree in clinical psychology at MTSU and a master of divinity degree from Vanderbilt University. Cunningham is also a pastor of Open Table Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

McNeely said the board decided on Cunningham after a series of interviews involving several very qualified candidates, as well as extensive advertising of the job through various newspapers and professional alliance outlets.

McNeely was not involved in these interviews but was happy to learn Cunningham had been chosen by Journeys’ board.

"Knowing that I will be leaving Journeys in the able hands of George Cunningham is definitely something I have a good feeling about," she said. "George has always had a big heart for the people we serve here."

Cunningham said he plans to keep running Journeys with the same caring and professional philosophy it has always operated under:

"I am very excited about this new opportunity," he said. "Betty McNeely has done an amazing job at leading Journeys to become a successful, caring and person-centered agency. She has always put the clients and their families first and inspired our agency to support persons with disabilities in finding jobs, living in their own homes and being active members of the community.

"I hope to continue this mission into the future," Cunningham added.

Hayden Combs

LASCO ANNOUNCES HAYDEN COMBS AS PROJECT COORDINATOR

LASCO is pleased to announce Hayden Combs as our new Project Coordinator. Hayden will be reporting directly to the National Product Manager and assisting with many projects. Hayden is from Brownsville, Tenn. He attended the University of Tennessee at Martin where he earned a degree in Agriculture Engineering and Technology.
Miss Tennessee speaks to Union City students

By CAROLINE CHISM

Special to The Messenger

On Friday, Oct. 2, Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison spent her day speaking to the students of Union City schools. She began her day by speaking to the elementary school and then spoke to the middle and high school in the afternoon. After school was over, she even joined the homecoming parade in a UCHS football jersey.

She began her speech by describing her life. Hannah Robison grew up in Paris, Ten., and was homeschooled until eighth grade, when she then enrolled in and eventually graduated from Henry County High School. She is now a 21-year-old senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin and will be graduating with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry, with a minor in psychology.

Miss Robison is Gov. Haslam’s spokesperson for character education, with the focus on responsibility. She explained the three types of responsibilities everyone has: the responsibility to give back to our community, a responsibility to our peers and a responsibility to ourselves.

We have the responsibility to give back to our community through volunteering. Because of her homeschooling, she volunteered to interact with others while bettering her community and others around her. When she enrolled in high school, she joined 13 clubs to further her volunteering.

As students, we volunteer with the different clubs we are involved in at school with the goal to make an impact on the less fortunate and our community.

We also have a responsibility to our peers. It is necessary to show everyone respect and be kind. Bullying is a major cause of absences at school, so Robison works hard to eliminate bullying in schools.

Finally, we have a responsibility to ourselves. We must stay healthy, which comes from eating healthy foods and exercising regularly.

Miss Robison also discussed the importance of further education. She plans to attend graduate school to obtain a PhD in organic chemistry and to one day become a college professor. Miss Robison states, “The Miss America Organization is the number one provider for scholarships for women,” and she has received $46,000 in scholarships from the organization.

She was chosen as a recipient of the STEM scholarship for $5,000. She decided to go to graduate school after the Miss America organization made it possible for her to graduate debt free with their scholarship funds and states, “The Miss America Organization has helped me broaden my horizon and further reach my dreams.”

Miss Robison is an advocate for STEM Education, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Miss Robison states, “Because I am Miss Tennessee and a science major, I want to promote women in the STEM field.”
Gannaway receives national recognition

TIFTON — Tifton resident Kendra Gannaway has been recognized as a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music by Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). Gannaway certified in the areas of piano and group teaching, MTNA remains the premiere professional organization for independent music teachers throughout the United States. Of the 792 MTNA members in the state of Georgia, only 98 are certified in the area of piano. Gannaway holds the distinction of being the only Nationally Certified Teacher of Music within 100 miles or more of Tifton.

Gannaway received her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Tennessee at Martin and studied with the renowned Allison Nelson. A recent graduate of the University of Florida, receiving her Master of Music degree in December of 2014, Gannaway is active in the national discussion on re-envisioning the music education priorities of both K-12 and undergraduate music majors through presentations at state, regional and national conferences, publications in professional journals and continuing research. Her main field of research interest is the inclusion of creative thinking, also known as divergent thinking skill development, in the private studio.

She served for four years as the president of the Tifton Music Club and has been instrumental in building the presence of three other national professional music organizations in Tifton for piano students and teachers.

Gannaway maintains a thriving private studio in Tifton, teaching group and individual piano, composition, songwriting and improvisation working with students from age 4 through 84.

UT Martin students make trip to Japan

The Jackson Sun  THE JACKSON SUN • SUNDAY, OCT. 11, 2015

Five senior students from the University of Tennessee at Martin traveled to Japan on June 26-July 5 as part of an international experience with the Ned Ray McWherter Institute. Summer Bradley, an art education major from Medina; Chase Haynes, a chemistry major from Columbia; Maryanna McClure, an animal science major from Dyersburg; Caroline Parish, a political science major from Huntingdon; and John Sellers, a psychology student from Henderson, participated in the experience.

The McWherter Institute seeks to foster a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship among UT Martin students and residents of Northwest Tennessee, according to a news release. Students participate in travel opportunities through the institute to strengthen their ability to adapt to unfamiliar situations and widen their perspective of the global marketplace. This was the group’s first international trip, following a domestic experience in New York City in March.

“The overall purpose of the trip was to put us in situations which were unfamiliar and to teach us to overcome such obstacles. Every situation we were placed in was relatable to some type of business-related problem,” Haynes said.

While on the trip, the students were “expected to gain knowledge about how other countries, such as Japan, participate in business, how they use innovation in their daily lives and how our cultures differ,” Parish said. The students were able to visit significant tourist sites as well as meet with local business leaders and ambassadors, including Caroline Kennedy, U.S. ambassador to Japan.

“In our briefing with her (Kennedy), we were able to have one-on-one conversations to tell her about the McWherter Institute and what we as individuals are doing to impact the economic growth of West Tennessee,” Parish said.

“It was an honor to meet someone that represents our country at such a high level,” added McClure. “I enjoyed being able to represent the institute and our university to someone that represents such a historic family in our nation.”

The group also participated in a city-wide activity in Tokyo designed by trip leaders Tom Hyde, UT Martin alum and president of Mr. Japanese Bilingual Recruiters, and Ashton Jennings, UT Martin associate director of development.

The students were given a list of locations and specific items to find and photograph without the use of electronic resources. McClure recalls being surprised by the willingness of local citizens to help the students on their quest. “There were many bows of respect and everyone was willing to help, even if they didn’t speak English. Two girls walked us from the train station to our destination, even though it was out of their way,” she said.

The group also climbed Mt. Fuji and attended a reception for UT Martin alumni living in Japan. Hyde estimates there are close to 2,000 alumni in the country, including those who participated in an international exchange program.

“This experience showed us as innovators that there are different ways to run things; there are different places to station businesses,” Bradley said.

“International travel forces the curious student to see the world from a different perspective,” explained Hyde. “Whether it is from a cultural, political or even religious perspective, the ability to understand differences will enhance global awareness and ultimately lessen international conflict.”
Ten UT Martin students are selected each year to participate in the institute, which hopes to incorporate further international travel into the program's curriculum. For more information about the institute or how to apply, contact Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor and interim director, Ned Ray McWherter Institute, (731) 881-7500. Information is also available online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/nrmi/index.php.

Pictured at the base of Mt. Fuji are Maryanna McClure, an animal science major from Dyersburg; Caroline Parish, a political science major from Huntingdon; Chase Haynes, a chemistry major from Columbia; and John Sellers, a psychology student from Henderson. Not pictured is Summer Bradley, an art education major from Medina.

http://www.gallatinnews.com/

Local student attends UT Martin Fall Preview Day

Emily Holder (center), of Gallatin, attended Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Sept. 26. High school juniors and seniors were able to tour the campus and speak with university representatives about financial aid, housing, student life and academic opportunities. Holder is a senior at Station Camp High School and is pictured with her parents, Sandy and Blake Holder. The next Fall Preview Day event will be held on campus Oct. 24. Contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 (tel: 731-881-7020) for more information or register online at www.utm.edu/preview.
James Bennett column: Former Mule Day queens sparkle at Miss Tennessee

By James Bennett
jbennett@c-td.net

CLARKSVILLE — Two former Mule Day queens finished highly in the ultra competitive Miss Tennessee and Miss Tennessee Teen USA pageants Saturday night.

Tanna Norman of Santa Fe, 20, was a top five finalist in Miss Tennessee. The 2012 Mule Day queen, a junior at the University of Tennessee-Martin, was among 45 contestants who competed for the crown won by Miss Upper Cumberland USA Hope Stephens.

Corbin Hinton of Hampshire, 17, was a top five finisher in the Teen division. The 2013 Mule Day queen and senior at Columbia Central High School was third runner-up to Savannah Christley, star of the USA Network reality show “Chrisley Knows Best.”

Posted October 12, 2015 - 9 10am

Taking a look back at thinking ahead

By VANESSA CURRY
vcurry@c-td.net

Editor’s note: This is the first in a four-part series of articles addressing the four Hs in 4-H in recognition of National 4-H week in October.

As college students, Sam Savage and Rachael Wolters face one of the most challenging experiences of their lives — preparing for their chosen profession.

The learning process requires not only a desire, but a balance of extensive planning, disciplined study habits and experience to be successful.

And although they have chosen different paths — agriculture for Savage and animal science for Wolters — they share a common background of a valuable youth experience they say helped prepare them for the challenges of college and beyond.

Their introduction to 4-H began through family and school and, through their high school years provided ample opportunities to learn by doing just as the organization founders intended.

The 4-H pledge, written by Ola Hall, a state leader in Kansas in the early 1900s, encourages members to focus on four personal development areas. Using the head for clearer thinking is the first H of the pledge.

Savage, who grew up in Hampshire, said 4-H offered programs in the classroom, creating a group whose members shared an interest in learning new things.

“I enjoyed it. It was kind of like a social event. I had lots of friends in the club,” he said. “4-H kind of tests you too — to get you to do things and bring you out of your shell.”

Savage learned to care for animals, from bottle feeding calves to showing his registered Red Angus cattle and experiencing the cycle of life as part of the Chick Chain, a project that allows members to raise a small flock of chicks.

Other projects involved planning and caring for a wildlife food plot, public speaking and other club activities. Along the way, Savage said he took on various leadership roles within the club.

“If it wasn’t for taking on these roles, I wouldn’t have had gained the experience I have today in organization and leadership,” said Savage, a junior at the University of Tennessee at Martin. “These are the same things I’ve used in college — like taking on projects, stepping up in taking a role as a leader or working as part of a group to get things done.”

Savage said he applies the same attributes as part of the Cattlemen’s Association in helping the organization with various projects — attributes he hopes to continue using in the field of agribusiness.

As a home-school student, Wolters’ tenure as a 4-H member followed a path outside the traditional classroom setting with Sigma Lambda Chi 4-H.
Agriculture always has been part of her life, from living on an Idaho farm to moving to Cutlax when she was younger. Her involvement including projects in showing sheep, baking, public speaking, creating a project group and community service — experiences helped her choose her college major: New York.

The 4-H connection also gave her opportunities to travel while serving in regional 4-H activities and to pull her knowledge and tangible skills to the fore.

"I learned a lot of practical things. I went on a mission trip once and they needed someone to sew curtains, and I was like, I know how to do that because Mrs. Hardin taught me how to sew," Wolters said.

Those experiences helped her develop critical thinking skills too, she said.

"I did not realize it at the time … in the sixth grade doing 'Looking forward by looking back' goal sheets. It was just something I was doing. 4-H gave me the ability to think about my goals very critically and find ways to reach them," Wolters said.

Since the beginning of her college career, Wolters, a senior and student body president at UT-Martin, said she set the goal of obtaining her bachelor's degree in animal science and going on to graduate school. She is currently filling out applications for veterinary school and a dual doctoral program.

"I want to eventually travel, doing research and teaching internationally," she said.

As Savage and Wolters plan for their future, they said they can't help but look back and recognize how their 4-H experience gave them a strong foundation on which to grow upon.

Norman and Hinson have continued to compete after winning Miss Day crowns and both have shown the potential to win Miss Tennessee in the next few years. They're following in the footsteps of Lynnette Cole, a former Miss Tennessee, who won Miss America and Miss USA in 2000.

"Tanna likes to be competing, interviewing and doing on stage," Tanna's mother, Tonya, said. "She wants to keep competing until she wins Miss Tennessee.

"Some people have told us they think Tanna can be like Lynnette Cole and win Miss Tennessee," she added. "That's a real compliment, and I know Tanna has worked hard to compete in Miss Tennessee, learning more about competing, interviewing, style, make up and staying in great shape."

Norman, whose passion is riding horses and working for a charity that feeds the hungry. Food For Friends, wants to be a broadcaster and a politician in the future. She competed on stage Saturday in swimsuit and evening gown after being named one of the 15 finalists.

"My whole goal was to make top 15 because it was my first year as a Miss competitor," said Norman, who was a top 15 finisher as a Teen contestant in 2014.

Norman won the open Miss River Queen pageant in Clarksville to make the Miss Tennessee field without paying a $1,200 entry fee.

"I was blessed to have won a qualifier," Norman said. "I just prayed to God I would do my best, and I think I did.

"You want to have fun in Miss Tennessee," she added. "But with the investment in it, buying a gown, shoes, swimsuit and interview outfit, you have to take it seriously. I had the time of my life, but I learned a lot as well.

The Teen competition was Saturday afternoon with 37 contestants. Corbin survived the cut to the final five after the swimsuit and evening gown judging, advancing to nerve-wracking, on-stage question.

Corbin, who works part time for Lace and Company in Columbia, drew a tough one from the judges, "What does your personal style say about you?"

She answered, "My personal style says I'm modest, but I would rather help other people win and find their style."

Chrisley's victory in the Teen competition was controversial in online chat rooms. Her family's reality show, which focuses on a self-made millionaire father's micromanagement of his wife and five kids, originates in Atlanta. But Savannah moved to Tennessee to attend David Lipscomb University in Nashville.

USA Network is considering a spin-off reality show, focusing on Savannah's life away from home. Her victory seemed like a gift from starry-eyed judges to some observers.

"I'm sure there will be controversy, but we all worked hard to compete," Hinson said. "It takes a lot of work and confidence, and I think every girl had that."

Hinson was a top 15 finalist in 2013, so Saturday's performance showed improvement.

"I feel that I did my best," she said. "I felt more confident and comfortable on stage than I ever have. I definitely picked the right swimsuit and dress."

Hinson said she plans to focus on college in 2016 and jump to the Miss division later.

"My goal is to go as far as I possibly can in pageants," said Hinson, who plans to attend Tennessee Technical University and eventually law school. "I would love to be Miss Tennessee."

Miss Tennessee has a reputation for being among the most prepared contestants for Miss USA. The pageants are organized by Greenwood Productions. Executive director Kim Greenwood, wife of country singer Lee Greenwood, was Tennessee's Junior Miss in 1985 and Miss Tennessee 1989. Since Greenwood has taken over Miss Tennessee, 16 of the 23 contestants she has sent to Miss USA at least have made the top 15. Two won Miss USA, Cole in 2000 and Rachel Smith in 2007.

"My goal is to empower women," Greenwood told the audience Saturday night.

James Bennett is editor of The Daily Herald. Contact him at jbennett@cdh.net Follow him on Twitter @JamesBennettCDH
UT Martin senior interns in two high-profile jobs in D.C.

Nathan Daniels, of Savannah, is jump-starting his career with two high-profile internship opportunities in Washington, D.C.

"It’s really a surreal experience," Daniels said. "You never know who you’re going to bump into working on the Hill."

Daniels, a senior international studies major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, completed a spring 2014 semester internship with the American Security Project and is spending his fall working as a press intern for U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.).

His time in the nation’s capital has given him insight into the inner workings of the U.S. Senate and Capitol Hill, he said. He also has seen candidates for the 2016 presidential election “up close and personal” and shared an elevator with various senators.

The American Security Project is a think-tank founded by Secretary of State John Kerry and former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and focuses on issues of national security. During this internship, Daniels worked closely with the ASP’s director of nuclear security on issues such as nuclear non-proliferation and arms control, according to a press release. He was also able to observe and participate in policy debates regarding the Iran nuclear talks and attended several congressional hearings on Capitol Hill.

Daniels said living in D.C. has shown him the importance of networking. He already has job prospects to pursue after graduation.

“Once you get your foot in the door and start having these experiences, you will always have contacts that you can network with for job or internship opportunities,” he said. “The exponential value of a D.C. internship is unparalleled. The more experience you have, the more likely you are to be able to secure employment in the city after graduation.”

A French minor, Daniels has also gone on a 10-day travel study opportunity to Saint-Malo and Paris, France, and a one-month language immersion program at the University of Lorraine in Nancy, France, since starting his education at UT Martin.

He is a founding member and past president of UT Martin’s International Club, which seeks to bring international and national students together in areas of common interest.

The UT Martin International Studies Program helps position students to begin careers as analysts with government, nonprofit and private sector companies in the area of national security. The program is housed within the College of Business and Global Affairs.

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748.
Follow her on Twitter @katherineburgess.
More than two dozen fifth-graders eyed their screens as the Mars Transfer Vehicle glided toward the red planet's surface.

The craft was guided by data logged by a crew of 10- and 11-year-olds. The spacecraft’s communications data officer, Grayson Soper, barked out the mission's progress.

"We are preparing for Mars orbit," he said, keying a microphone at his terminal.

A moment later: "We have achieved Mars orbit."

Alarms sounded and lights flashed, but crew members answered the problem quickly.

The craft kept descending, the parachutes deployed. A five-second countdown ended with "Touchdown," the communications data officer announced.

"We have landed on Mars. Repeat. We have landed on Mars."

The spine-tingling simulation took place under the curious eye of Miss Tennessee 2015 Hannah Robison who was on hand Tuesday at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga’s Challenger STEM Learning Center to observe the exercise and voice her support for science, technology, engineering and math study and careers.
Students split roles in the simulation, one group acting as a crew already on the red planet and the other group acting as a crew heading to Mars to relieve them.

"I'm so jealous," Robison laughed. "I didn't have things like this in fifth grade."

Robison, a 21-year-old chemistry major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is on a technology mission that led her to Chattanooga twice in as many weeks.

Tuesday was Robison's first visit to the center at UTC.

"Last week I got to go to Tech Town here in Chattanooga, and this week I got to come here to the center. We're getting to go to Mars," Robison said. "This is awesome. STEM-based projects are my favorite."

The students participating in the mission on Tuesday were from Harding Academy, a private school in Nashville that has visited the center for the past seven years running, according to fifth-grade teacher Melissa Ferri. In June, Ferri attended adult Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala., and she's excited that some of the school's students are following suit.

Robison, since being crowned in June, has launched STEM projects all over Tennessee as a representative of Gov. Bill Haslam's office. She was watching the Mars crew's probe team, Mary Haley and Marshall Greene.

"They're building the probe that they're going to send to Mars," Robison explained.

The Challenger Center's top brass applauded Robison's support and students' enthusiasm.

"It's a joy to watch them and to see them have an opportunity to become aware of careers in STEM," said Dr. June Scobee Rodgers, founding chairman of the Challenger Center in Washington, D.C. She was present on Tuesday for Robison's visit.

Challenger Center director Perry Storey said the center and STEM efforts across the state are lucky to have Robison and Rodgers as supporters and role models.

"Any time we can bring kids into contact with people of leadership, like June Scobee Rodgers, who is so key to our mission, and also like Hannah, who is a future leader in education, demonstrates — especially to young ladies — the opportunities that are out there," Storey said.

That message isn't lost on Francesca Denison, the communications data officer on the Mars-based half of the crew.

"It's been really fun," the 10-year-old said. Francesca has set her sights on a lofty career.

"I would like to do something with NASA," she said, just as another alarm sent crew members scurrying once again.

Francesca turned back to her station and confidently went back to work.

Contact staff writer Ben Benton at bbenton@timesfreepress.com or twitter.com/BenBenton or www.facebook.com/ben.benton1 or 423-757-6569.
UTM preview day set Oct. 24

The last 2015 Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin will begin at 9 a.m., October 24. High school students interested in attending UT Martin are encouraged to register for the event. Students and their parents/guardians can tour the campus and receive information on a variety of topics alongside other potential students.

Registration at 9 a.m. will be followed by an official university welcome at 9:30. Attendees will be given a tour of the UT Martin campus at 10:30 and have the opportunity to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon. Representatives will also be available to discuss financial aid options, housing, meal plans, special programs and campus life activities.

All activities will take place in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Advance registration is required and there is no fee to attend. Students may register up until the morning of the event. To register, visit www.utm.edu and select “Fall Preview Day Registration” under the “Discover” menu.

Students may also call the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.

UT Martin awarded $250,000 for STEM education

The University of Tennessee at Martin has been awarded a $250,000 for STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — education.

Further advancing the state’s recent growth in the teaching and learning of STEM, the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network announced the awarding of the grant to UT Martin to establish the Northwest Tennessee Regional STEM Hub.

This new STEM Hub, scheduled to begin operation in November, joins six other regional STEM hubs located across the state in bringing new educational opportunities to students and teachers.

“UT Martin is excited to host the STEM Hub,” Rachel Elam, director of Undergraduate Admissions at UT Martin, said. “This new hub will expose students to opportunities in STEM fields and accelerate student learning in the region, having an impact far beyond the classroom, into the surrounding communities.”

Candice McQueen, Tennessee Education Commissioner, said, “In addition, having business leaders serve as partners of this hub will help our students be better prepared for the expectations of the current workforce.”

Led in a joint effort by the University of Tennessee at Martin and Dyersburg State Community College, the Northwest Tennessee Regional STEM Hub will serve as a resource for the region to increase student interest and achievement in STEM fields. Hub activities will include providing professional development for northwest Tennessee teachers, establishing a STEM Master Teacher Corps and creating a repository of STEM “toolkits” for use in classroom lessons and after-school activities throughout the region.

“The establishment of this hub will bring new STEM learning opportunities and resources to rural school districts. We’re excited about the partnership with UTM and DSCC and greatly appreciate the Tennessee General Assembly making this expansion a priority,” Wes Hall, director of the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network.

The hub will bring together educators from K-12 and higher education institutions, business partners and community stakeholders who are all committed to amplifying and accelerating the impact of STEM programs in the northwest Tennessee region.

“Having this STEM Hub based on the core academic strengths of UT Martin,
promises to be a true boost for northwest Tennessee's development of high tech industry and modern manufacturing opportunities with great job opportunities," said Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor.

Deployment of this hub marks a year of major expansion for STEM in Tennessee with the Network's move to provide a supplemental STEM curriculum called Learning Blade® for free to all middle schools, the continuation of the annual Tennessee STEM Innovation Summit held in May in Nashville and the expansion of the Innovative Leaders Institute, a professional development program designed to train school leaders in effective STEM strategies.

Focusing on a "kindergarten to jobs" philosophy, the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network is developing high-quality STEM programming to further ensure Tennessee students are college and career ready upon graduation.

The Network utilizes STEM Platform Schools and Regional STEM Innovation Hubs located across the state to increase student interest and participation in STEM fields.

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Chemistry Week events scheduled

Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum and Martin Mayor Randy Brundige have proclaimed Oct. 18-24 National Chemistry Week in Weakley County.

Members of the UT Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society and the Westview High School Science Club will host special chemistry demonstrations at 7 p.m. Oct. 22 in Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. The demonstrations will focus on the week's theme "Chemistry Colors Our World." UT Martin and Westview students will be joined by students from Bethel University in McKenzie, Murray (Ky.) State University and Union University in Jackson.

The event is being held in conjunction with the Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society's National Chemistry Week celebrations.

The program is free and open to the public and may be of particular interest to young children.
UT Martin, Dyersburg State sign dual admission agreement

The University of Tennessee at Martin and Dyersburg State Community College signed a dual admission partnership agreement last month that will “provide a seamless and guaranteed transition from a DSCC associate degree program to a UT bachelor’s degree program by providing one curriculum plan for earning both degrees.”

Students at DSCC who meet current admission criteria at UT Martin and major in an eligible Tennessee Transfer Pathway baccalaureate program can take advantage of the new agreement.

Students must have either started their college careers at DSCC or have transferred to DSCC with fewer than 15 college-level semester hours.

“This is a benefit to both institutions because it provides a seamless transition for the accomplishment of a four-year degree,” said Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor. “We know that 96 percent of all the good jobs that have occurred since the recession of 2008 to 2009 have required a four-year degree, so having a good start at Dyersburg State Community College and then transitioning to a high-quality academic program at UT Martin is a great benefit to the student.”

Eligible DSCC students will be contacted by the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions or may complete an application for dual admission, available through either institution’s website. Students need not be entering freshmen to apply; all current DSCC students will be considered.

Participating students who meet UT Martin admission requirements upon completion of the two-year DSCC program will be guaranteed admission to UT Martin as juniors to continue their four-year bachelor’s degree programs. Students transferring under this agreement will have their initial application fees waived.

The dual admission partnership also provides several additional advantages for community college students. Participating students will be assigned to both DSCC and UT Martin academic advisers to make sure they are meeting full requirements to complete both degrees.

Students will also have full access to the UT Martin Paul Meek Library, computer labs and student affairs offices before full admission. Those who elect to pay applicable student fees will be able to attend UT Martin sporting events and participate in campus activities as well.

Participating DSCC students will also save money by completing their first two years at a community college with lower tuition and fees.

“Any time you can connect a community college student with their four-year school increases that opportunity and awareness and encourages persistence to the four-year school,” said Larena Fultz, DSCC dean of student services. “Having that connection on the front end, knowing they are taking the right steps to transfer and that they’re going to be able to use their credits at UTM and be guaranteed of that, being able to go over to UTM and sit down with their adviser — that will help them make that connection that we see really makes a difference in persistence.”

UT Martin plans to create similar agreements with other community colleges in the future to better serve all students in the West Tennessee area.

For more information on the dual admission partnership agreement, contact Matt Borden in the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-3101 or mborden5@utm.edu.

DSCC students may also contact Tracie Langley, DSCC admissions counselor, at (731) 286-3324 or langley@dssc.edu.
UT Martin to host second Fall Preview Day Oct. 24

By Erin Chesnut
Office of University Relations, UT-M

The last 2015 Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin will begin at 9 a.m., Oct. 24. High school students interested in attending UT Martin are encouraged to register for the event. Students and their parents/guardians can tour the campus and receive information on a variety of topics alongside other potential students.

Registration at 9 a.m. will be followed by an official university welcome at 9:30. Attendees will be given a tour of the UT Martin campus at 10:30 and have the opportunity to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon. Representatives will also be available to discuss financial aid options, housing, meal plans, special programs and campus life activities.

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The last 2015 Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin will begin at 9 a.m., Oct. 24. High school students interested in attending UT Martin are encouraged to register for the event. To register, visit www.utm.edu and select "Fall Preview Day Registration" under the "Discover" menu. Students may also call the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu for additional details. Pictured: Students cross campus to their classes during the fall 2015 semester at UT Martin.
FALL PREVIEW DAY – Students cross campus to their classes during the fall 2015 semester at UT Martin. The last 2015 Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin will begin at 9 a.m., October 24. High school students interested in attending UT Martin are encouraged to register for the event. To register, visit www.utm.edu and select “Fall Preview Day Registration” under the “Discover” menu. Students may also call the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu for additional details.

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Mind your manners

UT Alumni Association Women's Council hosts etiquette event for UT Martin Parsons students

By Rhonda Mitchell
rhonda@readtheleader.net

Why would manners matter in today's world where it seems everyone is "doing their own thing" and not worried about others? The University of Tennessee Alumni Association Women's Council thought it was important enough to have an etiquette event for the UT Martin Parsons Center students right here in town. Over 50 people signed up for the training dinner.

According to Sherry Leitch, member of the 16-member alumnae volunteer board, their mission is to educate, support and engage. They offer several "Aspire" programs which include "Interview Ready," which teaches skills on how to conquer any type of interview situation; "Financially Savvy," which teaches students the basics of how to budget, spend wisely, and save for the future, plus identity theft and the dangers of debt; "A Brand Called You," which refers to the way other people see you and offers tips on how to enhance the individual student's brand with potential employers, community members and others. Leitch, Erin Phillips, Kathy Bucy and Katie Townsend were proud to help with the event.

The class held recently at the Parsons Municipal Center was all about etiquette training. Dorothy Gillon, Public Occasions Coordinator for UT Martin since 1994, shared her considerable expertise to guide the students through a four-course meal and provided tips on how to make an excellent impression with prospective employers or clients.

"Just because we are from a small, rural area, doesn't mean we don't have culture," noted Leitch. "We have some of the best students around and we want to help them succeed."

As the students entered the elaborate table settings, they were treated to Italian wedding soup, Caesar salad, chicken piccata spaghetti with garlic and herbs, roasted asparagus, fresh baked rolls and apple dumpling with caramel sauce.

The first shocked look in the student's faces came when they saw lots of forks, knives and spoons. Which way did they start?

Gillon made it easy for them to learn. Why do they need to learn social skills such as correct table manners? It is because the students will be looking for jobs soon and need to be able to succeed in every angle. Research already notes that this generation has shortcomings in their professionalism.

"Kids need to be more polished and realize everything does not revolve around them," noted one professional image management etiquette service. "A lot of prospective employers will take them out for a dinner and they will be watching how they conduct themselves to see if they can represent their company like they want it represented. They need social skills and the basic skills are not being taught at home. Kids without manners and certain other skills will lose out and never fully understand why."

According to the Center for Career Development, courtesy and common sense will always be the best guide, but it is helpful to have some general ideas regarding dining and business etiquette.

"The way you act during a meal will have an impact on the hiring decision and your future."

Gillon taught the participants how to correctly use the utensils, glasses, eat the food, pass items on the tables, communication tips and plain courtesy.

"I attended this to hopefully help me increase my knowledge on proper etiquette to aid me in my future. Some of the things I will start practicing now at family dinners and get-togethers. Other things I may use for future meetings, banquets or conferences."

"I attended Utensil University because I saw it as an opportunity to learn something new," stated Jenna Bailey. "It was a wonderful experience. We learned how to use each utensil during dinner and learned proper etiquette."

Not only was it a night of learning "proper everything," but the "practice" tasted great!
Lawmakers challenge UT's diversity funding

State lawmakers got testy during a hearing Wednesday that revolved around the relatively small amount of money the college system spends annually on diversity programming.

The Senate Higher Education Subcommittee called the meeting in September, after a Web post encouraging students and professors on the Knoxville campus to use gender-neutral pronouns like ze and xyr drew intense public scrutiny. Although administrators eventually pulled the post, the subcommittee kept the meeting, and repeatedly pressed UT's leaders to justify their spending on a broad range of diversity programs.
While the questions touched on a wide array of issues, they frequently returned to money. Although the subcommittee is made up of three state senators, three other lawmakers joined them during the 90-minute discussion to ask their own questions about racial diversity, gender identity and the First Amendment on campus. Five members of the panel were white male Republicans and the sixth was a black male Democrat.

The UT system — which includes campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis — pumps $5.5 million annually into diversity programming. That makes up less than 25 percent of the system’s total budget of $2.1 billion.

“I’m not passing judgment on anybody’s lifestyle,” Sen. Todd Gardenhire, R-Chattanooga, told the administrators. “But I have a responsibility to look at the numbers” to determine if UT is spending money wisely.

“To me it appears that you’re not,”

After the hearing, UT system President Joe DiPietro stood by the investment, saying it “improves the competency of our students and provides us a more inclusive environment on our campuses.”

Jimmy Cheek, the chancellor of UT Knoxville, said much of the funding goes toward efforts to improve the racial and ethnic diversity of the school’s student body. It’s something he said employers want.

“The business community is asking us to diversify our student population,” Cheek told the panel. “That’s where most of these resources go.”

Still, some of the legislators were not pleased with the way that money is doled out. During a particularly heated exchange, Rep. John Ragan, R-Oak Ridge, pressed DiPietro and Cheek on how they measured diversity.

“How much is enough? At some point we can declare victory” and move the millions spent on diversity elsewhere, Ragan said. “Your diversity goals should have numbers assigned to them so that you know when you’ve got to the goal line.”

DiPietro and Cheek said measuring diversity is more complicated, and included race, culture, gender identity and sexual orientation.

“You need global competency. It takes resources to do that,” DiPietro said after the hearing. “We think we produce a better product at Knoxville because of that.”

In the post that triggered the hearing, UT Knoxville Pride Center Director Donna Braquet said students and professors should ask one another what pronouns they use. Braquet wrote that students who do not identify as men or women might prefer gender-neutral pronouns.

UT released several statements saying the gender-neutral post was meant only as a resource. In an email in September, DiPietro said the university system had tweaked its policies to ensure future Web postings and communication from UT would encourage inclusive practices “in a more educational tone than in a prescriptive tone.”

The subcommittee will meet again on Thursday to discuss other topics, including campus safety. The senators will prepare a report for the larger Education Committee.

After Wednesday’s hearing, Subcommittee Chairman Sen. Joey Hensley, R-Hohenwald, said he did not expect to suggest any new legislation surrounding the diversity issue.

Reach Adam Tamburin at 615-726-5986 and on Twitter @tamburintweets.
UT Martin awarded $250,000 for STEM education

The University of Tennessee at Martin has been awarded a $250,000 for STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — education.

Further advancing the state’s recent growth in the teaching and learning of STEM, the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network announced the awarding of the grant to UT Martin to establish the Northwest Tennessee Regional STEM Hub.

This new STEM Hub, scheduled to begin operation in November, joins six other regional STEM hubs located across the state in bringing new educational opportunities to students and teachers.

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DSCC and UT-Martin sign Dual Admission Partnership agreement

Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC) and The University of Tennessee at Martin signed a dual admission partnership agreement Sept. 18 that will “provide a seamless and guaranteed transition from a DSCC associate degree program to a UT bachelor’s degree program by providing one curriculum plan for earning both degrees.”

“DSCC and UT Martin have a long history of working together to promote student success and progression from an associate’s degree to a bachelor’s degree,” said Dr. Karen Bowyer, DSCC president. “Many students who have completed an associate’s degree at DSCC are very successful in their junior and senior years at UT Martin.”

Students at DSCC who meet current admission criteria at UT Martin and major in an eligible Tennessee Transfer Pathway baccalaureate program can take advantage of the new agreement.

Students must have either started their college careers at DSCC or have transferred to DSCC with fewer than 15 college-level semester hours.

“This is a benefit to both institutions because it provides a seamless transition for the accomplishment of a four-year degree,” said Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor. “We know that 96 percent of all the good jobs that have occurred since the recession of 2008-2009 have required a four-year degree, so having a good start at Dyersburg State Community College and then transitioning to UT Martin is a great benefit to the student.”

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Participating students who meet UT Martin admission requirements upon completion of the two-year DSCC program will be guaranteed admission to UT Martin as juniors to continue their four-year bachelor’s degree programs. Students transferring under this agreement will have their initial application fees waived.

The dual admission partnership also provides several additional advantages for community college students. Participating students will be assigned to both DSCC and UT Martin academic advisers to make sure they are meeting full requirements to complete both degrees.

Students will have access to DSCC’s Learning Resource Center and UT Martin’s library, as well as access to both institutions’ computer labs and student affairs offices.

Those who elect to pay applicable student fees will be able to attend UT Martin sporting events and participate in campus activities, as well.

Participating DSCC students will also save money by completing their first two years at a community college with lower tuition and fees.

“Opportunities to connect community college students with a four-year college or university encourages their determination to succeed,” said Larenda Fultz, DSCC dean of student services. “Knowing that they are guaranteed to use their credits and being able to talk with a UTM adviser before transferring helps them to be more confident that they are taking the right steps on the front end. This partnership will encourage students to be more persistent in their studies and in overall completion.”

For a complete list of Tennessee Transfer Pathway programs available through Dyersburg State Community College, visit http://www.dscc.edu/programs of study/transfer programs.

For more information on the dual admission partnership agreement, contact Tracie Langley, DSCC admissions counselor, at (731) 286-3324 or by email at langley@dscc.edu. You may also contact Matt Borden, UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions, at (731) 881-3101 or by email at mborden5@utm.edu.
Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals Judge John Everett Williams recently received the Distinguished Criminal Justice Alumni Award from the Department of Behavioral Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is the first recipient of the award, which is sponsored by the campus chapter of the national criminal justice honor society Alpha Phi Sigma. The award recognizes alumni who demonstrate leadership in the criminal justice field, professional excellence in their careers and support for the school’s criminal justice program. Williams earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the school. After graduating from the Cumberland School of Law, he worked in private practice in Huntingdon until he was elected to serve on the court in 1998. Read more from the AOC.

The University of Tennessee at Martin is the new owner of the Vanderbilt University fossil collection, which contains between a quarter and a half-million specimens collected as early as the 19th century.

Scientists believe many of the fossils in the collection to be nearly 500 million years old.

The Vanderbilt University Department of Earth and Environmental Science is home to one of the oldest geology programs in Tennessee, but the collection was relocated in recent years due to space reallocation.

Geology Professor Dr. Micheal Gibson said the university now has the largest single fossil collection in the state of Tennessee, with most of the pieces coming from the state.

The collection includes shells, plants, vertebrate and invertebrate animals and minerals, with several items on loan now at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

Dr. James Fieser to present lecture Oct. 19

Dr. James Fieser, a professor of philosophy at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will present a public lecture titled, "Can Atheists Face Death with Tranquility: The Case of David Hume" in 112 Rader Hall Monday, Oct. 19 at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Fieser is the founder and general editor of The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

He received his B.A. degree from Berea College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in philosophy from Purdue University.

The lecture is free and open to the public, and is sponsored by MSU’s Department of History, Philosophy, International Studies and Legal Studies, the Buckner and Sally S. Hinkle Endowment for Humanities, Kentucky Humanities Council, and Morehead State Public Radio.

Additional information is available by contacting Dr. Christina Conroy, assistant professor of philosophy, at 606-783-2219.
From left, standing: Alan Youngerman, Tommy Cates, Hannah Robison, Robert Smith and Jackie Johnson. From left, seated: Adam Wilson, Kayce Beam, Erica Bell and Kelli Deere. All were in attendance Oct. 1 at the United Way of West Tennessee's third annual First Ladies Luncheon at the Jackson Fairgrounds.

Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison, a senior UT Martin student, is majoring in organic chemistry and plans to teach at the University level one day. She is seen Oct. 1 at the United Way of West Tennessee's third annual First Ladies Luncheon at the Jackson Fairgrounds.

Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison talks with Robert Smith at the United Way of West Tennessee's third annual First Ladies Luncheon Oct. 1 at the Jackson Fairgrounds.
John Everett Williams Named UT-Martin Distinguished Criminal Justice Alum

MARTIN — Judge John Everett Williams, of Huntingdon, received the Distinguished Criminal Justice Alumni Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Behavioral Sciences during a luncheon Sept. 29. Williams is the first person to receive this honor.

The award, sponsored by the UT Martin Kappa Epsilon chapter of the national criminal justice honor society Alpha Phi Sigma, is designed to recognize those alumni who demonstrate leadership in the criminal justice field, professional excellence in their careers and outstanding support of the UT Martin Criminal Justice Program.

Williams earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from UT Martin and a law degree from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. He began working in private practice in Huntingdon in 1981 and continued until he was elected to serve on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals in 1988.

"Judge Williams is very student-focused and is especially interested in meeting and working with students. He has opened his door and courtroom to students wishing to gain a deeper understanding of the court," said Dr. Donna Massey, professor of criminal justice. "He made time in his busy schedule to speak to my American Death Penalty class last spring and provided an internship for one of our criminal justice students this past summer. We are very lucky that Judge Williams is so supportive of our program and university."

The UT Martin Criminal Justice Program is housed with the Department of Behavioral Sciences in the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences. The program offers concentrations in law enforcement, courts and law, corrections, forensic science and generalist options on the main UT Martin campus. The generalist concentration is also available at UT Martin extended campus locations in Selmer, Parsons, Ripley and Jackson.

Martin Kiwanis Club names Clinton Smith Kiwanian of the Year

The Kiwanis Club of Martin recently recognized Clinton Smith, assistant professor of special education at the University of Tennessee at Martin as the 2014-15 Kiwanian of the Year. Smith serves as the secretary for the Martin Kiwanis and advisor for the Aktion Club, a service organization for adults with disabilities sponsored by Kiwanis. He also serves as the area director for Special Olympics Tennessee Upper West Region.

"I appreciate Clinton’s passion for his work with the members of the Aktion Club and for serving as our club as secretary and going above and beyond as a Kiwanian member in our community," said Francis Bynum, past president.

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of clubs and members dedicated to serving the children of the world.

Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students age 14-18, Builders Club for students age 11-14, Kiwanis Kids for students age 6-12 and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities, dedicate annually more than 18 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children.

The Kiwanis International family comprises nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas. For more information about Kiwanis International, visit www.kiwanis.org.
UT Martin Music Hosts Flute Recital
November 1, 2015

The University of Tennessee at Martin flute studio and select high school students from surrounding areas will give a recital at 3 p.m., Nov. 1, in UT Martin's Blankenship Recital Hall.

The concert will feature composers Poulenc, Burton, Handel and Mozart, as well as flute ensemble works by Phyllis Louke, Catherine McMichael and Sondra Tucker.

Performers for this recital include Hector Ramirez, a sophomore from Fulton, Ky.; Kathleen Moore, a freshman from Martin; and Bri Beasley and Anna Wildes, both freshmen from Atoka. Dr. Elaine Harris, professor of music, will accompany the ensemble on piano.

REP. ED JONES REMEMBERED AT UT MARTIN – The University of Tennessee at Martin regularly displays a replica of the Yorkville office of the late U.S. Rep. Ed Jones (D-Tenn.) in the Paul Meek Library on the main campus. Jones, a native of Yorkville, graduated from the University of Tennessee Junior College, now UT Martin, in 1932 and served Tennessee’s eighth district in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1969-1989. Meg Kinnard, granddaughter of Jones, recently added to the university’s archive collection by donating Jones’ signed gavel, signed photographs from Presidents Carter and George H. W. Bush and various awards received by Jones during his lifetime. Pictured in front of Jones’ portrait are Joe Hill, Jones’ congressional district aid; Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Andy Wilson, vice chancellor for university advancement; Kinnard; Geoffrey Hardee, guest of the family; Terry Oliver, former Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture; and Dr. Jim Byford, professor emeritus and former dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
CHAPTER HONOR — Dr. Ross Dickens (right), dean of the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs, presented the UT Martin chapter of the Financial Management Association with the FMA Superior Chapter Award for the 2014-15 academic year on behalf of FMA International. This is the first time the UT Martin chapter has earned the honor. Accepting the honor were (from left, front row) Emily McCartney of South Fulton, Erica Brimm of Kingston Springs, Andrew Terrell of Union City, Dickens, (back row) Mark Graubner of Nolensville and Dr. Ty Perry, assistant professor of finance and FMA faculty advisor.

Schools invited to Science Bowl

High schools are invited to send teams to the 2015 Science Bowl set for Nov. 14 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. There is no registration fee, but teams should be registered by Nov. 1 to participate.

The event is sponsored by the university’s chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society, with assistance from the newly-created Northwest Tennessee Regional STEM Hub, which serves schools in Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, Tipton and Weakley counties. Teacher stipends, bus travel and a mini-workshop on dye-sensitized solar cells will be provided while students participate in the written exam.

Competition will begin with a written test covering topics in biology, chemistry and general science with 25 questions in each category. There is no limit on the number of entries accepted from each school.

Eight schools will be chosen for the afternoon quiz bowl competition based on scores from the written exam. Four of these slots will be reserved for schools from STEM Hub counties. Selection is based on the average total scores of each school’s two highest-ranking students. Competition rules will be similar to those of “The G.E. College Bowl,” a television quiz show originally aired from 1958-70.

Champion and runner-up schools will each receive trophies, while team members will receive medals based on their final scores. Each participating school will also receive a copy of the Merck Index, an internationally-recognized handbook of chemical, pharmaceutical and biomedical information.

Science Bowl rules can be found online at http://www.utm.edu/staff/skairee/saacs/scibowlrules.html. Teams may register by contacting the SMACS chapter at SMACS@utm.edu or by calling (731) 881-7450.
University of TN at Martin acquires fossil collection

The University of Tennessee at Martin is the new owner of the Vanderbilt University fossil collection, which contains between a quarter- and a half-million specimens collected as early as the 19th century. Scientists believe many of the fossils themselves to be nearly 500 million years old.

The Vanderbilt University Department of Earth and Environmental Science is home to one of the oldest geology programs in Tennessee, but the collection was relocated in recent years due to space reallocation.

Dr. Michael Gibson, professor of geology at UT Martin and associate curator with the Pink Palace family of museums in Memphis, originally split the specimens between the two institutions. However, the entire collection was reunited at UT Martin shortly before the start of the fall 2015 semester.

"We now have the largest single fossil collection in the state of Tennessee ... and it's a historical collection. There are specimens from Paris (France) and around the world. Most of it is from Tennessee and our region, but there are items from other places, too," Gibson said. "Some of these fossils were actually on display at the Tennessee Centennial in 1896 in Nashville."

The Vanderbilt collection has been combined with many other specimen donations made to UT Martin over the years and will be available for research and classroom use by university students, as well as examination by the public and outside scientists to aid in geological discovery.

The UT Martin fossil archives include examples of shells, plants and vertebrate and invertebrate animals, as well as many types of minerals and inorganic materials. Several items are currently on loan for display at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

"The goal, now that we've got these piecemeal things, is to start to thread all this into one great big facility," Gibson said.

For more information on the fossils or the Geology Program, contact Gibson at (731) 881-7435 or by email at mgibson@utm.edu.

Tuba solos, ensembles to be featured

The community and students are invited to attend "OctUBAfest" 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Blankenship Recital Hall. The UT Martin Department of Music will feature select student soloists and the tuba/euphonium ensemble in its annual celebration of the historic German festival known as Oktoberfest.

Performers will showcase traditional German polkas and songs, as well as music from American composer John Stevens.

The night will also include prizes and games. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Bill Waterman at (731) 881-7401 or by email at wwaterma@utm.edu.
UT Martin reunites Vanderbilt fossil collection: Includes McNairy County specimens

By Christen Coulon
Managing Editor

The University of Tennessee at Martin is the new owner of the Vanderbilt University fossil collection, which contains between a quarter and a half-million specimens collected as early as the 19th century.

Some of the fossils in the collection came from the Coon Creek Formation here in McNairy County.

About 500-700 million years ago, the Mississippi river valley was formed as a result of a rift zone (similar to the rift zone found in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean today) which formed along the line of the current river when the North American Continent tried to pull itself apart.

However, the rift valley did not form all of the way and what remained filled in with material to become what is known as the Mississippi Embayment.

Since that time, most of what is known as the Mississippi Embayment was at the bottom of a shallow sea.

"For most of the last 500 million years of McNairy County's history, it has been at the bottom of the sea floor," Gibson said. "There have been six different global sea level changes during this period. The last big change is what you see (at Coon Creek)."

Scientists believe many of the fossils in the collection, which hail from sites around the world, to be nearly 500 million years old. The Vanderbilt University Department of Earth and Environmental Science is home to one of the oldest geology programs in Tennessee, but the collection was relocated in recent years due to space reallocation.

Dr. Michael Gibson, professor of geology at UT Martin and associate curator with the Pink Palace family of museums in Memphis, originally split the specimens between the two institutions. However, the entire collection was reunited at UT Martin shortly before the start of the fall 2015 semester.

"We now have the largest single fossil collection in the state of Tennessee ... and it's a historical collection. There are specimens from Paris (France) and around the world. Most of it is from Tennessee and our region, but there are items from other places, too," said Gibson. "Some of these fossils were actually on display at the Tennessee Centennial in 1896 in Nashville."

The Vanderbilt collection has been combined with many other specimen donations made to UT Martin over the years and will be available for research and classroom use by university students, as well as examination by the public and outside scientists to aid in geological discovery.

The UT Martin fossil archives include examples of shells, plants, vertebrate and invertebrate animals, as well as many types of minerals and inorganic materials. Several items are currently on loan for display at the Discovery Park of America in Union City.

"The goal is, now that we've got these piecemeal things, is to start to thread all this into one great big facility," said Gibson.

For more information on the fossil collection or the UT Martin Geology Program, contact Gibson at 731-881-7435 or by email at mgibson@utm.edu.

Dr. Michael Gibson, professor of geology at UT Martin is shown holding fossil shells from the Coon Creek Formation in McNairy County, which scientists believe to be approximately 72 million years old.
Hutch Hefner (center) and Ethan Ganus (second from right), both of Adamsville, attended Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Sept. 28. High school juniors and seniors were able to tour the campus and speak with university representatives about financial aid, housing, student life and academic opportunities. Both students are seniors at Adamsville High School. They are pictured with (from left) Rick and Sis Hefner and Kim Ganus. The next Fall Preview Day event will be held on campus Oct. 24. Contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 for more information or register online at www.utm.edu/preview.

REP. ED JONES REMEMBERED AT UTM – The University of Tennessee at Martin regularly displays a replica of the Yorkville office of the late U.S. Rep. Ed Jones (D-TN) in the Paul Meek Library on the main campus. Jones, a native of Yorkville, graduated from the University of Tennessee Junior College, now UT Martin, in 1932 and served Tennessee’s eighth district in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1969-1989. Meg Kinnard, granddaughter of Jones, recently added to the university’s archive collection by donating Jones’ signed gavel, signed photographs from Presidents Carter and George H. W. Bush and various awards received by Jones during his lifetime. Pictured in front of Jones’ portrait are Joe Hill, Jones’ congressional district aid; Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Andy Wilson, vice chancellor for university advancement; Kinnard; Geoffrey Hardee, guest of the family; Terry Oliver, former Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture; and Dr. Jim Byford, professor emeritus and former dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m., Nov. 14, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin campus. The application deadline for participants is Nov. 2.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is in its 53rd year, while this marks the 17th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant.

Both titles will be named during the same pageant. Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2016 semester are eligible for either crown. Women participating as a resident or full-time student in West Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. Those seeking this title must be a high school graduate or equivalent by June 30, 2016. All applicants must be no younger than 17 years of age on Nov. 14, 2015, and no older than 24 years of age on Dec. 31, 2016.

The Miss University of Tennessee at Martin / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions. Each contestant is scored individually from one to 10 in each category. Interviews will take place on the morning of the pageant and mandatory practice will occur in the afternoon.

Contestants are required to raise $100 for the Children’s Miracle Network to participate. The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not. The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500 and the second runner-up will receive $200. There is no runner-up for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Tickets will be available at the Boling University Center Information Desk beginning Nov. 3, or a limited number of tickets can be purchased at the door beginning at 5 p.m., Nov. 14. Advance ticket purchase is recommended.

For more information and to receive application materials, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wjlt.org or 731-881-7561.
FARMING INNOVATION — (From left) Daniel Wiggins, Austin Scott and Shawn Butler recently received a $15,000 price in Washington, D.C. for their no-till crimper for cover crop production. They will go on to compete against three other teams on Jan. 10, 2016 in Orlando for an additional $25,000 towards production of their invention.

UTM entrepreneurs recognized nationally

A small team of University of Tennessee at Martin graduates was recognized recently in a national contest as one of the top four entrepreneurial innovation businesses in the country.

The team of entrepreneurs calls their business FarmSpec, which is more formally known as Farm Specific Technology.

Currently, the managing business partners are UTM graduates Shawn Butler, president and inventor of the product, and vice presidents Austin Scott and Daniel Wiggins. FarmSpec’s goal is to create innovative solutions for efficient farming by means of a no-till crimper for cover crop production. They call it the “flex roller crimper,” which can be used to terminate cover crops mechanically without chemical herbicides before farmers plant their main crops.

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FROM UTM PAGE 1

Of 165 applicants across the country, FarmSpec has been selected as one of the top four finalists in the Farm Bureau Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge. With this recognition, they have secured a $15,000 cash prize, which they received recently in Washington, D.C.

The team started gaining its momentum after winning the first collegiate business-plan pitch, which was hosted by the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center and UTM College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in November 2013.

Since their first win that night, the team has continued to develop its product and win other pitch contests, working their way up among the best in the nation. The team has diligently worked with NTEC during this process.

“The UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center have been working together to develop cultures of innovation and entrepreneurship,” said Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at UTM.

“We’ve held pitch contests, educational sessions, and have served as mentors through NextFarm Agriculture Innovation Accelerator to help inventors and entrepreneurs like FarmSpec achieve their goals. We’re very proud of their accomplishments.”

“I am so thrilled FarmSpec is one of the finalists for the Farm Bureau Rural Challenge,” NTEC executive director Carol Reed said. “It will be collegiate teams from UTM like FarmSpec who will spur business and job growth in our local rural communities.”

FarmSpec and the other three teams will move on to compete in Orlando on Jan. 10, 2016, at the American Farm Bureau Convention for a chance to win an additional $25,000 in prize money in a “Shark Tank” style pitch competition. The winner will be named “Entrepreneur of the Year.”

NTEC’s project is funded under an agreement with Launch Tennessee and/or the State of Tennessee.
STEM Hub Set For UTM

Tennessee S.T.E.M. Innovation Network has awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin a $250,000 grant to establish the Northwest Tennessee Regional STEM Hub and enhance student learning in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This new STEM hub, scheduled to begin operation in November, is a joint effort by UT Martin and Dyersburg State Community College. One of seven regional STEM hubs across the state, this effort will serve students in Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, Tipton, and Weakley counties.

The regional hub will serve as a resource to provide professional development for Northwest Tennessee teachers, establish a STEM Master Teachers Corps and create a library of STEM “toolkits” for use in classroom and after-school activities.

Local educators in both primary and and higher education, business partners and community stakeholders will work together to accelerate the impact of STEM programs in the region and ensure area students are college and career ready upon graduation from high school.

The hub will make one of its first community contributions at the annual UT Martin Science Quiz Bowl on November 14th, sponsored by the university’s chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society, by providing participating teachers with stipends, bus travel and a mini-workshop on dye-sensitized solar cells while students participate in quiz bowl activities.

For more information on the Northwest Tennessee Regional STEM Hub, contact Wes Hall, director, Tennessee STEM Innovation Network, at hallj@battelle.org.

Location change for UTM's Fall Preview

The second Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be held in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center, beginning at 9 a.m., Saturday. The location was originally announced as the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Registration at 9 a.m. will be followed by an official university welcome at 9:30. Attendees will be given a tour of the campus at 10:30 and have the opportunity to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon.

Representatives will also be available to discuss financial aid options, housing, meal plans, special programs and campus life activities.

Students may register up until the morning of the event. To register, visit www.utm.edu and select “Fall Preview Day Registration” under the “Discover” menu. Students may also call the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu for additional details.
PAGEANT ROYALTY — The annual Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Nov. 14 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin campus. The application deadline for participants is Nov. 2. Carsen Rooney (left) of Cordova and Shelby Dotson of Rutherford are the reigning Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival and Miss UT Martin, respectively.

UT Martin pageants slated for Nov. 14

MARTIN — The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Nov. 14 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin campus. The application deadline for participants is Nov. 2.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is in its 53rd year, while this marks the 17th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant.

Both titles will be named during the same pageant. Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2016 semester are eligible for either crown. Women participating as a resident or full-time student in West Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. Those seeking this title must be a high school graduate or equivalent by June 30, 2016.

All applicants must be no younger than 17 years of age on Nov. 14 and no older than 24 years of age on Dec. 31, 2016.

The Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions. Each contestant is scored individually from one to 10 in each category. Interviews will take place on the morning of the pageant and mandatory practice will occur in the afternoon.

Contestants are required to raise $100 for the Children’s Miracle Network to participate. The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not. The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500 and the second runner-up will receive $200. There is no runner-up for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Tickets will be available at the Boling University Center Information Desk beginning Nov. 3 or a limited number of tickets can be purchased at the door beginning at 5 p.m. Nov. 14. Advance ticket purchase is recommended.

For more information and to receive application materials, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wliit.org or (731) 881-7561.

UTM preview moved

The second 2015 Fall Preview Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be held Saturday in Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center, which is a change of location from what was originally announced.

Registration at 9 a.m. will be followed by an official university welcome at 9:30. Attendees will be given a tour of the UT Martin campus at 10:30 and have the opportunity to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon.

Students may register up until Saturday morning. To register, visit www.utm.edu and select “Fall Preview Day Registration” under the “Discover” menu. For more information, call the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
This Saturday’s Fall Preview Day at UT-Martin will be held in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center, instead of the originally announced Elam Center.

The 9:00 registration will be followed by an official university welcome at 9:30. Attendees will get to tour the UTM campus at 10:30 and have the opportunity to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon.

Potential students will get to discuss with representatives their options for financial aid, housing, meal plans, special programs and campus life activities.

Students may register at utm.edu up until the morning of the event.

**Miss UTM / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageants held November 14th**

UT-Martin will host the annual Miss UT-Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageants on November 14th, with the application deadline November 2nd.

This will mark the 53rd year for the Miss UTM Pageant, while it’s the 17th year for the the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant.

Both titles will be named during the same pageant. Students enrolled full-time at UTM through the spring 2016 semester are eligible for either crown. Women participating as a resident or full-time student in West Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

The annual Miss UT-Martin / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held Saturday, November 14th at 7:00 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UTM.

Tickets will be available at the Boling University Center Information Desk beginning November 3rd, or a limited number of tickets can be purchased at the door beginning at 5:00 the evening of the pageants.
Joella Bates a whiz with a bow
Talking' Outdoors

By Glynn Harris
Posted Oct. 23, 2015 at 12:30 PM
RUSTON

I look forward every year to attending annual outdoor writer’s conferences. The Louisiana Outdoor Writer Association has the yearly affair somewhere in Louisiana while the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association meets somewhere within the boundaries of the southeastern United States.

This year’s SEOPA event was held almost exactly 500 miles from my home base in Ruston, Eufaula, Alabama, in extreme southeast Alabama, is connected to Georgia by Lake Eufaula. Motor east across the lake, pull up to the bank, and you’re in Georgia.

One of the things I enjoy doing when attending annual conferences is meeting and talking with folks who do interesting stuff. Last week, I found someone who does seriously interesting stuff even before I arrived at conference. Stopping just inside the Eufaula city limits for a sandwich before heading to conference headquarters at beautiful Lakepoint Resort State Park, a lady also having lunch asked if perhaps I was with the outdoor writer’s group. I told her I was, we visited over sandwiches, and after hearing of her unbelievable accomplishments with archery equipment, she agreed to tell me more.

Joella Bates, who calls Waverly, Tennessee home, is first of all, an accomplished professional archer. She is not only a bow hunter but national training specialist for scholastic 3-D archery, traveling the country training basic instructors and the trainers who work directly with kids. Incidentally, she has conducted programs in Louisiana as well as many other states. She has a B.S. degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Tennessee at Martin and an M.S. from Tennessee Tech in Biology. She is also founder of Operation Outdoor Outreach.

I wanted to know how she got into archery and why developing expertise with a stick and string are so important to her.

“I grew up gun hunting with my father and actually went to college on a rifle team scholarship. After competing at a high level with rifle, I found that hunting with a gun didn’t have the same excitement level as before, so I started hunting with a bow,” Bates said.

Saying she hunts with a bow is like saying Leonard Fournette runs with a football for LSU. The string of accomplishments she has put together over the years is phenomenal.

16 days.

The Operation Outdoor Outreach she founded is an outreach program that is re-connecting youth, women and families with the outdoor world through archery programs. An Internet search of the program she founded, www.operationOO.com, is well worth the effort to check out the accomplishments of this amazing lady.

During our interview, she mentioned that she has taken 69 different species with her bow. She upped that, however, last week when she arrowed number 70, a gizzard shad in Lake Eufaula.

What a treat it was to meet and get to interview a lady with a fascinating story to tell. Thanks Joella Bates for introducing yourself to me.
Deadline nears for pageant

The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Nov. 14 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin campus. The application deadline for participants is Nov. 2.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is in its 53rd year, while this marks the 17th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant. Both titles will be named during the same pageant. Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2016 semester are eligible for either crown. Women participating as a resident or full-time student in West Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. Those seeking this title must be a high school graduate or equivalent by June 30. All applicants must be no younger than 17 years of age on Nov. 14, and no older than 24 years of age on Dec. 31, 2016.

The Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions. Each contestant is scored individually from one to 10 in each category. Interviews will take place on the morning of the pageant and mandatory practice will occur in the afternoon.

Contestants are required to raise $100 for the Children's Miracle Network to participate. The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not. The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500 and the second runner-up will receive $200. There is no runner-up for the

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Briefly

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The annual Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held Nov. 14 at UT Martin. Carsen Rooney (left), of Cordova, and Shelby Dotson, a UT Martin K-6 elementary education student from Rutherford, are the reigning Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival and Miss UT Martin, respectively.

Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. Tickets will be available at the Boling University Center Information Desk beginning Nov. 3, or a limited number of tickets can be purchased at the door beginning at 5 p.m. Nov. 14. Advance ticket purchase is recommended.

For more information and to receive application materials, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wljt.org or (731) 881-7561.
After Civil War's 150th, Tennessee turns to centennial of World War I

By KEVIN WARNER

Published: October 25, 2015

http://www.brentwoodhomepage.com/

After four years of study and commemoration of the Civil War sesquicentennial, Tennessee is launching a series of events to commemorate the centennial of World War I.

The Tennessee Great War Commission will kick-off its inaugural event to honor the memory of Tennesseans who fought in World War I in Nashville on Nov. 7.

The event will also mark the centennial anniversary of the start of World War I and will take place across three locations: the Bicentennial Mall, located at 600 James Robertson Parkway; the nearby Tennessee State Museum; and the Tennessee State Museum, War Memorial Building. Opening remarks will come from Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Mayo-Bears Grinder on the mall when the event starts at 9 a.m. Spc. Michael Burrage, of the 129th Army Band will deliver taps as well.

Organizers hope to shed light on one of America’s least-known wars and the contributions Tennesseans made in the war effort.

"The Tennessee Great War Commission initially had nine members, it now has ten, and they come from all over the state," said Dr. Michael Birdwell who serves as the chairman of the commission and a history professor at Tennessee Tech University. "Our job is to make people aware of the service Americans did in World War I, especially those in Tennessee."

The nine members came together in early 2013, after the state legislature called for the commission's formation. Gov. Bill Haslam, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, and State Speaker of the House Beth Harwell each chose three members.

The other TGWC members are Dr. Daryl Carter, a history professor at East Tennessee State University; Alice-Catherine Carter, a history professor at The University of Tennessee at Martin; Blount County Archivist Jackie Glenn; Former state Sen. Douglas Henry; Metro Archivist Ken Fieh; Andy Powney of Germantown; Richard Gonzales of Memphis; Dr. Vejas Linkovius from University of Tennessee's Center for the Study of War and Society, and Debbie York who came on later.

York is a relative of war hero and Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Alvin C. York. He received the honor after he led an attack on a German machine-gun nest with seven others, killing 20 German soldiers and capturing more than 130 others. York's heroism will not be celebrated directly this year, but he will be featured in the living history exhibit at 2:30 p.m.

Instead, organizers chose to focus on Tennesseans who chose to fight in the war with foreign armies before the United States entered in 1917. During the next four years the committee plans to also focus on the war on the home front next year, 2018 will focus on York and the end of the war will be commemorated with the re-dedication of the War Memorial in Nashville in the commission's final year of 2019.

The mall will host a living history exhibit throughout the day, starting at 10:30 a.m. that will depict everything from the propagandas and selling of the war to mustard gas attacks. The Mall will also host virtual reality demonstrations and TGWC merchandise will be on sale as well.

"Folks doing the living history will have a bivouac," Birdwell said. They will have tents set up, they will have guys in doughboy uniforms doing various activities throughout the day."

The temporary mock-army camp will close at 4:30 p.m. along with the rest of the exhibits.

The War Memorial Building will host a new exhibit "Remembering the World War I Doughboy: History of Tennessee's War Memorial," beginning at 10 a.m. by curator Dr. Lisa Burdeau.

Birdwell said these two events will appeal to general audiences who want to experience the history of World War I, and people seeking a more in-depth academic explanation of events should attend the Tennessee State Museum's Auditorium, where a host of historians will give presentations on everything from Dr. Marc McMurtry's "Lieutenant Kiffin Yates Rockwell of the Lafayette Escadrille: Tennessee's first hero of the Great War," at 1 p.m. to Birdwell's "Volunteers All: Tennessee, Tennesseans and the Great War, 1914-1917" at 3 p.m. Other presentations will focus on the role mules and horses played in the fighting, and another on the Tennessee's who fought for other countries in the war.

Birdwell hopes visitors to the event as a whole come away with a better understanding of the sacrifice the men who fought made.

"Most Americans unfortunately know very, very little about World War I," he said. "What I would hope is that people come away just as excited as just as enthusiastic about World War I as they are about the Civil War... I hope that people come away with a greater sense of wonder, and want to know more."
Outsourcing concerns GOP lawmakers representing UT campuses

While Republican legislative leaders are generally supportive of Gov. Bill Haslam exploring privatizing facilities management, a pair of GOP lawmakers are concerned about the potential negative effects any move could have on public universities in their districts.

Rep. Andy Holt, R-Dresden, and Sen. Richard Briggs, R-Knoxville, said they’ve heard from public university employees in their districts who are scared and nervous. Both lawmakers agree it’s important for the governor to make sure the state is spending its money wisely. But at this time, they’re not sure privatization would offer any benefits to their constituents at the University of Tennessee at Martin or the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

"I think the taxpayers are getting their money’s worth, at least at the University of Tennessee," Briggs said Monday.

Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, R-Blountville, House Speaker Beth Harwell, R-Nashville, and House GOP Caucus Chairman Glen Casada, R-Franklin, said they believe Haslam has not made a decision yet and that he’ll provide more information soon.

"Proposals that represent real and substantive change to the status quo almost always meet resistance regardless of their merits," Ramsey said in a statement to The Tennessean.

The state uses Chicago-based JLL to manage roughly 10 percent of the state’s facilities. But the administration is actively looking at expanding outsourcing those management jobs at the remainder of its properties, sites that include universities, prisons and state parks.

Haslam has repeatedly said publicly that he hasn’t made any decision on expanding private facilities management. But the state has:

• Explored the option for months and issued a request for information pertaining to outsourcing;
• Recently presented data that the administration believes shows the current private facilities management is working;
• Prepared a potential timetable for when the state could roll out the privatization timeline, as originally reported by NewsChannel 5 (http://www.scrippsmedia.com/newschannel5/news/newschannel-5-investigates/questions-of-influence/Confidential-Timetable-Puts-Privatization-On-Fast-Track-323279521.html);
• Discussed potential options for how state facilities could opt out of any plan;
• Recently included outsourcing in a presentation to bond-rating agencies as a future cost-saving move for the state, as reported by the Chattanooga Times Free Press (http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/politics/state/story/2015/oct/18/haslam-presentatibond-rating-agencies-says-st/331113/).

All of these initiatives are the state doing due diligence, Haslam told The Tennessean last week. The governor gave a simple reason why people should believe the state is only exploring more privatization at this point.

"The first reason is because it’s true, so I don’t know a better reason than that. We’ve been saying that, and I certainly wouldn’t get up and just lie to everybody," Haslam said. "We also feel like it’s our obligation to seriously look at this."

Employees at UT-Martin are confused, Holt told The Tennessean. When they come to ask him questions about what’s going to happen and whether any decision will affect their jobs, he’s not certain what to tell them.

In an Oct. 22 letter to Haslam senior advisor Leslie Hafner, Holt asked for guidance from the administration and expressed frustration with what he considers a lack of information about any possible privatization plan.

"I don’t know a lot about this decision, in fact, none of us do. However, I know how every contact that I have made with my own people about it, they think it’s horrendous," Holt wrote in the letter obtained by The Tennessean.

"If my constituent were to approach you at our children’s soccer game (and you were their elected Representative) and said I’m going to lose my job and benefits. Why are they doing this? ... If this is really about saving money, why is the state wasting tens of thousands of dollars on logos and millions on state-owned golf courses? We can barely pay our bills now. ’What would you tell them, Leslie?’"
Holt and Briggs said they haven't seen any information that says the privatization will save the state considerable amounts of money. In a recent presentation, the administration argued JLL spent $5 million less on maintenance at facilities during its first year managing them. During that presentation, though, House Finance Chairman Charles Sargent, R-Franklin, argued that the drop could be a sign the state is just spending less on maintenance.

In conversations with the administration, professors, students and maintenance workers at UT-Knoxville, Briggs said he's heard general support for the current maintenance staff. Briggs said there are concerns that privatization could result in some long-tenured employees losing their jobs, a problem Holt said he's heard from constituents as well.

There are other benefits to the current system: Briggs said UT-Knoxville administration told him they were worried they couldn't use privatized facilities management workers to help with other tasks if they weren't spelled out in the contract. Specifically, Briggs mentioned current facilities workers helping clear snow in times of need. That's why it's important to allow each university to evaluate whether privatization works for them, Briggs said.

The Tennessee State Employees Association and the United Campus Workers, organizations representing state employees, have opposed any move to increase privatization. Briggs planned to join the United Campus Workers on a Monday night call with Democratic lawmakers and union officials to discuss the administration's outsourcing exploration.

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**OctUBAfest performance tonight at UTM**

Posted on October 21, 2015 by Steve James in Local News

The UT-Martin Department of Music is presenting “OctUBAfest” tonight at 7:30 in the Blankenship Recital Hall.

The performance features select student soloists and the tuba/euphonium ensemble in its annual celebration of the historic German festival known as Oktoberfest.

Performers will showcase traditional German polkas and songs as well as music from American composer John Stevens.

There will also include prizes and games. Tonight’s performance is free and open to the public.

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**UTM duo earns high grades on OVC list**

**BRENTWOOD** — Ben Reeves and Katie Schubert, both student-athletes at UT Martin, were recognized last week as a prestigious Ohio Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete for the 2014-15 academic year.

The accolade is the highest individual honor that can be earned by an OVC student-athlete.

The award is given annually to three male and three female student-athletes for their accomplishments in both the classroom and athletic arena, and because of their leadership qualities.

This marks just the third time that UT Martin has produced a pair of OVC Scholar-Athletes in the same year and first since 1996-97.

Reeves is the first Skyhawk golfer to ever win the award, while Schubert is only the third UT Martin women's basketball player to bring home the honor.

Reeves is currently in his senior season on the Skyhawk golf team, where he has served as team captain for three years.

The Knoxville native earned All-OVC honors as a sophomore after being named the program's first-ever OVC Freshman of the Year and an OVC All-Newcomer in 2012-13.

He currently ranks fifth in the league in scoring average (71.9) after finishing in the top-12 in the league in scoring average in each of his first three seasons.

Academically, Reeves boasts a 3.90 GPA in cell and molecular biology, as he is part of the Pre-Med Scholars program.

He is a three-time OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll recipient who has earned the OVC Medal of Honor (perfect 4.0 GPA) in two different years.

On campus, Reeves is the president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and also serves as a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) Leadership Council.

He has been a member of numerous service projects including Relay for Life, We Care Ministries, Second Harvest Food Bank and Make-A-Wish as well as serving a mission trip to Seattle in 2014.

Schubert approaches her senior season with the Skyhawk women's basketball team.

The Springboro, Ohio, native led the league in three-point field goal percentage in each of her first two seasons and ranked 20th in the nation with a 2.42 assist-to-turnover ratio as a junior.

In the classroom, she has maintained a 3.86 GPA in mechanical engineering.

Schubert has also earned a spot on the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll in all three seasons while also winning a conference Medal of Honor for a perfect 4.0 GPA in 2013-14.

She has been a multiple selection to the UT Martin Chancellor's Honor Roll and is an active member of the UT Martin Honors Program.

Schubert was recently named the 2015 recipient of the Excellence in Engineering Award.

Schubert is heavily involved with SAAC, FCA, the UT Martin Athletics Board and the Gamma Beta Phi honor society.
JACKSON DINNER — Attending the Tennessee Democratic Party's Jackson Dinner were (from left) Blake Kitterman, president Bradley County Young Democrats; Debbie Wassermann Shultz, Democratic National Committee chairwoman; and Amber Sherman, president UT Martin College Democrats. Democratic National Committee chairwoman Debbie Wassermann Shultz was the keynote speaker of the night. The Jackson Day Dinner is the primary fundraiser for the Tennessee Democratic Party, with notable guests ranging from the Tennessee Democratic Chairwoman Mary Mancini, county Democratic Party chairs, Young Democrat and Democratic Women presidents, to state senators, representatives and congressional members.
Traveling trophy temporarily located at DPA for York exhibit

MAKING IT HAPPEN — The Sgt. York OVC Trophy was recently awarded to the University of Tennessee at Martin football team. Some members of the team (at right), including (front, from left) Jarod Neal, Trent Garland, Marquis Clemons, (back) Jackson Roberts, Jordan Murphy and Jackson Redditt, were on hand at Discovery Park of America Thursday to see the trophy in its new home. Welcoming the trophy, which was donated by the team, were team members and those on the DPA team that created the new temporary exhibit there honoring Tennessee's World War I hero. They included (front, from left) Ashton Milan from maintenance, Jade Walsh from exhibits, Robert Pardue from information technology, Jennifer Wildes from exhibits, CEO Jim Rippy, (back row) Luke Johnson from media, Brahm Greve from maintenance, Josh Massie from graphics, Jamie Thomson from exhibits and Martin Kane from education.
By GLENDA CAUDLE
Special to The Press

The Sgt. York OVC Trophy, one of only two traveling trophies involving more than two teams in college sports, has a new temporary home.

Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin football team laid claim to the impressive trophy by virtue of their victory Saturday over Austin Peay State University and decided the trophy should become part of the Discovery Park of America exhibit honoring the most noted soldier of World War I, Alvin C. York.

The trophy was created in 2007 by the Nashville Sports Council and the Ohio Valley Conference and is awarded annually to the winner of the quadrangular season football series between Tennessee's Ohio Valley Conference schools: Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, UT Martin, Tennessee State University in Nashville and Tennessee Tech in Cookeville.

The Commander in Chief's Trophy, contested among the Air Force, Army and Navy each year since 1972, is the only other such traveling trophy.

The award was named in honor of York, who, along with seven other American soldiers, captured 132 German prisoners in the Battle of the Meuse River-Argonne on Oct. 8, 1918. As a result of that heroic effort, York was promoted from corporal to sergeant and received numerous French and Italian awards. When he returned to the United States, his grateful country bestowed upon him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

When York, who could claim only a limited education himself, got back to his hometown of Pall Mall in north central Tennessee, he took up the task of promoting educational opportunities for children in the Volunteer State and established the private institution known as Alvin C. York Institute to assist children in rural Fentress County, where he grew up. The school, located in Jamestown, is still in operation today.

The prestigious trophy is awarded at the end of the football season to the OVC team in Tennessee with the best head-to-head record in match-ups with the other three teams.

The award has been claimed by UT Martin four times: in 2010 when it was shared because of a tie; in 2012, 2014 and 2015. While it would normally be accorded a place of honor at the university, members of the team decided it would make a great addition to a new temporary exhibit that is open in Discovery Park of America's Reelfoot Room and is sponsored by Center Point Business Solutions.

A team of DPA experts from a variety of fields collaborated in the effort to display the York-related items on loan from other sources in a dynamic manner. They created an educationally informative presentation that engages the senses and allows visitors to experience what life was like for York as a youngster, living in a poor rural environment, and then as a young adult serving his country in wartime conditions.

"In the Footsteps of Sergeant York" will be open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. until Jan. 3, 2016, and will be available free of charge to those who have admission to DPA. Visitors can see the trophy and many other items related to the Tennessee hero, including a popular movie starring Gary Cooper as the pacifist sharpshooter who became convinced he owed it to his country to fight its enemies without and then to defeat the foe of illiteracy at home. He accomplished the latter by devoting himself to securing an education for children that he was never able to enjoy himself.

Glenda Caudle is the Special Features Editor at The Messenger. She may be contacted at glendacaudle@ucmessenger.com.
STEM hub comes to UTM

The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network has awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin a $250,000 grant to establish the Northwest Tennessee Regional STEM Hub and enhance student learning in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

This new STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) hub, scheduled to begin operation in November, is a joint effort by UT Martin and Dyersburg State Community College. One of seven regional STEM hubs across the state, this effort will serve students in Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, Tipton and Weakley counties.

"Having this STEM hub based on the core academic strengths of UT Martin promises to be a true boost for Northwest Tennessee's development of high tech industry and modern manufacturing opportunities." said Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor.

The regional hub will serve as a resource to provide professional development for Northwest Tennessee teachers, establish a STEM Master Teacher Corps and create a library of STEM "toolkits" for use in classroom and after-school activities. Local educators in both primary and higher education, business partners and community stakeholders will work together to accelerate the impact of STEM programs in the region and ensure area students are college and career-ready upon graduation from high school.

"One goal [of the Northwest Tennessee Regional STEM Hub] is to increase collaboration between local teachers and university professors and students. This will be done via a series of Saturday STEM workshops this spring where local area STEM teachers will come to campus and meet with some of our excellent STEM faculty and STEM student ambassadors while learning about the STEM kit they'll receive that day," said Dr. Curtis Kunkel, associate professor of mathematics and UT Martin STEM hub project director.

The hub will make one of its first community contributions at the annual UT Martin Science Quiz Bowl on Nov. 14, sponsored by the university's chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society. The hub will provide participating teachers with stipends, bus travel and a mini-workshop on dye-sensitized solar cells while students participate in quiz bowl activities.

The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network is committed to helping Tennessee inspire and train the next generation of leaders and is operated as a partnership between the Tennessee Department of Education and Battelle Education. For more information on the Regional STEM Hub, contact Wes Hall at hallj@battelle.org.
Celebration concert Nov. 14

UT Infant Stimulation Program chosen as Telethon of Stars recipient

When the 59th annual Telethon of Stars transitions to the Telethon of Stars Celebration Concert, a four-hour event Nov. 14 at the Carson Center in Paducah, Ky., local residents will be able to help the Infant Stimulation Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The UT program has been chosen as the recipient of the funds donated in Tennessee this year through the event, which is sponsored by WPSD and the Paducah Lions Club.

The Infant Stimulation Program provides in-home early intervention services for children birth up to age 3 in Benton, Carroll, Henry, Lake, Obion and Weakley counties. The mission of the program is to provide families with tools, opportunities and support to help their children reach their highest potential.

The money received through the telethon will help the program continue to serve children with special needs in northwest Tennessee.

For more information about the Infant Stimulation Program, contact Lori Wilson, program director; at (731) 881-7113 or Sharon Waterfield, Child and Family Grant Programs director, at (731) 881-7915.

Headlining the Telethon of Stars Celebration Concert will be country music favorite Lee Greenwood. Gospel music fans can rejoice with The Talleys. And for some nostalgia, attendees and viewers can rock along with The Original Stars of Rock & Roll, featuring Brian Hyland; The Chiffons; Johnny Tillotson; and Shirley Alston Reeves — the original lead singer of The Shirelles. There’s even a special tribute to Diamond Dave Somerville — the original lead singer of The Diamonds.

To be part of this exciting new event and show support for children and adults with special needs, residents may purchase reserved seat tickets at www.thecarsoncenter.org, at the Carson Center Box Office in Paducah or by calling (270) 450-4444. Prices range from $15 to $75 and tickets give attendees access to meet all the stars after the concert and put them in the drawing for fantastic door prizes during the concert. Those who are unable to attend may watch the show live on WPSD Local 6 or streaming on the station’s web page starting at 6:30 p.m.

A pre-taped, two-hour gospel music concert will be aired on WPSD Local 6 at 6 a.m. Nov. 15. The tradition continues featuring outstanding gospel talent from throughout the region.

For more information or to make a donation, go to http://www.telethonofstars.org/. More information about the telethon may also be found on Facebook at Lions Club/WPSD Telethon Celebration Concert.

Former Weakley County woman authors book, ‘The Descendants’

Wanda Harkins Roberts, formerly of Weakley County, is an up-and-coming author who just published her first book entitled, “The Descendants,” which is an adult novel that weaves a story of adventure in a world that has been completely devastated by a catastrophic event.

For over ten years, Roberts — a UT Martin graduate — resided in the Dresden area, working for public health in Dresden, Union City and the West Tennessee Region. Her work promoted community health and wellness prevention and education, focusing much of her time on school-based programs within Weakley County and West Tennessee.

Roberts was born in Fairfax, Virginia and currently lives in Knoxville, Tennessee with her children — Kristin, Jack and Katie — and Jo Roberts, who were all students in the Dresden school system.

To learn more about “The Descendants” visit The-descendants.com.
The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program will host its fifth annual RisingStar Leadership Summit for high school juniors and seniors Nov. 19-20 on the UT Martin main campus. West Tennessee students involved in leadership roles in their schools or communities are encouraged to apply by Nov. 11.

Participating students will arrive at the Hampton Inn in Martin for registration from 4:45 p.m., Nov. 19. The first evening will include official university welcomes, ice-breaker activities, a fine dining experience and a student recreation rampage event.

Second-day activities will begin with a continental breakfast at 7:15 a.m., Nov. 20. Students will then participate in leadership team building activities before campus tours begin at 10:45 a.m. Students will be broken into groups in order to receive customized tours focused on areas of greatest personal interest.

Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor and co-founder of the WestStar Leadership Program, will serve as keynote speaker and offer instruction on motivational leadership at noon before students report to afternoon sessions.

Transportation from the hotel and between all activities is provided. Chaperones will also be present at all locations. Students are advised to dress casually for walking in November weather and wear tennis shoes for all activities. Dinner on Thursday and lunch on Friday are included in the registration cost, as well as continental breakfast at the hotel Friday morning.

The registration fee is $120 per student, which includes lodging at the Hampton Inn in Martin, meals, materials and a RisingStar Summit T-shirt. Interested students should send registration materials and payment to WestStar Leadership Program, 321 Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238. All checks should be made payable to the WestStar Leadership Program.

For more information, contact Jordan Jones, summit coordinator, WestStar Leadership Program, at weststar@utm.edu or 731-881-3298.
UT Martin Honors Retired Faculty, Staff

Dr. Bob Smith (second from left), UT Martin interim chancellor, is pictured with retired employees (from left) Jenna Wright, associate professor of English; Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement; Ken Zimmerman, instructor of theatre and director for Vanguard Theatre productions; Dr. Mary Wallace, assistant professor of office information systems; and Dr. Beverly Hearn, associate professor of education, at an annual dinner for retired faculty and staff Sept. 15 in the Boling University Center.

62nd Annual Governor’s Conference

Weakley County officials presented Tennessee Governor’s 3-Star Award

DAVID FISHER

Weakley County and the City of Dresden received awards at the 62nd annual Governor’s Conference on Economic and Community Development, held recently in Nashville.

The conference theme focused on “Team Tennessee” showcasing how the state’s workforce, education and transportation systems are aligning to support Tennessee’s overall economic development mission.

This year’s conference was attended by more than 800 economic development leaders, state and local elected officials, and business professionals.

Weakley County officials were presented with the Governor’s 3-Star Award, which qualifies it for numerous grants it would otherwise not be eligible to receive.

The Weakley County Chamber of Commerce office handles the paperwork involved in applying for the Governor’s 3-Star Award, Chamber Executive

SELECT TN SITE AWARD - The City of Dresden received a Select TN Site Award at the governor’s conference. Those pictured are (l to r): Janna Hellums, Northwest Regional Business Development Consultant, TNEDC; Virginia Grimes, UTM; WestStar Leadership; Joel Howard, Director, USDA-Rural Development, Union City Office; Dresden Mayor Jeff Washburn; Junior Moore, Chairman of Dresden Industrial Board; Gov. Bill Haslam; Ronnie Price, Weakley County Economic Development Director; Barbara Virgin, Weakley County Chamber Director; Jaka Bynum, Weakley County Mayor; Randy McKinnon, President, TLM Associates, Inc.; Jennifer Branccrum, Dresden City Recorder; Randy Boyd, Commissioner, TNEDC; Leanne Cox, Select TN Site Development Director, TNEDC; Blake Swaggart, Northwest Regional Director, TNEDC; and Amy New, Assistant Commissioner Rural Development, TNEDC.
GOVERNOR’S THREE STAR AWARD - Weakley County officials and other state and local officials were present to receive the Governor's Three-Star Award, during the 62nd annual governor’s conference on economic and community development. They are (l to r): Joey Silger, ThreeStar Director; TNECD; Janna Hellums, Northwest Regional Business Development Consultant, TNECD; Virginia Grimes, UTM, WestStar Leadership; Ronnie Price, Weakley County Economic Development Director; Gov. Bill Haslam; Barbara Virgin, Weakley County Chamber Director; Jake Bynum, Weakley County Mayor; Randy Boyd, Commissioner, TNECD; Jennifer Branscum Dresden City Recorder; Junior Moore, Chairman of Dresden Industrial Board; Dresden Mayor Jeff Washburn; Blake Swaggart, Northwest Regional Director, TNECD; and Amy New, Assistant Commissioner Rural Development, TNECD.

AWARDS
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Director Barbara Virgin works closely with county and city officials to meet the qualifications each year, so the county can continue to earn the award. Weakley County and the towns of Dresden, Gleason, Greenfield, Martin, and Sharon are eligible to receive additional incentives under the guidelines of the Tennessee Three-Star program.

Tennessee’s Three-Star Program is designed to help communities take full advantage of economic development opportunities. The goals are to preserve existing employment, create new employment opportunities, increase Tennessee family incomes, improve quality of life and create a strong leadership base.

The City of Dresden received the Select Tennessee Award, for having a pad-ready site for industrial development at Dresden’s industrial park that has been certified as meeting qualifications set for the state to be ready for an prospective industry to begin construction.

The site, which is over 35 acres in size, has been graded and compacted for a 100,000 square foot building pad that is expandable to 300,000 square feet. All utility infrastructure is located in close proximity to the building pad and is capable of supporting industrial users.

Dresden Mayor Jeff Washburn said, “the City of Dresden is delighted to have received the award in recognition of the work put in to maximize the potential of Dresden being selected by a prospective industry.” In addition to the recognizing the work that occurred during his administration on obtaining the award, Mayor Washburn credited the efforts of former Mayor Danny Forrester, members of the Dresden City Board and city staff, the work of Dresden Industrial Board Chairman Junior Moore and Dresden Industrial Board members, and Weakley County Economic Development Director Ronnie Price and Weakley County ECD Board members as making significant contributions over the course of several years as being instrumental in the Dresden Industrial Park site receiving certification and the city being granted the Select Tennessee Award. He further noted the work of the Tennessee ECD, Tennessee Valley Authority, and Weakley County former Mayor Houston Patrick and current Mayor Jake Bynum as assisting Dresden in receiving the recognition.

Weakley County Economic Development Director Ronnie Price said, by being qualified as a Select Tennessee site, “It takes the risk out of buying property, because all of the studies, such as environmental, have already been done. You have all of the utilities and information about zoning, so there are no issues to dissuade a company from purchasing the property. So, we felt that it would be a good property to go through the Certified Tennessee Site Program. As part of that, we're on a certified industrial site website, which is a good marketing tool for that property. There are only about 35 properties across the state that are certified. This seems to be the wave of the future with these industrial properties."

“When people think of economic development, they typically think of business recruitment and expansions, but it's so much more than that. It is educational attainment, tourism, developing our communities and creating strong, vibrant places for people to live and work, and making all of that possible is a collaborative effort,” TNECD Commissioner Randy Boyd said.
Largest Collection In Tennessee
UT Martin Is New Owner Of Vanderbilt Fossil Collection

The University of Tennessee at Martin is the new owner of the Vanderbilt University fossil collection, which contains between a quarter and a half-million specimens collected as early as the 19th century. Scientists believe many of the fossils themselves to be nearly 500 million years old. The Vanderbilt University Department of Earth and Environmental Science is home to one of the oldest geology programs in Tennessee, but the collection was relocated in recent years due to space reallocation.

Dr. Michael Gibson, professor of geology at UT Martin and associate curator with the Pink Palace family of museums in Memphis, originally split the specimens between the two institutions. However, the entire collection was reunited at UT Martin shortly before the start of the fall 2015 semester.

"We now have the largest single fossil collection in the state of Tennessee ... and it's a historical collection. There are specimens from Paris (France) and around the world. Most of it is from Tennessee and our region, but there are items from other places, too," said Gibson. "Some of these fossils were actually on display at the Tennessee Centennial in 1896 in Nashville."

The Vanderbilt collection has been combined with many other specimen donations made to UT Martin over the years and will be available for research and classroom use by university students, as well as examination by the public and outside scientists to aid in geological discovery.

The UT Martin fossil archives include examples of shells, plants, and vertebrate and invertebrate animals, as well as many types of minerals and inorganic materials. Several items are currently on loan for display at the Discovery Park of America in Union City.

"The goal is, now that we've got these piecemeal things, is to start to thread all this into one great big facility," said Gibson.

For more information on the fossil collection or the UT Martin Geology Program, contact Gibson at 731-881-7435 or by email at mgibson@utm.edu.
UT MARTIN ALUMNAE PARTICIPATE IN HOMECOMING EVENTS – Several University of Tennessee at Martin alumnae from the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority enjoy a beautiful day Oct. 10 during homecoming festivities on the main campus. Pictured (l-r) are Becky Turcotte ('00), of Somerville; Taylor Wade ('15), of Lebanon; Betty Allen ('72), of Humboldt; Jennifer Harper ('13), formerly of Union City; and Chelsea Chandler ('15), of Fairview.

KATHERINE BURGESS

The University of Tennessee at Martin extended campus locations in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer will offer several new areas of study beginning with the spring 2016 semester. Students at these centers will now be able to complete a degree in business management or take courses to prepare for careers in the paralegal or health informatics and information management fields.

The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with a concentration in business management will be offered in a "blended" format, combining face-to-face, distance learning and online coursework, according to a news release. The full degree will be available at all four extended campus locations, with select courses offered at the UT Martin Somerset College of Business.

"We're trying to utilize our centers better and what we would hope is that this would allow someone, say from Jackson, to get a good amount of the courses on the Jackson center, but the degree itself is still issued from the Martin campus," Dickens said. "It just gives students who would like a UTM degree to be able to do that with less time on the main campus." Students at all four extended campus centers will also be able to take courses in preparation for careers as paralegals. These courses are recommended for those seeking to enter the legal field as legal assistants or certified paralegals through one of the national accrediting and certification entities. Those completing coursework in this area may be eligible to sit for the National Association of Legal Assistants examination and apply the courses toward the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree.

Courses are also available in pre-health informatics and information management to prepare students for application to a career or master's program in that field. Prerequisite courses for master's programs vary between institutions, but students who complete recommended coursework will be eligible for admission into most programs, the release said.

"All three of them are some of the hot areas in career opportunities today," said Tommy Cates, executive director of extended campus and online studies. "These degrees already exist on campus and we feel like we can deliver them into the extended campus centers and really benefit our students."

Early registration for the spring 2016 semester begins Nov. 9 and spring classes begin Jan. 14.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7080 or contact the UT Martin center in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley or Selmer.
High school juniors, seniors sought for WestStar summit

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program will host its fifth annual RisingStar Leadership Summit for high school juniors and seniors Nov. 19-20 on UT Martin’s main campus.

West Tennessee students involved in leadership roles in their schools or communities are encouraged to apply by Nov. 11.

Participating students will arrive at the Hampton Inn in Martin for registration from 4-4:30 p.m. Nov. 19. The first evening will include official university welcomes, ice-breaker activities, a fine dining experience and a student recreation rampage event.

Second-day activities will begin with a continental breakfast at 7:15 a.m. Nov. 20. Students will then participate in leadership team building activities before campus tours begin at 10:45 a.m. Students will be broken into groups in order to receive customized tours focused on areas of greatest personal interest.

Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor and co-founder of the WestStar Leadership Program, will serve as keynote speaker and offer instruction on motivational leadership at noon before students report to afternoon sessions.

Transportation from the motel and between all activities will be provided. Chaperones will also be present at all locations. Students are advised to dress casually for walking in November weather and wear tennis shoes for all activities.

Dinner on Thursday and lunch on Friday are included in the registration cost, as well as continental breakfast at the hotel Friday morning.

The registration fee is $120 per student, which includes lodging at the Hampton Inn in Martin, meals, materials and a RisingStar Summit T-shirt.

Applications may be downloaded at http://www.utm.edu/departments/weststar/events.php.

Interested students should send registration materials and payment to WestStar Leadership Program, 321 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. All checks should be made payable to the WestStar Leadership Program.

For more information, contact Jordan Jones, summit coordinator, WestStar Leadership Program, at weststar@utm.edu or (731) 881-3298.

Guest piano recital set for Saturday

Brian Ray, an adjunct instructor at Rhodes College, will give a piano recital of French music at 3 p.m. Saturday in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

The concert will feature Claude Debussy’s “Suite Bergamasque,” including the “Clair de Lune.” Ray will also play three additional Debussy works originally intended to be part of “Suite Bergamasque” and complete the program with Maurice’s Ravel’s “Le Tombeau de Couperin” and a selection of preludes by Robert Casadesus.

Ray is an adjunct with the keyboard faculty at Rhodes College in Memphis, where he teaches piano and harpsichord and serves as the departmental collaborative artist. He received his bachelor of arts degree in music from UT Martin and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Memphis.

Play slated at UT Martin

William Shakespeare’s beloved comedy “As You Like It” will come to the University of Tennessee at Martin stage Nov. 5-8.

Performances will begin at 8 p.m. Nov. 5-7, with a matinee at 3 p.m. Nov. 8, in the university’s Harriet Fulton Theatre.

Tickets will be available beginning Monday and may be purchased from the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts during regular office hours. Admission is $15 for adults and $5 for students and children younger than 12.

The Vanguard Theatre box office opens two hours before each performance and is located in the front lobby of the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.
UTM to host Miss Univ. of Tennessee Martin / Miss Tenn. Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant

By Erin Chesnut
Office of University Relations, UT-M

The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m., Nov. 14, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin campus. The application deadline for participants is Nov. 2.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is in its 53rd year, while this marks the 17th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant.

Both titles will be named during the same pageant. Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2016 semester are eligible for either crown. Women participating as a resident or full-time student in West Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. Those seeking this title must be a high school graduate or equivalent by June 30, 2016. All applicants must be no younger than 17 years of age on Nov. 14, 2015, and no older than 24 years of age on Dec. 31, 2016.

The Miss University of Tennessee at Martin / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions. Each contestant is scored individually from one to 10 in each category. Interviews will take place on the morning of the pageant and mandatory practice will occur in the afternoon.

Contestants are required to raise $100 for the Children’s Miracle Network to participate. The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not. The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500 and the second runner-up will receive $200. There is no runner-up for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Tickets will be available at the Boling University Center Information Desk beginning Nov. 3, or a limited number of tickets can be purchased at the door beginning at 5 p.m., Nov. 14. Advance ticket purchase is recommended. For more information and to receive application materials, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wltj.org or 731-881-7561.
Students visit manufacturing expo

Students representing 11 area high schools got a look at the present and gained a glimpse into the future when they took part in the first West Tennessee Manufacturing Expo at the Jackson Fairgrounds on Wednesday.

"I didn't know all these companies were in Jackson," said Jordan Chandler, a sophomore at Liberty High School. "I want to be in the engineering field, and I want to create something. We were told a lot about manufacturing, and it's not all about assembly lines."

Chandler was one of about 550 students to visit with individuals representing 23 manufacturers and educational institutions under one roof.

"We invited manufacturers to come in and talk to students," said Jack Laser, director of workforce development at Jackson State Community College. "We encouraged schools to bring younger students in, so they could prepare for the required subject matter required for manufacturing."

Laser said the students attending the expo were not the only people who did not know what industries are located in Jackson and Madison County.

"I talked to a lady last week whose son is attending college at UT Martin," he said. "He is majoring in industrial management, but he didn't know what manufacturers were in Jackson — and he's from Jackson."

Manufacturing headlined the expo, but Laser said other avenues were covered.

"Industry is not what it used to be, and that's why you need more education," he said. "Students also need to be taught soft skills — how to dress, attendance, communication, etiquette — we've built that into some of our programs at Jackson State."

Ron Acree, director of the Tennessee Small Business See Expo, Page 2B
Expo
Continued from Page 1B

Development Center at Jackson State Community College, said the expo served a dual purpose.

"This is good for the student to see what is available in manufacturing, but we also encourage them to continue their education after high school," he said. "But if you get the younger students involved, they can think of manufacturing as a career."

Ellen Hudson, human resources manager for Stanley Black & Decker, was part of a steering committee who helped set up the expo.

"We're hoping to introduce students to the jobs available in manufacturing," she said. "Thirty-four percent of my machinists will retire in the next three-to-five years, and it's getting more and more difficult to find skilled labor."

While looking to make the students aware of opportunities in manufacturing, Hudson said there are misconceptions that need to be addressed.

"Manufacturing is no longer just about coal mines," she said. "Working in manufacturing, you need computer and math skills, and you can work in a climate-controlled environment."

Toyota Bodine was represented by Jason Bates, administration manager and Tim Laprade, who works in production control management.

"We want to expose the students to different manufacturing products," Bates said. "This was an opportunity for high school kids to get exposure to different companies, the product made, how the product is made and the opportunity in manufacturing. There are a variety of jobs, but they all require education. You can be an accountant, or a business person working in manufacturing. It's not just technical jobs ... there are all types of jobs out there."

John McCommon, marketing and public relations coordinator at Jackson State Community College, said both the students and company representatives benefited from the expo.

"I think it went very well," he said. "Following the event, I did random interviews with exhibitors ... manufacturers and schools, checking to see how things went, and they all felt it was a positive event."

"It's a challenge to get the message out there — but this is going to be an event we can grow.

Reach David Thomas at (731) 425-9637. Follow him on Twitter @dgthomasbic

Appeals Court Judge to speak tonight at UTM

Tennessee Appeals Court Judge John Everett Williams, of Huntingdon, will discuss the new way judges are appointed in Tennessee during a lecture tonight at UT-Martin.

Williams graduated from Huntingdon High School and received a degree in criminal justice from UTM. He later earned a law degree from the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham and returned to Huntingdon to begin a law practice in 1981.

Governor Don Sundquist appointed Williams to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals in 1998, where he has served for the past 17 years.

Williams recently received the first Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UTM Criminal Justice Program in recognition of his longtime support of UT Martin criminal justice students.

Judge Williams will speak tonight at 6:00 in the Norman Campbell Lecture Hall, room 121 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building.

The public is invited to attend.

http://www.thunderboltradio.com
Miss UTM / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageants

The deadline for contestants to enter the Miss UT-Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival is Monday.

The annual Miss UT-Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageants will be held in the Harriet Fulton Theater at UTM on November 14th.

This will mark the 53rd year for the Miss UTM Pageant, while it's the 17th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant.

Both titles will be named during the same pageant. Students enrolled full-time at UTM through the spring 2016 semester are eligible for either crown. Women participating as a resident or full-time student in West Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Tickets are available at the Boling University Center Information Desk beginning November 3rd, or a limited number of tickets can be purchased at the door beginning at 5:00 the evening of the pageants.

Miss America, Miss Tennessee to visit several local schools

By LARRY C. BOWERS Banner Staff Writer

Miss Tennessee of 2015 Hannah Robison, will be in Cleveland next week as Gov. Bill Haslam’s official spokesperson for Character Education.

Miss Tennessee travels more than 80,000 miles each year talking with more than 50,000 schoolchildren.

She will be visiting two Cleveland City schools early in the morning Tuesday, and two Bradley County schools later that morning and after lunch.

She will open her visit at Cleveland Middle School at 7:15 a.m., and journey to Blythe-Bower Elementary at 8:45 a.m. At 10:30 a.m. she will be at Lake Forest Middle School, and end her visit with the Walker Valley High School Key Club at 1:30 p.m.

Miss Tennessee’s visit to Cleveland and Bradley County comes with an extra bonus. She will be joined by Miss America for 2016 Betty Cantrell of Warner Robins, Ga.

Robison was crowned Miss Tennessee on June 20 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson.

As the newly crowned Miss Tennessee, she serves as Gov. Haslam’s official spokesperson, and serves as Tennessee’s Goodwill ambassador for the five Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) hospitals across the state.

She also holds positions as an Arthritis Foundation ambassador, Official Friends of Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt and Volunteer Tennessee’s honorary board chair.
Hannah is a senior at The University of Tennessee at Martin, pursuing a bachelor of science degree in chemistry with a minor in psychology. At UTM, she has been on the Dean's List, a recipient of the HOPE Scholarship for four years, has worked on organic chemistry research projects under a UTM professor, and is a member of the American Chemical Society and The National Society of Leadership and Success.

She has worked for UTM as a general chemistry recitation leader and presented her organic chemistry research project at the 2014 American Chemical Society Southeastern Regional meeting.

For her outstanding leadership and success at UTM, Hannah was honored with the UTM Chancellor's Ambassador Award for academics and service.

Hannah has been awarded over $46,000 in college scholarships from her participation in the Miss America program. She received the coveted Miss Tennessee Quality of Life Award 2015, was presented Tennessee's first-ever Duke of Edinburgh Gold Medal, and was a preliminary talent winner and a preliminary lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit winner this year as she captured the Miss Tennessee crown.

Hannah traveled to Atlantic City, N.J., in September to compete for the title of Miss America and placed in the top seven. She is the first Miss Tennessee to win America's Choice at the Miss America Pageant and is also the first Miss Tennessee to be awarded one of five $5,000 STEM Education Scholarships.

She is also the first Miss Tennessee to be recognized by a separate panel of judges as first runner-up to the National Quality of Life Award for her work with the Arthritis Foundation, winning an additional $9,000 in scholarships.

As a chemistry major and an advocate for STEM, Hannah helped launch STEM programs in several Tennessee counties this year.

She loves science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, which is why she has chosen to be a promotor of STEM education throughout her year of service.

Over the past year, she has traveled to each of the CMN hospitals across the state, science experiment in hand, promoting her “STEM Day at CMN.”

During the children’s hospital visits, patients join Hannah in the playroom to conduct their own science experiments. If patients are too ill to leave their room, Hannah takes the science experiment to their bedside so they can participate.

She allows the children to have fun, learn about STEM, and take their minds off being in the hospital.

Miss America for 2016, Betty Cantrell, 20, of Georgia, has her own list of accomplishments. She attended Mount De Sales Academy, Wesleyan College, and Mercer University. Her platform in the Miss America Pageant was “Healthy Children, Strong America.”

She received scholastic honors in academic, music, and theater at Mercer and Wesleyan, and her ambition is to appear on Broadway with her classical vocal talent.