Santa’s Village comes alive with song and laughter

If Santa’s Village is open, there’s musical entertainment under way. Reba Wade, entertainment coordinator, makes sure of it.

The 21st Annual Santa’s Village, which provides the lights and sounds of the holidays and assists the area’s less fortunate, will feature 20 hours of vocal and instrumental performances by soloists, duets and groups.

“Santa’s Village, slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10, and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11, will be at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., Dec. 8. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.


Dec. 10 – 11 a.m., Katie Snider; 11:30 a.m., John Herron, Brennan Forrester, Zach Rea; 12:30 p.m., Matt Newsom, Lauren Lowry; 1 p.m., “Cheetah Girls,” Libby Lowry, Tabitha Dawson, Bridgett Turrentine, Selena McBride, Bailey Maxey, Madison Fagan; 1:30 p.m., Libby Lowry, Nealy Wade, Lauren Lowry; 2 p.m., Tabitha Dawson, Sarah Beavers, Jennifer Johnson, Melissa Johnson; 3 p.m., Lindsey Wade, Allie Baker, Haley Perkins, Graham Perkins; 4 p.m., Abbey Abad, Amber Verrillian, Kelsey Wiley, Shanna Chappell; 5 p.m., Christmas music, Missey Tracey, Becky Lee, Lee Elliott; 5:30 p.m., Jarod Poore; 6 p.m., Brian McWherter, Tassie Renee; 7 p.m., Kenny Presley, Jonathan McDowell, Rose Brawner, Aaronann Presley; and 8:30 p.m., Keith Dunning.

Dec. 11 – 12:40 p.m., Rose Brawner; 1 p.m., Janice White, Michael Brewer; 1:45 p.m., Allison Maxey, Mary Katherine Maxey; 2:45 p.m., Keith Dunning; 3 p.m., Larry Holder; 3:20 p.m., Janie Crews; 3:40 p.m., George Callison; and 4 p.m., Rose Brawner, Jonathan McDowell, John Herron and Brian McWherter.

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

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

Clifford the Big Red Dog will be at Santa’s Village from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., Saturday; and 1-3:30 p.m., Sunday.

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

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at (731) 587-6784.
Locals participate in Sixth Annual Little International Showmanship Contest

Becky Dykes of Dyersburg was the reserve champion sheep professional at the Sixth Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

Lynsey Harrison of Newbern was the fifth-place horse amateur at the Sixth Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

Adam McCall of Trimble was the reserve champion steer professional at the Sixth Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

Kimberly Scott of Newbern was the third-place horse amateur at the Sixth Annual Little International Showmanship Contest recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin at Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattleman's Association (SCA) at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattleman's Association.

Jackson doctor to speak at UTM

MARTIN, Tenn. — Dr. Mike Revelle, a Jackson physician, will deliver the fall commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Approximately 445 degrees are expected to be awarded during commencement at 11 a.m. Dec. 17 in the Elam Center.

Revelle, recent recipient of the school's Outstanding Young Alumni Award, is an emergency room physician at Jackson-Madison County Hospital. He is assistant medical examiner for the county and hosts "Healthwatch" on WBBJ-TV. He returned from Iraq last March after four months as a medical officer in the Army National Guard.

Get Out! • Dec. 1, 2005

SANTA'S VILLAGE
6 p.m. Dec. 8-9, 11 a.m. Dec. 10 and 1 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at UT Martin. Five service agencies will benefit from Santa's Village. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys. 587-6784.

JAZZ BAND
8 p.m. Dec. 8 at Harriet Fulton Theatre, Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin.

VOCAL STUDIO RECITAL
8 p.m. Monday at Harriet Fulton Theatre, Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin.

BRASS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE
8 p.m. Tuesday at Harriet Fulton Theatre, Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin.

PIANO ENSEMBLE
3 p.m. Sunday at Harriet Fulton Theatre, Fine Arts Building at UT Martin.

UT Martin piano ensemble to perform

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

Schubert was an early 19th Century composer revered by pianists for his enormous contribution to four-hand piano literature.

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

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

In addition, a special arrangement for five pianos of Schubert's well-known "Serenade" will be performed by UT Martin's faculty piano quintet, consisting of Harris, Dr. Scott Roberts, Dr. Fred Spano, Dr. Allison Nelson and Janet Finch.

Special guests on the program include four area high school students: Andrew Moore of South Fulton, Justin Crouch of Paris, Chad Keathley of Kenton and Letitia Lavender of Union City. They are from the studios of Linda Williams of Union City, Bettie Godfrey of Paris and Elaine Harris of Martin.

UT Martin students on the program include Linda Farmer of Dresden, Crystal Crockett of Summertown, Valerie Sanderson of Kenton, Rachel Chadwick of Martin and Patricia Hernandez of Franklin.

There is no admission charge and the public is invited to attend.
Tanner addresses foreign relations

By SABRINA BATES
Special to The Messenger

A local Congressman paid a visit to the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin and offered his slant on the nation's foreign relations to a room full of inquiring minds Wednesday evening.

A member of NATO, District 8 United States Congressman, John Tanner took the opportunity to briefly shed insight on the organization's role in the world before his focus turned toward the United States' relationship with China and the phenomenal deficit this country has incurred.

"What I am going to talk about is really going to be a mosaic of my time in Congress as it relates to the military, national security and international relationships," Tanner said to the group of students that had gathered in Watkins Auditorium as part of a lecture series on foreign relations.

After providing a brief history about the fall of the USSR and the termination of the Cold War, Tanner said, "for the first time in our lives, the U.S. stood without fear as a conventional military force. The bad part of that is that it changed the way our enemies thought about us."

"One of the things that has come from that is the fact that now, unlike then, I believe that international organizations and world opinions are much more important to us as Americans than they were when it was an East and West world. I believe that our own back is not only the best in this country, it's accurate timely intelligence, to know the who, what, where and how in enemies such as Al Qaeda or any other intelligence that tries to stop us," he added.

Addressing the importance of NATO and his 12-year service on the board, Tanner said, "We need friends — with eyes and ears. That treaty, arguably, has done more to stabilize Europe and has done more to provide for the common defense of this country and in Europe than in any other single event in the last century."

"What NATO has transformed into is no longer an inward-looking global security network, and that is where it is going now. It is the only multi-national organization on earth that actually has the means to do something militarily," he continued.

"As strong as we are internationally, we cannot isolate ourselves from our friends and allies. The United Nations is an organization where talk is important from the standpoint of world opinion, but it is not the place you go if you want to get something done, as it relates to our protection and our defense," Tanner shared as his comparison of NATO and the UN.

"It's not what the rest of the world thinks about us, it's what we know about the rest of the world. We can grow in our thinking of what the United States can do and what the United States can't do," he said.

Touching briefly on the topic of Iraq and the country's election scheduled for Dec. 15, Tanner provided a course of action that Congress is proposing to allow for their freedom and ease of their dependency on the United States as a stable force in their everyday lives.

"What we need to do immediately after the elections in Iraq is sit down with that newly-elected government and ask two questions: What is it they expect from us and, more importantly, what is it they expect from themselves," Tanner said.

"Our military has done everything they can do. They have done an excellent job. It's up to them now; it's their country. We can't do it all," he added.

Tanner also cited concern for the type of democracy that Iraq may eventually have as it relates to the type of democracy the U.S. has in terms of First Amendment rights of freedom of religion.

Tanner concluded his speech quoting President Jimmy Carter. "The highest position in our land is that of citizen and I truly believe that. You have the right to fire and hire us in Washington."

"Knowledge is going to be not only what saves us, from ourselves, but knowledge is the way we convince others around the world that our view of how the world should be is what they should consider and adopt," he said.
Business consultant to return with advice

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday.

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

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

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

Acree is scheduled for Thursday and will be available the second Thursday of each month from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., but the REED Center offers consulting by appointment any time, any day.

The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free of charge.

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

The REED Center is located at 920 University St. in Martin.

For information about additional services offered by the REED Center, visit the Web site www.utm.edu/reed.

The Paris Post-Intelligencer, Paris, Tenn.,

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Orienteering Day planned Saturday

An Orienteering Day is planned between 9 a.m. and noon Saturday at Memorial Park Extended, across the road from Memorial Park on Volunteer Drive. Parking will be at the park.

The event provides an opportunity for the public to become familiar with or practice the outdoor “thinking” sport using a map and compass.

In cooperation with the Paris Parks and Recreation Department, Senior Girl Scouts Laura Francisco and Kimmi Dieus of Henry County High School's Troop 503 created and designed several orienteering courses on site based on skill levels for beginners through advanced.

The venture completes their joint Girl Scout Gold Award project.

The courses also can benefit middle school age Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, school groups, Civil Air Patrol and other organizations or groups wanting to learn and/or practice their orienteering skills.

Professor Philip Smartt of the University of Tennessee at Martin and UTM senior Chambliss Roberts provided expertise and software to establish a GPS-accurate map based on course points enabling the girls to design several accurate orienteering courses.

Participants should dress for the weather and terrain.

Compasses and maps will be available for use on site.

For more information, contact the Paris Civic Center at 644-2517, Laura Francisco at 593-3616 or Kimmi Dieus at 642-4410.

UTM seeks to raise $15K for Red Cross

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

On Dec. 16, the fraternity will sponsor a black-tie gala at the National Guard Armory in Martin.

The cost is $35 per person and $70 for couples. Hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout the evening, along with beverages. A variety of music will be offered, including country, soul, rock, easy listening and karaoke.

All proceeds and donations will go to the local Red Cross chapter. Checks may be made to the Weakley County chapter of the American Red Cross. To reserve tickets, or for more information, such as time of event, send an e-mail to ctaylor@cityofmartin.net or dsmimmons@utm.edu.

What's Going On

SANTA'S VILLAGE

6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at UT Martin. Five service agencies will benefit from Santa's Village. Call 587-6784.
CLOTHING DONATION – Kendra Bell, Michelle Hayes, and Della Rogers, are members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. pose with Mrs. Betty Baker of We Care Ministry, in Martin, TN, with clothing donations for the Christmas holidays.

(Photos by Sherika Norris)

UNLOAD BOXES – Michelle Hayes, a member of Delta Sigma Theta, unloads boxes of clothing that are being taken to We Care Ministry to help those in need during the holidays.

(Photos by Sherika Norris)
'Stage' is set for 21st year of Santa's Village

The 21st annual Santa's Village is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11; at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Opening ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m., Dec. 8. Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of non-perishable foods and/or toys.

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

Santa's Village includes lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Among features are a giant poinsettia tree, horse-drawn wagon rides, Jingle Bell Square, with miniature shops, a skating pond and gazebo, an 8-foot snow globe, Frosty the Talking Snowman, MTD train display, the Silver Bell Carillon Tower, erected with 2006 canned foods and 54 arts and crafts booths. Clifford the Big Red Dog will be at Santa's Village from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m.; 1 p.m., 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., Saturday; and 1-3:30 p.m., Sunday.

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

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

SHOW THEIR CHRISTMAS SPIRIT – Della Rogers, president of the Eta Xi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Michelle Hayes a member of DST are showing their Christmas spirit by uploading boxes of clothing that are being taken to We Care Ministry to help those in need during the Christmas holidays.

(Photos by Sherika Norris)
China, the national debt and the military addressed at Tanner speech at UT Martin

By SABRINA BATES
Chief Staff Writer

A local congressman paid a visit to the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin and offered his slant on the nation’s foreign relations to a room full of inquiring minds Wednesday evening.

A member of NATO, District 8 United States Congressman John Tanner, took the opportunity to briefly shed insight on the organization’s role in the world before his focus turned toward the United States’ relationship with China and the phenomenal deficit this country has incurred.

“What I am going to talk about is really going to be a mini-mosaic of my time in Congress as it relates to the military, national security and to international relationships,” Tanner said to the group of students that had gathered in Watkins Auditorium as part of a lecture series on foreign relations.

After providing a brief history about the fall of the USSR and the termination of the Cold War, Tanner expressed, “for the first time in our lives, the US stood without fear as a conventional military force. The bad part of that is that it changed the way our enemies thought about us."

“One of the things that has come from that is the fact that now unlike then, I believe that international organizations and world opinions are much more important to us as Americans than they were when it was an East and West world. I believe that now our best is not only the best in this country, it’s accurate

“What NATO has transformed into is no longer an inward-looking defense oriented organization for territory in Europe, but a global security network and that is where it is going now. It is the only multinational organization on earth that actually has the means to doing something militarily,” he continued.

“As strong as we are internationally, we cannot isolate ourselves from our friends and allies. The United Nations is an organization where talk is important from the standpoint of world opinion, but it is not the place you go if you want to get something done, as it relates to our protection and our defense,” Tanner shared as his comparison of NATO and the UN.

FOCUSING ON ISSUES — University of Tennessee at Martin junior Jeremy Johnson of Martin (left) spent some time with Congressman John Tanner after his speech on foreign relations last week on campus. Tanner took the opportunity to address issues concerning the War in Iraq, the nation’s relationship with China and the accomplishments of NATO.
"It’s not what the rest of the world thinks about us, it’s what we know about the rest of the world. We can grow in our thinking of what the United States can do and what the United States can’t do," he cited.

Touching briefly on the topic of Iraq and the country’s election scheduled for Dec. 15, Tanner provided a course of action that Congress is proposing to allow for their freedom and ease of their dependency on the United States as a stable force in their everyday lives.

“What we need to do immediately after the elections in Iraq is sit down with that newly-elected government and ask two questions: What is it they expect from us and, more importantly, what is it they expect from themselves” Tanner shared.

“Our military has done every-

See Tanner, Page 4

Tanner

From Page 1

thing they can do. They have done an excellent job. It’s up to them now; it’s their country. We can’t do it all,” he added.

Tanner also cited concern for the type of democracy that Iraq may eventually have as it relates to the type of democracy the U.S. has in terms of First Amendment rights of freedom of religion.

Tanner concluded his speech quoting President Jimmy Carter, “The highest position in our land is that of citizen and I truly believe that. You have the right to fire and hire us in Washington.”

“Knowledge is going to be not only what saves us, from ourselves, but knowledge is the way we convince others around the world that our view of the how the world should be is what they should consider and

LONG TIME — Congressman John Tanner (left) seems pleased to see long-time friend Linda Ramsey after his speech on foreign relations at the university last Wednesday evening.

address the national debt, a subject that seems to ignite passion in the Blue Dog Democrat.

“I think the bigger threat with

eign entities like China hold an enormous amount of our paper. It seems to be very dangerous,” the Congressman shared.

“We need to pay attention to it because it is very real, but it is hard to do so when the market has not reacted to this foreign held debt. China and Japan together hold over one trillion dollars of our debt. When I tell people how much that it is to get to a billion dollars stacked, it’s as high as the Empire State Building to get to a trillion dollars, it’s 1,000 times that of the height of the Empire State Building,” he stressed.

According to Tanner, his concern is how this debt will affect his grandchildren and younger generations and the flood of foreign goods into America’s market, which only makes this country more vulnerable to Asia.

Tanner closed out the evening by stating he will continue to educate people about the national deficit and China’s share holdings in this country in the hope of receiving a reaction

SHOOTING THE BREEZE — University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan (right) had an opportunity to chat with Congressman John Tanner after his foreign relations speech on campus last week.

Tanner allowed students a chance to pose questions in relation to key issues facing the nation and one such question gave Tanner the opportunity to

regard to China is the growing amount of our privately held debt that China is buying. I’ve talked a lot about this. It seems to me that the financial vulnerability that is created when for-
PHI MU ALPHA TO HOST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERT — Phi Mu Alpha invites everyone to attend their third annual Benefit Christmas Concert at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the Fine Arts auditorium at UT Martin. The first two years of the concert they raised money to be donated toward local Tennessee high school music programs, but this year they have decided to contribute the funds raised to a high school music program located in New Orleans to help with Hurricane Katrina relief. Dan Spencer, concert coordinator, said, "With the current decline of music programs in public schools in the New Orleans area, along with the tragedy of Katrina, we [Phi Mu Alpha] find it quite important to help this area in their time of need." Although the concert is mainly to raise money for a cause, you do not have to contribute to attend. This year's program includes songs like "O Holy Night," performed by Steven Stewart and Joshua Gatlin. "I Can Only Imagine" from MercyMe is being performed by Josh Gatlin and Adrian Baker. A Christmas medley will be performed by a brass quartet, and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" will be performed by Linda Farmer and Dr. Elaine Harriss. The Phi Mu Alpha Choir along with other guests will also be performing. The schools that have previously received contributions to their music programs are South Fulton High School and Halls High School. In response to why they chose New Orleans this year, Steven Westbrook, Phi Mu Alpha choir director, said, "We base our decisions on where we all think the donation is needed most. Musical instruments were damaged and will need to be repaired and replaced. Music will need to be replaced. It was a unanimous decision that New Orleans area music programs were in need this year."

Business consultant returns with advice Dec. 8

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED) from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Dec. 8. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs. This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping. Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

Acree is scheduled for Dec. 8 and will be available from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, but the REED Center offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 920 University St., in Martin.

For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.
Dr. Revelle to speak at UTM fall commencement

Dr. Mike Revelle, a Jackson physician, host of the WBBJ-TV “Healthwatch” program and a University of Tennessee at Martin alumnus, will deliver the fall commencement address at UT Martin.

Commencement will be at 11 a.m., Dec. 17, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus. Approximately 445 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Dr. Revelle, who recently received the UT Martin Outstanding Young Alumni Award, is an emergency room physician at Jackson-Madison County Hospital. He also is Madison County assistant medical examiner and medical director for Medical Center Emergency Services, Hardeman County Emergency Medical Services, Crockett County First Responder Program and Jackson State Community College Paramedic Program. He is resident delegate to the board of directors, Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians.

In March, Revelle returned from Iraq after serving four months as a medical officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

He is a native of Crockett Mills, graduating from UT Martin in 1993 with a bachelor’s degree in agriculture and a doctor of medicine from UT College of Medicine in 1999. Revelle was named UT Martin Outstanding Male Graduate and was vice president of Alpha Gamma Rho. He and his wife, Krista Freeman Revelle, have three children, Collin, Davis and Madeline.

Chancellor Nick Dunagan will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Jerry Gresham, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the processional marshals will be Dr. Robert LeMaster, faculty senate president; Dr. John Schommer, faculty senate vice president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement.

Immediately following commencement ceremonies, a reception will be hosted in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse.
CONCERT PLANNED — Phi Mu Alpha will present a concert Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Phi Mu Alpha to host Christmas Benefit Concert**

By MEGHAN J. GREEN

Phi Mu Alpha will present their third annual Benefit Christmas Concert in the Fine Arts auditorium Wednesday at 8 p.m.

It is their third year to raise money to benefit a local Tennessee high school music program. This year they have decided to contribute to a high school music program located in New Orleans. In hopes to help with the Katrina Relief Program.

Dan Spencer, concert coordinator, said, “With the current decline of music programs in public schools in the New Orleans area, along with the tragedy of Katrina, we find it quite important to help this area in their time of need.”

Although the concert is mainly to raise money for a cause those attending do not have to contribute in order to attend.

This year’s program is full of Christmas music ready for all to come hear. It entails songs like “O Holy Night” performed by Steven Stewart and Joshua Gatlin. “I Can Only Imagine” from Mercy Me is being performed by Josh Gatlin and Adrian Baker. “Christmas Medley” will be performed by a brass quartet, and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” will be performed by Linda Farmer and Dr. Elaine Harriss. The Phi Mu Alpha Choir along with other guests will also be performing.

In prior years Phi Mu Alpha has contributed to local Tennessee high school music programs. The first year they contributed to South Fulton High School. Last year they contributed to Halls High School.

Steven Westbrook, Phi Mu Alpha choir director, said, “We base our decisions on where we all think the donation is needed most. Musical instruments were damaged and will need to be repaired and replaced. Music will need to be replaced. It was a unanimous decision that New Orleans area music programs were in need.”

**Editor’s note:** Meghan J. Green is the University of Tennessee at Martin Pacer photographer.

RECEIVES DEGREE — Hunter Galloway (right) was recently presented the American FFA Degree at the 78th National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., by national vice president Rachael McCall. It is the highest degree awarded by the National FFA Organization and recognizes Galloway’s demonstrated leadership abilities and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing and service programs. Less than one in 165 FFA members advance through their local chapter and state FFA degree programs to earn this National Degree. Galloway, son of Jimmy and Renee Gaylord, is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Martin, majoring in pre-veterinary studies. He is a member of the South Fulton FFA chapter and his agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor is Bryant Driver. He received a gold American FFA Degree key, wallet ID card and a certificate to commemorate the achievement. The recognition program is sponsored by BASF, Case IH, The Farm Credit System and Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The National FFA Convention is the nation’s largest annual youth gathering, welcoming students, parents and educators from all across the United States. FFA is a national youth organization of 490,017 student members preparing for leadership careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,210 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.
Revelle named UTM commencement speaker

Hardeman County Emergency Medical Services, Crockett County First Responder Program and Jackson State Community College Paramedic Program. He is resident delegate to the board of directors, Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians. In March, Revelle returned from Iraq after serving four months as a medical officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

He is a native of Crockett Mills, graduating from UT Martin in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a doctor of medicine from UT College of Medicine in 1999. Revelle was named UT Martin Outstanding Male Graduate and was vice president of Alpha Gamma Rho. He and his wife, Krista Freeman Revelle, have three children, Collin, Davis and Madeline. Chancellor Nick Dunagan will preside over the exercises and confer degrees.

Immediately following commencement ceremonies, a reception will be hosted in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Travel-study program offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering a travel-study program to Barbados. The trip is scheduled for May 15-21. It can be used for an undergraduate, graduate or non-credit course.

Participants will visit Harrison's Cave to observe the gallery of stalactites hanging from the cave's ceiling and stalagmites that emerge from the ground. The cave also features streams of clear water and waterfalls.

They will also tour markets of the West Indies, the Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station, food production facilities, a convention center and museums. Participants will have free time each day to enjoy the beach.

For more information, contact Dr. Georgina Awipi, associate professor of nutrition, at 731-881-7101 or gawipi@utm.edu.

Tennessee Writers Alliance contests announced

The Tennessee Writers Alliance is sponsoring a competition for the TWA Creative Nonfiction Award and the TWA Sudden Fiction Award. University of Tennessee at Martin faculty members are organizing the contest. Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 28. The entry fee is $10 for TWA members and $15 for non-members. Winners in each category will receive $500 for first place, $250 for second place and $100 for third place. Winners will also receive an invitation to read at the TWA Conference in June. For guidelines and more information, visit www.tn-writers.org.

What's Going On

SANTA'S VILLAGE
6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at UT Martin. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of foods and/or toys. Call 587-6784.
UT MARTIN SENIOR DAY

Alex Gammon, a senior at South Fulton High School, attended the recent University of Tennessee at Martin Senior Preview Day. More than 200 seniors were in attendance at UT Martin, where they received information about a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs, and the various university academic programs. Gammon is the daughter of Stanley and Benita Gammon of South Fulton. (Photo submitted)

Galloway awarded degree

Hunter Galloway, a member of the South Fulton Future Farmers of America Chapter, recently received the American FFA Degree. Earning the degree means Galloway is one of a select group of individuals to be recognized for years of academic and professional excellence. The honor was presented Oct. 29, at the 78th National FFA Convention, held in Louisville.

The American FFA Degree recognizes demonstrated leadership ability and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing or service programs. To be eligible, members must have earned and productively invested $7,500 through a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in which they start, own or hold a professional position in an existing agriculture enterprise. Recipients must also make it their mission to demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement.

Each award recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key, certificate and a wallet identification card. Of 476,732 members nationwide, Galloway was one of more than 2,900 to be recognized in 2005. The degree recognition program is sponsored by BASF, Case IH, The Farm Credit System and Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

FFA is a national organization of 476,732 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,223 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Visit wwwffa.org for more information.

Hunter Galloway is pictured receiving his American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention in Louisville. Presenting the degree is Rachael McCall, 2004-05 National FFA southern region vice president. (Photo submitted)
University of Tennessee Martin fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi has set an annual fundraising goal of $15,000 to be donated to the American Red Cross Weakley County Chapter. Fraternity members and others pictured at the kick-off are (from left, front row): Louis Ragsdale, coordinator of Greek Life and Student Organizations; Lance Amos; Abner Smith; Cindy Young, local Red Cross chapter manager; Celeste Taylor, local Red Cross chapter chairman; and Cori Hill. In the back row: Lyndele McCullough; Darrell Simmons, fraternity adviser; and Rayvon Sims.

COMING HOME — Jackie Hendricks, a native of Union City and a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she received her bachelor of science degree in criminal justice, will be speaking at Everfaithful Missionary Baptist church at 817 East Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Union City Sunday at 3 p.m. Mrs. Hendricks makes her home in Jackson, where she moved in 1998. The public is invited to attend, according to the pastor, the Rev. Harry Hayes.

Get Out! • Dec. 8, 2005

FACULTY ART EXHIBITION
Through Dec. 16 in the Fine and Performing Arts Building at UT Martin.
Aquaculture research boosted by grant

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

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

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

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

Business consultant returns with advice

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

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping. Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

Carah Hooten, a senior at Westview High School, attended the recent University of Tennessee at Martin Senior Preview Day. More than 200 seniors were in attendance at UT Martin, where they received information about a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs, and the various university academic programs. Hooten is the daughter of Al and Debbie Hooten, right.

Business consultant returns with advice December 8; consulting available every day

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED) from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., December 8. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping. Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

Acree is scheduled for December 8 and will be available the second Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., but the REED Center offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 920 University Street, Martin, TN 38237.

For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.
Revelle to speak at UT Martin fall commencement services

Dr. Mike Reveille

Dr. Mike Reveille, a Jackson physician, host of the WBBI-TV Healthwatch program and a University of Tennessee at Martin alumus, will deliver the fall commencement address at UT Martin. Commencement will be at 11 a.m., Dec. 17, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus. Approximately 445 degrees are expected to be awarded.

Dr. Reveille, who recently received the UT Martin Outstanding Young Alumni Award, is an emergency room physician at Jackson-Madison County Hospital. He also is Madison County assistant medical examiner and medical director for Medical Center Emergency Services, Hardeman County Emergency Medical Services, Crockett County First Responder Program and Jackson State Community College Paramedic Program. He is resident delegate to the board of directors, Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians. In March, Reveille returned from Iraq after serving four months as a medical officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

He is a native of Crockett Mills, graduating from UT Martin in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a doctor of medicine from UT College of Medicine in 1999. Reveille was named UT Martin Outstanding Male Graduate and was vice president of Alpha Gamma Rho. He and his wife, Krista, Freeman Reveille, have three children, Collin, Davis and Madeline. Chancellor Nick Dunagan will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Jerry Gresham, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the professional marshals will be Dr. Robert LeMaster, faculty senate president; Dr. John Schommer, faculty senate vice president; Al Hooten, vice chancellor for finance and administration, and Len Solomon, vice chancellor for university advancement.

Immediately following commencement ceremonies, a reception will be hosted in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Aquaculture research boosted by grant

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

UT Martin Visual Arts Society plans artist market

The UT Martin Visual Arts Society is planning Left Bank Artist Market for the holidays for two Saturdays in December. The informal market will occupy the Farmer's Market space in the parking lot between C.E. Weldon Public Library and railroad tracks on Main Street in Martin from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., December 10.

UT Martin students and local artists will have works for sale, including pottery, paintings, weaving, turned wood bowls and stained glass creations. The Left Bank Art Market provides access to locally produced works of art for holiday shoppers.

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

By David Fisher
Staff Reporter

The opening ceremony for the 21st annual Santa’s Village will get underway at 5:45 p.m., this Thursday Dec. 8, at the Ned R. Chatter Agricultural Complex, located on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Martin, and continue through Sunday.

Santa’s Village offers visitors a winter wonderland for young and old alike, while donations of food and toys collected during the four-day event will be sure to make the holiday season a happier time for those less fortunate. Service agencies that will split the donations this year include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers and Chimes for Charity. This year, those agencies plan to assist more than 1,571 families.

In addition to a schedule of continuous entertainment, some of the highlights at this year’s Santa’s Village include: colorful Christmas lights and holiday displays; a giant poinsettia tree; horse-drawn wagon rides; Jingle Bell Square, with miniature shops, a skating pond and gazebo; an 8-foot snow globe; Frosty the Talking Snowman; MTD train display; Clifford the Big Red Dog; horse-drawn wagon rides; the Silver Bell Carillon Tower, which will be erected with 2006 canned foods; and 54 arts and crafts booths.

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

For those planning on attending, the days and hours of operation are as follows: 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8 and Friday Dec. 9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, Dec. 8
5:45 p.m. - Martin Middle School Chorus
6:00 p.m. - Welcome and announcements
6:15 p.m. - Santa Claus with West view Marching Band; Martin Elementary Student Council and Music Class
7:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Clifford the Big Red Dog
6:45 p.m. - Magical Mink’s Magic Show
7:00 p.m. - Christmas favorites - vocals: Rose Brawner, John Herron, Mary Katherine Maxey, Brian McWherter, Tassie Renee’, Kelsey Wiley, and Lindsey Wade.

Friday, Dec. 9
6:00 p.m. - Laura Carson
6:20 p.m. - Cassie Capps
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Clifford the Big Red Dog
7:00 p.m. - Mary Katherine Maxey and Brian McWherter

Saturday, Dec. 10
11:00 a.m. - Katie Snider piano
11:30 a.m. - John Herron, Brennen Forrester, and Zach Rea
12:30 p.m. - Matt Newsome and Lauren Lowry
1:00 p.m. - “Cheetah Girls” - Libby Lowry, Tabitha Dawson, Bridgett Turrentine, Selena McBride, Bailey Maxey, and Madison Pagan
1:30 p.m. - Libby and Lauren Lowry, Nealley Wade and Nikki Donaldson
2:00 p.m. - Tabitha Dawson, Sarah Beavers, Jennifer and Melissa Johnson - violin duets
3:00 p.m. - Lindsey Wade, Allie Baker, Haley Perkins and Graham Perkins
4:00 p.m. - Abbey Abad, Amber Vermillion, Kelsey Wiley and Shanna Chapple Holder
5:00 p.m. - “Christmas Music at the Piano” - Missy Tracey, Becky Lee and Lee Eliot
5:30 p.m. - Jarod Poore
6:00 p.m. - Brian McWherter and Tassie Renee’
7:00 p.m. - Kenny Presley, Jonathan McDowell, Aarorn Presley, and Rose Brawner
8:30 p.m. - Keith Dunning

Sunday, Dec. 11
12:40 a.m. - Rose Brawner piano
1:00 p.m. - Janice White and Michael Brewer
1:45 p.m. - Allison Maxey and Mary Katherine Maxey
2:45 p.m. - Keith Dunning
3:00 p.m. - Anna Chappell Holder
3:20 p.m. - Jamie Crews
3:40 p.m. - George Callison
4:00 p.m. - Rose Brawner, John Herron, Jonathan McDowell, and Brian McWherter

Clifford The Big Red Dog schedule:
Thursday, Dec. 8: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 9: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 3-5 p.m., and 7-9 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 11: 1-3:30 p.m.

Writers Alliance announces short prose contests

The Tennessee Writers Alliance is sponsoring a competition for the TWA Creative Nonfiction Award and the TWA Sudden Fiction Award. University of Tennessee at Martin faculty members Dr. William Ahlswede, instructor of English, and Dr. Rebel Reavis, assistant professor of sociology, are organizing the contest.

Contest judges are Sharyn McCrum and Pamela Duncan. Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 28. The entry fee is $10 for TWA members and $15 for non-members. Winners in each category will receive $500 for first place, $250 for second place and $100 for third place. Winners will also receive an invitation to read at the TWA Conference in June. For guidelines and more information, visit www.tn-writers.org.

Barbados travel study planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering a travel-study program to Barbados. The trip is scheduled for May 15-21. It can be used for an undergraduate, graduate or non-credit course.

Participants will visit Harrison’s Cave to observe the gallery of stalactites hanging from the cave’s ceiling and stalagmites that emerge from the ground. The cave also features streams of clear water and waterfalls.

They will also tour markets of the West Indies, the Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station, food production facilities, a convention center and museums. Participants will have free time each day to enjoy the beach. For more information, contact Dr. Georgina Awipi, associate professor of nutrition, at 881-7101 or gawipi@utm.edu.
Santa Claus, helping the unfortunate, lights, music ... Santa's Village has something for everyone.

A world of wonder

SANTA'S VILLAGE CELEBRATES THE JOY OF THE HOLIDAYS — Allison Martine, a University of Tennessee at Martin student majoring in agriculture, is painting the 2,006 canned goods interpretation of the Bell Towers which is sponsored by E.W. James. Santa's Village is open to the public at the Ned R. McWherter Agriculture Pavilion on the UT Martin campus all throughout the weekend. The event opens this evening and will be open for four days celebrating the holiday season. See the accompanying story on Page Four.

Photo by Sherika Norris
Santa’s Village celebrates 21 years by offering holiday wonder

By SARA REID

Staff Writer

This weekend marks the opening of a monumental holiday event for the city of Martin. For 21 years, this event has brought not only the joy and happiness of the Christmas season, but most importantly the even stronger message of unselfishly giving so that everyone might experience the true meaning of the upcoming special time of year.

For many Martin citizens, growing up with Santa’s Village provided them with their first glimpse of Old St. Nick.

For everyone in the Martin area and beyond, the annual event serves as a constant reminder of how much the pulling together of town and university in the humble name of philanthropy really makes Christmas brighter for those on the receiving end of gift giving.

Santa’s Village, located in the Ned McWherter Agricultural

CANDY CANE LANE – Russ Ratkowski, an animal science student from UTM, is carefully mounting steel rods into the ground to place candy canes.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE – Brad Borneman, from Martin of the Park and Recreational committee, is double coating the Liberty Stable cabin with paint.

Complex, is set to officially open today from 6 to 9 p.m. Additionally, the event will be open tomorrow from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

The event will feature Jingle Bell Square, the always popular MTD train, the petting farm for animal lovers, children’s rides, an 8’ snow globe, a giant poinsettia tree, Clifford the Big Red Dog, 2006 Can Bell Tower, entertainment and more.

“Santa will be there all the time for pictures. The rides and arts and crafts will also be there all the time,” Charlotte Calderaro of Martin Parks and Recreation stated.

Santa’s Village started off small in its inaugural year of 1985, but has grown by leaps and bounds since then thanks in large part to its dedication to the effort to bring in non-perishable food items and toys for the less fortunate of the area. A crowd-drawing veteran, last year the event brought in 1,471 families with over 4,000 individuals. From this group, Santa’s Village amassed 86,000 pounds of food.

This year, Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Suiter hopes for an attendance of 1,500 families to bring in even more food and toys.

The opening ceremony today will feature the Martin Middle School Chorus at 5:45 p.m. Welcome and announcements will be given at 6 and at 6:15, the jolly man in red will be marching in with the Westview band along with the Martin Elementary Student Council and the music class.

At 6:45, a performance will be given by Magical Mink’s Magic Show and then at 7, the entertainment from Reba Wade’s program will begin and will run through the remainder of the four day event.

Martin Parks and Recreation invites the public to come to this legendary Martin holiday event that has helped to make a huge difference in the lives of so many community members one small canned item at a time.

For more information on Santa’s Village, call (731) 587-6784.
ATTENDS SENIOR DAY — Alex Gammon (center), a senior at South Fulton High School, attended the recent University of Tennessee at Martin Senior Preview Day. More than 200 seniors were in attendance at UT Martin, where they received information about a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs and the various university academic programs. Miss Gammon was joined by her parents, Stanley and Benita Gammon.

Writers alliance sets prose contest

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For guidelines and more information, visit the Web site www.tn-writers.org.

Jackson teen wins at UTM cattle show

Tara Taylor, of Jackson, was the grand champion steer amateur and the overall amateur reserve champion at the sixth annual Little International Showmanship Contest held at the University of Tennessee Martin’s Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The show was organized and staged by the Student Cattlemen’s Association at UT Martin. The event teaches students how to show different types of animals. A professional was paired with an amateur in each classification. SCA is a student organization at UT Martin affiliated with the Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association.
Colleges need to raise graduation rates

By Katharine Mosher, kmosher@nashvillecitypaper.com
December 12, 2005

Gov. Phil Bredesen is shining a spotlight on Tennessee’s dropout rate among college students, challenging higher education officials to increase the graduation rate by 10 percent.

The number of students graduating within six years from a University of Tennessee school is 57 percent, according to the latest data from the UT system.

Among Tennessee Board of Regents universities, the six-year graduation rate is 42.6 percent.

Bredesen said he has heard a lot of strategies to attract increasing numbers of students to college, but he is concerned about the number of people who enter college and subsequently do not finish.

"... We have lots of people who walked through the front door of the college, presumably with the intention of spending two years or four years and getting a degree, and then backed out," Bredesen said. "Why did that happen?"

Completion rates vary by university and community college, influenced by the different populations and missions of each institution.

Within the UT system, graduation rates range from 47 percent at the Martin campus to 63 percent at Knoxville.

UT-Martin is in the second year of using its student success center to provide intimate support to improve the graduation rates of low-income college students and students with disabilities.

Among the interventions is a learning contract that delineates each student’s goals and their plan for working toward them.

Tennessee’s community college graduation rate is much lower, 25 percent, partly because not everyone there intends to complete a degree and they serve many older working students with obligations that supersede schoolwork.

Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) schools are looking for new approaches to working with students who come to college needing remedial work, according to Chancellor Charles Manning.

"If a student has to come in and take a fair amount of that ... that’s pretty discouraging," Manning said, adding students may feel like they are not moving forward.

One approach is for students to tackle college readiness courses through dual-enrollment courses, college courses students can take in high school.

They earn dual credit and can use a new lottery grant so tuition for two courses a year is virtually free.

Manning said the worst case scenario is for a student to take on debt to pay for college and not complete a degree, so TBR is trying to offer more need-based scholarships.

He said people may think they cannot afford a college education, but he believes more people now cannot afford not to go to college.

A $10 million ACCESS program seeks to recruit more students straight out of high school who are not considering college.
"We're trying to get more people into and through education who 30 years ago may have been able to live a very satisfactory life without going to college," Manning said.

Bredesen said he might be willing to fund the right big-ticket item for higher education if it seeks to revolutionize some aspect of Tennessee's educational climate.

"Two (million) and $2.5 million for UT to add a professor or a building here or something is one thing, but I'm looking at five more years here I'd like to look at something that's really transformational," Bredesen said.

"Some dramatic change in the number of people who stayed in college would be transformational."

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**CORN ECONOMY** — Federal officials visited the Obion County Chamber of Commerce office in Union City Friday to formally present a $150,000 check to representatives of Ethanol Grain Processors, a new plant planned for the Obion area. Attending the event were (from left) state Sen. Don McLeary; Dr. Jim Byford, dean of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, University of Tennessee at Martin; Obion Mayor Patsy Barker; Obion County Mayor Gaylon Long; James Sanders, area director of Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Baxter Sanders, president, Ethanol Processing Plant board of directors; and Van Sylie, USDA Rural Development specialist. Sanders said the board can use the $150,000 grant from USDA as needed for the new plant. "It will be a good outlet for corn grown by local farmers. It will also provide jobs in the Obion area," Baxter Sanders said. "We hope we can produce so much ethanol, it'll help reduce dependence on foreign oil. Right now you can buy a mixture that has 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline. We hope the day comes when you can buy a mixture of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline."
Graduate focused on goals in broadcasting, got early career start

Like some of his peers, Cody Alcorn arrived at the University of Tennessee at Martin undecided about his future. What transpired during the next four years could be a textbook case about how to focus on goals, graduate and then begin a career. Except that Alcorn, who will graduate in December with a bachelor of arts degree in communications and a concentration in broadcasting, interned with a top-16 market station in Phoenix, Ariz., and then began working full-time at WBBJ-TV in Jackson while still in school.

"Everything has fallen into place when it needed to," said Alcorn, who completed the summer internship at KPHO-TV in Phoenix last summer and is the only general-assignment reporter for the WBBJ 10 o’clock news.

It was his interest in rodeo and the fact that several friends attended UT Martin that led Alcorn, a native of Sikeston, Mo., here. The campus was just far enough away from home. "I looked around for colleges close to home. I had a lot of choices. I came and visited... and ended up really liking the campus. I’d always heard good things about the campus," he said. "Rodeo added to it."

Alcorn initially pursued accounting while continuing his interest in rodeo events with the UT Martin rodeo team for two years. He appreciates the rodeo program for the friendships he developed and the many lessons that made him more independent. He was not a scholarship team member, however, so when he transported his two horses and traveled with the team, it was at his own expense - hotel, gas and entry fees.

"It was fun. We got to travel a lot," he said. "You’re on your own. You manage your time, your money. I liked it. Rodeo teaches you to be independent. You learn responsibility and respect. I still rope... when I go home, just more as a hobby." Alcorn has been involved in rodeos since he was 10, following his father and brother, who continue to "rope."

But when Alcorn decided to become a broadcast major, the time and money he spent on rodeo did not fit his new schedule or his career plans. He realized that he could not travel on weekends and devote the time he thought was necessary to broadcasting. "It was a big decision," he said, but added, "I knew where I wanted to be. I set goals that I wanted to do, and rodeo - it just didn’t fit in. It’s something that I can pick back up down the road when I get settled."

Settled is not something that comes to mind when describing Alcorn or his schedule. Since September, he has worked five days a week at WBBJ, driving 100 miles a day to Jackson and back, after attending classes.

Following his first day of "shadowing" at WBBJ, he arrived for work the next day at 3 a.m. and was told he would be "live" on the five, six and 10 o’clock newscasts from the West Tennessee State Fair in Jackson. "It was pretty much a test. I was nervous, you could tell, but I knew where I was, and I said the right station." Since that time, in addition to covering a broad spectrum of news, "I’ve gotten two breaking stories. I’ve made mistakes. You build on them. It’s been an awesome experience."

Alcorn credits the UT Martin faculty and that summer internship in Phoenix in preparing him for his first paid broadcasting position at WBBJ.

"I owe a lot to the faculty," he said, adding that he developed good relationships with his communications professors. "They’re there to help you in any way possible. I took my first mass media class, and I knew. It’s something I’ve always liked."

Even though things have "fallen into place," Alcorn does not leave much to chance. In addition to broadcast skills, he gained experience as a daily newspaper reporter one semester. He landed the KPHO-TV position, an unpaid summer internship, and worked alongside students from New York University, Kansas State and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. The hours were long, but he did whatever needed to be done.

When he first called KPHO, a CBS affiliate, the executive producer he spoke to knew exactly where UT Martin was located, previously serving a stint at WPSD-TV in Paducah. "It’s big time out there, and they knew our school," After signing a contract with KPHO, a No. 2 market station in San Francisco offered Alcorn an internship, but he honored his commitment to KPHO.

"Coming out of college... it’s all about hands-on experience," he said. "In this business, it’s who you know, and what kind of impression you leave on them." With that in mind, Alcorn is tenacious about maintaining contacts and networking in the industry.

Alcorn said he will know when the time is right to leave WBBJ. "The opportunity knocked for them to put me on the air while I was still in my senior year in college." And, while he enjoys field reporting, his ultimate goal is the anchor chair. If the anchor chair is at a major network, so much the better.

"Realistically, when I get enough experience and the time is right, I could go back to Phoenix and stay there for a while."

But just awhile. "There are too many things you can do in this field. I want to travel; not stay anywhere too long. Opportunity knocks. I’m not going to let a lot of things stop me at this point."
Christmas in Weakley County
Santa’s Village offers a world of possibility

By SARA REID
Staff Writer

For the 21st year in a row, a local well-known fact was proven true. Santa’s Village with its entertainment, excitement and Christmas splendor has the power to bring in visitors from all over the area to one little corner of Martin in the name of a great time and a worthy cause.

Barbara Sellers and Beverly Ofenheusle of the Beta Lambda chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa in Obion County were just two of the many volunteers collecting canned food and toy donations at the entrance to the event.

“We volunteered for various jobs. This is the first time the chapter has participated in this event,” Sellers explained.

Sellers, a teacher at Black Oak Elementary in Hornbeak, and Ofenheusle, a teacher at South Fulton Elementary, both described the atmosphere and the Christmas spirit of the event as “tremendous.”

Always a crowd favorite, Justin Burress of Milan showed up for the third year with his animal caravan known as The Petting Place.

Bringing with him goats, sheep, llamas, pigs, chickens, a turkey and even hybrid zedons, Burress expressed that his favorite part of coming to the event was “getting to see the kids see the animals.”

Never short on musical talent, songs with themes ranging from Christmas to Broadway echoed throughout the complex for the entire four-day duration of Santa’s Village.

Rose Brawner of Gleason was one of the many spotlight performers from Reba Wade’s entertainment lineup.

“This is my second year. I just love seeing the people smile. It makes it all worthwhile,” she remarked.

“I used to be shy. I was so nervous. You just have to keep doing it. Keep at it.”

Not only were events going on at floor level, but another very important part of Santa’s Village was taking place around the circumference of the top level — the arts and crafts vendors.

Village veteran and Arlington native Lillian Dooley came back for her 12th year of selling. She offered such items as sequined purses and jewelry.

“This really gets you into the holiday spirit. It gets you ready for the holidays,” she stated.

“I really enjoy coming. We always have big crowds. We have had good luck with the Soybean Festival. This is just a nice atmosphere,” Joyce Gunnels, a jewelry vendor from Union City, said.

Ricky Davis from Atwood was back for his fourth year of selling hand-painted and crafted wood work items.

“I just enjoy it,” he remarked. “I enjoy being around the Christmas area.”

Making its way onto the newcomer list was Pets N Peace, a tombstone crafting service for departed animals.

“It’s totally original,” Martin native and project inventor Joyce Klidies stated.

She got the idea when area children were playing at her house. She asked them if they had given their fathers anything for Father’s Day.

Finding out they hadn’t, she gave them the idea of making stone signs as gifts. One boy decided to make one for his dog and the rest, as they say, is history.

Along with the huge variety in entertainment and vendors came another huge variety, but this time, in numbers.

As the inflatables were being deflated, lights were being turned off and the decorations were being taken down, Parks and Recreation director Dennis Sutler briefly summed up the success of the event by giving recognition to those who helped the 21st Santa’s Village to be the huge event it is.

“I want to thank everyone for making Santa’s Village a great success,” he concluded.

With the overwhelming number of donations, Santa’s Village’s 21st anniversary shows heart and love of community from the many volunteers who participate each year.

Next year’s event certainly has a tough act to follow, but as long as it continues to draw people from far and wide through its doors bearing donations and well wishes, its success will remain for years to come.

SILLY WABBITS – Laura Reed Smith and Briana Hammond of Union City went hunting for rabbits at the Petting Place in Santa’s Village and managed to catch a couple of the critters.

Photos by Kevin Burdette
GETTING A RIDE — Latham’s Alayna Bradley rides the back of her cousin Scott Fulcher at this year’s Santa’s Village. The event celebrated its 21st anniversary over the weekend, delighting children and adults alike, and helped out local organizations that help the needy during Christmas. See story on Page 16.

Photo by Kevin Burdette

Local students attend UT Martin Senior Day

Two seniors from McNairy Central High School recently attended the University of Tennessee at Martin Senior Preview Day. More than 200 seniors were in attendance at UT Martin, where they received information about a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs, and the various university academic programs.

Katie Ford, a senior at McNairy Central High School, attended the recent University of Tennessee at Martin Senior Preview Day. More than 200 seniors were in attendance at UT Martin, where they received information about a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs, and the various university academic programs. Ford is the daughter of Scott and Suzette Ford. Also pictured is her sister, Hollie, right.

Jill Brock, a senior at McNairy Central High School, attended the recent University of Tennessee at Martin Senior Preview Day. More than 200 seniors were in attendance at UT Martin, where they received information about a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs, and the various university academic programs. Brock is the daughter of Joe and Marylon Brock.
A chance ‘find’ enhances archaeological study

A chance encounter between James Clapper and an Alaskan riverbank netted a fossil find embedded in the bank for more than 10,000 years. The discovery of woolly mammoth tusks by the UT Martin alum and his father is now benefitting students in a UT Martin geoaarchaeology class.

Clapper, a May 2005 graduate, his father, Jon, and another companion were casting for salmon and trout while floating their way down the Aniak River in Western Alaska when they spotted what appeared to be tusks protruding from a cliff following a recent thaw. The town of Aniak and the river are about 500 miles west of Anchorage. The only access to the area is by air or water.

“We had heard from a few different sources that woolly mammoth ivory had been found here and there in the past and knew to keep an eye out for it,” said James.

The father and son from Nashville, Tenn., and Ty Roderick, who joined them from Oklahoma, used crude, makeshift tools to free the tusks after several hours of excavating. The tusks have been in a lab this semester being cleaned, preserved and studied by students in the geoaarchaeology class taught by Helmut Wenz and Dr. Michael Gibson. Wenz is a UT Martin professor of geography with expertise in archaeology. Gibson is a UT Martin professor of geology.

“The idea of touching and seeing something that no living creature had for thousands of years was a pretty amazing feeling for us all,” said James. “We were elated when we were finally able to realize their

Continued on page 16

UTM alum finds wooly tusks

Continued from page 1

full size and beauty. The outside of the ivory had oxidized into a cobalt blue.”

And, while James and his companions were amazed at their find, Gibson, whose expertise is in the fossils of animals and plants, said such finds are more common than the public might think.

“Many people think the best fossil finds are made by professional paleontologists,” said Gibson. “While paleontologists are busy conducting research, writing and teaching, the average person is the one actually in the field... in many cases, and thus comes across finds.” He added.

“One of the things I tell my students as part of their courses is how to recognize when something they come across may be significant enough to ask a professional. After a few years of educating students on what fossils are, how they preserve, where they preserve and their importance, they become an extension of my eyes and ears. While they may not have the training to deal with the find, they do know to contact someone.”

It was Jon who actually saw the tusks as the trio floated around a sharp bend in the river. They were about three feet above the water with the proximal sides sticking out of the cliff and the distal sides, the points, along with the majority of the tusks embedded in the clay.

“Luckily, we were the first people down the river since the spring melt off and resulting floods that exposed the tusks for us to see,” said James, who added the tusks might have been lost forever if the river flood-

“...So, as we have done in the past, we offered a special-topics course built around the two tusks found by one of our alumni, who thought of our department as the best place to get some answers,” Gibson added.

Students are learning how to clean and preserve the tusks and how to document and evaluate the find. “Science, history and geoaarchaeology are usually taught in different departments, but overlap,” Gibson said. “Why not show students the value of a true liberal arts education and approach? Along the way, everyone will have worked on a real find and developed a professional relationship that will last their careers. And we will have preserved and documented a very interesting and important piece of history that would have otherwise been lost.”
Graduate focused on goals in broadcasting, got early career start

Like some of his peers, Cody Alcorn arrived at the University of Tennessee at Martin undecided about his future. What transpired during the next four years could be a textbook case about how to focus on goals, graduate and then begin a career. Except that Alcorn, who will graduate in December with a bachelor of arts degree in communications and a concentration in broadcasting, interned with a top-16 market station in Phoenix, Ariz., and then began working full-time at WBBL-TV in Jackson while still in school.

"Everything has fallen into place when it needed to," said Alcorn, who completed the summer internship at KPHO-TV in Phoenix last summer and is the only general assignment reporter for the WBBL 10 o'clock news.

It was his interest in rodeo and the fact that several friends attended UT Martin that led Alcorn, a native of Sikeston, Mo., here. The campus was just far enough away from home. "I looked around for colleges close to home. I had a lot of choices. I came and visited... and ended up really liking the campus. I'd always heard good things about the campus," he said.

"Rodeo added to it." Alcorn initially pursued accounting while continuing his interest in rodeo events with the UT Martin rodeo team for two years. He appreciates the rodeo program for the friendships he developed and the many lessons that made him more independent. He was not a scholarship team member, however, so when he transported his two horses and traveled with the team, it was at his own expense - hotel, gas and entry fees.

"It was fun. We got to travel a lot," he said, "You're on your own. You manage your time, your money. I liked it. Rodeo teaches you to be independent. You learn responsibility and respect. I still rope... when I go home, just more as a hobby." Alcorn has been involved in rodeos since he was 10, following his father and brother, who continue to "rope." But when Alcorn decided to become a broadcast major, the time and money he spent on rodeo did not fit his new schedule or his career plans. He realized that he could not travel on weekends and devote the time he thought was necessary to broadcasting. "It was a big decision," he said, but added, "I knew where I wanted to be. I set goals that I wanted to do, and rodeo - it just didn't fit in. It's something that I can pick back up down the road when I get settled.

Settled is not something that comes to mind when describing Alcorn or his schedule. Since September, he has worked five days a week at WBBJ, driving 100 miles a day to Jackson and back, after attending classes.

Following his first day of "shadowing" at WBBJ, he arrived for work the next day at 3 p.m. and was told he would be "live" on the five, six and 10 o'clock newscasts from the West Tennessee State Fair in Jackson. "It was pretty much a test. I was nervous, you could tell, but I knew where I was, and I said the right station." Since that time, in addition to covering a broad spectrum of news, "I've gotten two breaking stories. I've made mistakes. You build on them.

It's been an awesome experience.

Alcorn credits the UT Martin faculty and that summer internship in Phoenix in preparing him for his first paid broadcasting position at WBBJ.

"I owe a lot to the faculty," he said, adding that he developed good relationships with his communications professors. "They're there to help you in any way possible. I took my first mass media class, and I knew. It's something I've always liked."

Even though things have "fallen into place," Alcorn does not leave much to chance. In addition to broadcast skills, he gained experience as a daily newspaper reporter one semester. He landed the KPHO-TV position, an unpaid summer internship, and worked alongside students from New York University, Kansas State and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. The hours were long, but he did whatever needed to be done.

When he first called KPHO, a CBS affiliate, the executive producer he spoke to knew exactly where UT Martin was located, previously serving a stint at WPSD-TV in Paducah. "It's big time out there, and they knew our school." After signing a contract with KPHO, a No. 2 market station in San Francisco offered Alcorn an internship, but he honored his commitment to KPHO.

"Coming out of college... it's all about hands-on experience," he said. "In this business, it's who you know, and what kind of impression you leave on them." With that in mind, Alcorn is tenacious about maintaining contacts and networking in the industry.

Alcorn said he will know when the time is right to leave WBBJ. "The opportunity knocked for them to put me on the air while I was still in my senior year in college." And, while he enjoys field reporting, his ultimate goal is the anchor chair. If the anchor chair is at a major network, so much the better.

"Realistically, when I get enough experience and the time is right, I could go back to Phoenix and stay there for a while."

But just awhile. "There are so many things you can do in this field. I want to travel; not stay anywhere too long. Opportunity knocks. I'm not going to let a lot of things stop me at this point..."
Santa's Village sets record

The 21st Santa's Village set a record in donations of food items and toys with the value placed at $59,954. The total is up from last year's record of $59,308. The annual event at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin was co-sponsored by the Martin Department of Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin.

The event featured 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Admission was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

This year's attendance was the fifth largest in spite of inclement weather opening day that cancelled classes in some school districts and hampered travel in parts of the region. "We had expected 1,000 children for the annual sneak previews. They were unable to attend because of school closings," said Dennis Suiter, Martin Department of Parks and Recreation director. "But attendance picked up Saturday, and we had a huge Sunday."

"I am absolutely thrilled with the level of donations," said Suiter. "It was a record-setting year."

Suiter said sponsors were somewhat apprehensive about donation totals because of the variety of charitable needs this year following hurricanes and other events. "We were geared for the hit," he said, but added that donors still made contributions to Santa's Village. Speaking on behalf of the sponsors, Suiter said, "From the volunteers who make the event available, to all the wonderful people who attended, it is good to know we've all been a part of helping those less fortunate."

Suiter pointed to three main donations that get Santa's Village off to a good start each year before the doors open to the public. Food provided by Gordon Food Service and E.W. James and Sons Grocery and the WCMT can caravan that taps Weakley County schools are always welcome contributions.

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

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

For more information about Santa's Village, or other events, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Santa’s Village offered visitors a winter wonderland during its 21st season, while making the Christams season a bit brighter for those less fortunate by collecting donations of toys and canned goods, which is distributed by area organizations.

The MTD Train Display is always a favorite event for young and old alike. The painstakingly real-looking scenery through which the trains pass add to the the illusion of reality.

This country church scene reminds everyone of the reason for the season - the birth of Jesus Christ.
Santa’s Village celebrates 21st season

The Sleigh Bell Livery Stable was one of many rustic country Christmas scenes on display at this year’s Santa’s Village.

Hunter Lucy, age 3, of Union City is seen getting his face painted by artist Mary Chandler.

Landmark Studio sketch artist Joe Vick of Lyles, Tennessee, is seen executing a sketch of a visitor at Santa’s Village on Saturday.

Isabelle Gibson (left) and Jordanna Siglow (right) of Greenfield at the Gingerbread house.
Cameron Gann (left) and Trenton Gann (right) are seen seated on Santa's knees at this year's Santa's Village. Mom, Amy, and dad, Jeff, are also seen with Santa, along with some of his helpers.

A canned food tower looms above the heads of passing visitors.

The bounce slide was a very popular activity at this year's event.

Members of the audience sit back and enjoy the string of live performers at the 21st annual Santa's Village, held in the McWherter Ag Pavilion at UTM.
A wide variety of live performers were on hand to entertain the visitors at the 21st annual Santa's Village held December 8-11.

Bounce basketball was a popular attraction at this year’s event.

Frostie the Snowman is seen at the Tyson Foods display.

Mrs. Santa is seen seated on the porch of this winter cabin.

Braden Colson of Murray, Ken. enjoys the petting zoo.
Wooly mammoth tusks found by UT Martin alum

A chance encounter between James Clapper and an Alaskan riverbank netted a fossil find embedded in the bank for more than 10,000 years.

The discovery of wooly mammoth tusks by the University of Tennessee at Martin alum and his father is now benefitting students in a UT Martin geochronology class.

Clapper — a May 2005 UT Martin graduate — and his father, Jon, and another companion were casting for salmon and trout while floating their way down the Aniak River in western Alaska when they spotted what appeared to be tusks protruding from a cliff following a recent thaw. The town of Aniak and the river are about 500 miles west of Anchorage, with the only access to the area being by air or water.

“We had heard from a few different sources that wooly mammoth ivory had been found here and there in the past and knew to keep an eye out for it,” James Clapper said.

The father and son from Nashville and Ty Roderick of Oklahoma used crude, makeshift tools to free the tusks after several hours of excavating. The tusks have been in a lab this summer being cleaned, preserved and studied by students in the geochronology class taught by Helmut Wenz, a UT Martin professor of geography with expertise in paleontology, and Dr. Michael Gibson, a UT Martin professor of geology.

“The idea of touching and seeing something that no living creature had for thousands of years was a pretty amazing feeling for us all,” Clapper said. “We were elated when we found that we were actually able to realize their full size and beauty. The outside of the ivory had oxidized into a blue color.”

And, while Clapper and his companion were amazed at their find, Gibson — whose expertise is in the fossils of animals and plants — said such finds are more common than the public might think.

He said he also saw it as a way to “give back” to the university, “I believe finds of this nature should not be kept in a private collection somewhere, but should have the chance to be studied and used to enlighten us about the past,” he said.

It was Jon Clapper who actually saw the tusks as the trio floated around a sharp bend in the river. They were about three feet above the water with the proximal sides sticking out of the cliff and the distal sides, the points along with the majority of the tusks embedded in the clay.

“Luckily, we were the first people down the river since the spring melt-off and resulting floods that exposed the tusks for us to see,” said James Clapper, who added that the tusks might have been lost forever if the river flooded and destroyed them. “Although we had no real equipment to excavate the tusks, we used a small tent stake mallet and fashioned some crude tools out of tent stakes wrapped in duct tape for handles to dig and chip away the substrate from around the tusks.”

A log jam that nearly flipped the raft later in the day jeopardized the find, but the trio finally got them home after another week on the river and the trip back to Tennessee.

Once at UT Martin, Wenz and Gibson, who often collaborate, immediately expanded the benefits of the fossil find by placing them in the classroom.

“One of the things I tell my students as part of their courses is how to recognize when something they come across may be significant enough to ask a professional. After a few years of educating students on what fossils are, how they preserve, where they preserve and their importance, they become an extension of my eyes and ears. While they may not have the training to deal with the find, they do know to contact someone,” he said.

That’s what Clapper did.

“I brought them to professor Wenz for several reasons,” Clapper said. “I knew that he and his department would take good care of them and tell me volumes of information about the tusks.”

Visiting professor has many talents

Akira Tomita, an associate professor with specialties in art pedagogy and photography, is this year’s distinguished visiting professor from Hiroasaki University at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

For the past 20 years, UT Martin and Hiroasaki University in Japan have conducted a visiting professor exchange as part of their sister university relationship.

Tomita has master’s degrees in art from Tokyo University and in anthropology from Saitama University. Before joining the faculty at Hiroasaki, Tomita worked in Honduras for three years with the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program, which is similar to the American Peace Corps.

He continued living and working in Honduras as an artist, photographer, musician and furniture designer for an additional three years. He also worked in Mexico for two years with the Japan International Cooperation Agency. He was a specialist in woodworking at Durango State University in Durango, Mexico.

Tomita is currently teaching a digital photography class to students at UT Martin. As an artist, Tomita tries to teach his students more than the technique of using photography equipment.

“I don’t focus on the equipment. Before learning technique, students must acquire a philosophy and sensitivity to a message or social meaning that they can express through the art of the photography,” Tomita said.

The students in his digital photography class recently had an exhibition of their work on display in the gallery of the Fine and Performing Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

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

The visiting professor also plays the Japanese version of the guitar and has other musical interests. He recently performed on saxophone in a UT Martin jazz band concert.

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

Tomita will return to Japan at the end of the fall semester.
Reed Center to hold seminars in January

The Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center at the UT Martin, the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center are sponsoring a series of business seminars in January.

“E-Commerce and Your Business” will be held from 9-11 a.m., Jan. 17, in Room 206A of the Boling University Center at UT Martin. This session will detail the different e-commerce options available to businesses and highlight the importance for developing plans to address the e-commerce needs of businesses. Steve Holt, director of the UTM Instructional Technology Center, will instruct the seminar.

“Personal Financial Plans” will be held from 9-11 a.m., Jan. 24, at the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce office in Dresden. Shirley Borden, a certified financial planner, will provide information to guide the development of a personal financial plan. Participants will learn how to apply financial plans in the creation and modification of business plans.

The last seminar, “Small Business 101: How to Start a Business,” will be held from 4-6 p.m., Jan. 26, in Room 206A of the Boling University Center at UT Martin. This session, instructed by Ron Acree, a small business specialist, will be geared towards individuals who are thinking about starting a small business. Topics include licensing requirements, business planning, legal business structures and obtaining financing. A short question-and-answer period will follow the seminar.

All seminars are free and open to the public. There will be Continuing Education Units available for $10 at each seminar. Preregistration is required two days before each seminar. Registration forms and more information are available by contacting Hollie Holt, coordinator of the REED Center, at 587-7333, or by visiting www.utm.edu/reed.

LOCAL STUDENT ATTENDS UT MARTIN SENIOR DAY
- Carah Hooten, a senior at Westview High School, attended the recent University of Tennessee at Martin Senior Preview Day. More than 200 seniors were in attendance at UT Martin, where they received information about a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs, and the various university academic programs. Hooten is the daughter of AI and Debbie Hooten (right).

Internet service providers invited to campus for vendor fairs

Two vendor fairs are planned to assist approximately 300 University of Tennessee at Martin faculty, staff and retirees, who have off-campus Internet dial-up service and soon will need a new provider. Effective Feb. 1, UT Martin will no longer provide and support this service. To help those who will need a new provider, UT Martin Information Technology Services Help Desk is hosting area Internet service representatives on campus for the fairs slated from 9 a.m. -2 p.m., Dec. 21 and Jan. 12, in rooms 206A-206C of the Boling University Center. Those interested in securing a new ISP may talk to representatives from a variety of companies about options that are available to them. For more information about the fairs or to participate as a vendor, contact Steve Vantrease at stevev@utm.edu or 881-7766.

TN Writers Alliance is writing contest sponsor

The Tennessee Writers Alliance will sponsor a competition for the TWA Creative Nonfiction Award and the TWA Sudden Fiction Award. University of Tennessee Martin faculty members, William Ahlschweide, instructor of English, and Rebel Reavis, assistant professor of sociology, are organizing the contest. Judges are Sharyn McCrumb and Pamela Duncan.

Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 28. The entry fee is $10 for TWA members and $15 for non-members. Winners in each category will receive $500 for first place, $250 for second place and $100 for third place. Winners will also receive an invitation to read at the TWA Conference in June. For guidelines and more information, visit www.tn-writers.org.
Santa

From Page 1

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

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Small business focus of upcoming seminar

MARTIN, Tenn. — Three seminars touching on aspects of small-business operations are scheduled for January in Martin and Dresden.

“E-Commerce and Your Business” on Jan. 17 will detail online options, with instructor Steve Holt, director of the Instructional Technology Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The session will be from 9 to 11 a.m. in Room 206A of the Boling University Center.

“Personal Financial Plans” on Jan. 24 will feature guidance from certified financial planner Shirley Borden on applying financial plans in creating and modifying business plans.

The session will be from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce office in Dresden.

“Small Business 101: How to Start a Business” on Jan. 26 will be led by Ron Acree, a small business specialist from the Tennessee Small Business Development Center.

His session, for business owners or those thinking of starting a business, will cover licensing requirements, business planning, legal business structures and obtaining financing. The session is set from 4 to 6 p.m. in Room 206A of the Boling University Center.

The seminars are free and open to the public. Continuing education units are available for $10 at each seminar.

Sponsors are the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center at UTM, the Weakley County chamber and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center.

Advance registration is required two days before each seminar. Registration forms are available by contacting REED Center coordinator Hollie Holt at 731-587-7333 or www.utm.edu/reed.
Santa’s village nets $59,954

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“I am absolutely thrilled with the level of donations,” said Suiter. “It was a record-setting year.”

Business seminars slated at REED Center

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The seminars are free and open to the public. Continuing Education Units will be available for $10 at each seminar.

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GRADUATE LUNCHEON — Graduating computer science and information systems majors at the University of Tennessee at Martin were recently honored at the fall graduate luncheon sponsored by the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. They included (from left) Bryant Louis Smith of Memphis, Matthew Corey Williams of Savannah, Tyrena Renee Hall of Dyersburg and Jason Eric Nelms of South Fulton.

William Andrew Dellinger of Union City was among those honored at the recent fall graduate luncheon sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. UT Martin’s graduating computer science and information systems majors were honored at the event.
UT Martin livestock judging team claims several national honors

The National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest, which began in 1900, has been conducted in Louisville since 1976. About 200 four-year students, representing 30 universities, participated in the national event. The team placed 12th in the national competition.

The competition capped a year-long effort that began with the Arizona National Livestock Show in January and ended in Louisville. The team vied for honors in seven major and numerous minor competitions and had its first highlight as reserve champions at the All-Eastern Livestock Evaluation Contest earlier this year in Martin. The group also competed at the Houston Stock Show, the San Antonio Stock Show, the Mid-South Fair in Memphis and the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., and the Keystone International in Harrisburg, Pa., where they finished reserve champions.

"The livestock judging team represented UT Martin at contests throughout the United States," said Kyle Rozeboom, instructor of animal sciences in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and coach of the UT Martin team. "These students have traveled more than 25,000 miles and been in 23 states learning about the livestock industry as they prepared to compete in these contests."

Some of the individual highlights for the year included: Melissa Daniel of Cypress Inn placed in the top 25 at the North American International Livestock Exposition. Heather Whitten of Collinwood was named high individual in oral reasons at the Keystone International Livestock Judging Contest and third high individual at the Mid-South Fair. Bryan Barnes of Franklin was named 10th high individual at the San Antonio Livestock Show and second high individual at the All-East Livestock Judging Contest. Levi Ebert of Saint George, Kan., was named high individual at the Keystone International Livestock Judging Contest. Josh Eason of Sardis was named fourth high individual at the American Royal Livestock Show. Jeremy Doggett of Pulaski was named second high individual at Keystone International Livestock Judging Contest. Karl Huebner of Spring Texas, was named 10th high individual overall in the All-Eastern Selection Contest.

Rozeboom said that many people don't realize the dedication that students put toward the judging. "We're far from a club. The livestock judging team works as hard as most athletic teams. Students will put in an average of 30 hours a week at practice. This effort is needed if they're going to compete at the high level that we expect of the UT Martin judging team. I expect UT Martin to be competing with the nation's best and it takes devotion and motivation by the team members to do list. The coach added that in order for the team to be successful all members must be strong competitors that push each other. "This year's team of seven students was very deep and consistent," he said. "Throughout the team's judging career, there has been a day and a contest when each member achieved individual success. They were very competitive individually, but first and foremost they were always concerned with the team's success."

EARNED HONORS — The University of Tennessee at Martin Livestock Judging Team walked away with several individual and team honors throughout this past year, which concluded at the 100th National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest held in Louisville, Ky. Members of the team include (from left) UT Martin livestock judging team coach Kyle Rozeboom, team members Levi Ebert, Heather Whitten, Josh Eason, Jeremy Doggett, Karl Huebner, Bryan Barnes and Melissa Daniel and Dr. Jerry Gresham, chair of the UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

reflects well on the university. "It's great publicity for UT Martin and our agricultural department," said Rozeboom. "Competing across the United States has exposed many people to UT Martin and the strength of our students."

"For many people the only impression they get of UT Martin is by the exposure they get from seeing our team members and the quality of our judging program. Hopefully, it will help with recruiting." The coach added that the livestock judging team has had the benefit of strong administration and alumni support in its quest for success.

Team members are quick to point to Rozeboom's leadership as a foundation for their success. "He puts so much time and effort into the team and arms us with the tools we need to do our best," said Whitten. "All the success we have achieved is because of his dedication to our team. UT Martin is very lucky to have one of the best livestock judging coaches in the nation." Whitten added that the team is also thankful for strong support from faculty and students.

"The team has had a successful year and everyone is a better person for being a part of it," said Huebner, a senior. "All seven of us will leave this team taking away a greater understanding of livestock and the way the industry functions across the nation. After many states and countless miles, the most important lesson is the hardest one to learn. It's that life is not about the buckle or banner but the personal satisfaction you gain from doing what you love to do."

"The coach and members of the livestock judging team have represented the department and College Agriculture and Applied Sciences well during the past year at each of the contests," said Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources chair. "But above all, they have been great ambassadors for the university, their respective home communities and their families. These young people have to be of high moral character and maintain a strong work ethic to compete at the highest level."

He added, "They just didn't learn that while at UT Martin, but have been taught the importance of hard work and its rewards from their strong family backgrounds. I trust that the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources will continue to attract students of this caliber for all of our competitive teams and clubs."
Santa’s Village sets record in food and toy donations

The 21st Santa’s Village set a record in donations of food items and toys, with the value placed at $59,954 — up from last year’s record of $59,308.

The annual event at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin was co-sponsored by the Martin Department of Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin.

It featured 26,000-square-feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Admission was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

This year’s attendance was the fifth largest in spite of inclement weather opening day that canceled classes in some school districts and hampered travel in parts of the region.

“We had expected 1,000 children for the annual sneak previews. They were unable to attend because of school closings,” said Dennis Suiter, Martin Department of Parks and Recreation director. “But attendance picked up Saturday and we had a huge Sunday.”

“I am absolutely thrilled with the level of donations. It was a record-setting year,” he added.

Suiter said sponsors were apprehensive about donation totals because of the variety of charitable needs this year following hurricanes and other events. “We were geared for the hit,” he said, adding that donors still made contributions to Santa’s Village.

Speaking on behalf of the sponsors, Suiter said, “From the volunteers who make the event available to all the wonderful people who attended, it is good to know we’ve all been a part of helping those less fortunate.”

Suiter pointed to three main donations that get Santa’s Village off to a good start each year before the doors open to the public.

(See Page 2, Col. 4)

Santa’s...

(Continued from Page One)

lic. Food provided by Gordon Food Service and E.W. James & Sons Grocery, as well as the WCMT can caravan that taps Weakley County schools, are always welcome contributions, he said.

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

Additional sponsors of the event were Volunteer Community Hospital, University Plaza of Tennessee, Hamilton-Ryker, Rural King, First State Bank, Greenball Inc., E.W. James & Sons Grocery, MTD Products Inc., Tyson Foods Inc., First Choice Rentals, Frontier, Puckett Lumber Company, Office Products, Southern Source and Suiter’s Clean and Shine.

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

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2005

CAIN CLAIMS CARL SEALE AWARD — Rebecca Cain, left, of Ripley, recently received the Carl Seale Student Teacher Award presented each semester to two students at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The awards are given in memory of Dr. Carl Seale, who served the university from 1971 to 1992 in numerous capacities. Recipients are chosen by the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Scholarship Selection Committee from students with a major in education/teacher licensure, who have been nominated for exhibiting exceptional classroom instruction, excellence in classroom management, professionalism and potential for leadership in the teaching profession. Cain is graduating with a master of science degree in education. She served as a student teacher at Westview High School in Martin and Milan High School. She was nominated by Wanda Hamlin, Angie Rushing and Rebecca Jones-Hayes, mentor teachers and Dr. Lisa LeBlu, her university supervisor. Cain is pictured with LeBlu.
Dr. Mike Revelle, a Jackson emergency room physician and a University of Tennessee at Martin alumnus, delivered the fall commencement address at UT Martin Dec. 17.

He challenged graduates to “find stones for building a firm foundation for life.”

Highlighting three “stones” he deems important, Revelle explained the ‘value of wisdom, the virtue of friendship and the privilege of circumstance.”

“The reason you are here today is that you, your parents, your spouse or someone gave up time, money and hard work to arrive at this milestone. All of us have different circumstances which brought us here and will face challenging consequences ahead. I dare say that in 20 years, you will be more disappointed by what you didn’t do than by what you did.” He added, “Make the best of your life’s circumstances.”

He continued about friends, “I met some of the best people I’ve ever met while here at Martin. Cherish those friends and family who helped make this possible.”

Finally, Revelle explained his value of wisdom.

“Some of you have seen life’s

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Revelle

From Page 1
darkest days and nights. For some, those days are yet to come, but I remind you that sometimes only when it is dark can you look up and appreciate the true beauty of the stars.”

He added, “Remember that vision without action is a dream, and action without vision can be a nightmare.

Britt commended the administration, faculty and staff for leading the way in leadership programs, technology advancements and overall continued quality of the institution.

UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the commencement exercises and conferred degrees to graduates from 47 Tennessee counties and 14 other states, including Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. The class also included students from Japan, Korea, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Kingdom. They join more than 32,000 graduates of UT Martin located throughout the world.

Following the conferring of degrees, Dunagan directed his final comments to the newest group of UT Martin alumni.

“There are five things to help us be an even better university and thus, enhance the value of your degree,” said Dunagan.

“Maintain your contact with your alma mater, let us know where you are and what you are doing. Give us your advice and give us your support. Help us recruit other good students, like yourselves. And finally, be supportive of higher education as you become taxpayers.

“You will experience the personal benefits of a college degree. I also remind you and all citizens of Tennessee that there is a public good represented by living in a state that has a high percentage of college graduates. You are joining a state population that has a college graduate rate of 20 percent. As a state, we should do better.”

He added, “Be an advocate for higher education. When you arrived here as freshmen, we said ‘get involved.’ As you depart, my final words are ‘get involved. Make a difference.’”
Alum’s chance ‘find’ enhances archaeological study at UT Martin

A chance encounter between James Clapper and an Alaskan riverbank netted a fossil find embedded in the bank for more than 10,000 years. The discovery of woolly mammoth tusks by the UT Martin alum and his father is now benefiting students in a UT Martin geochronology class.

Clapper, a May 2005 graduate, his father, Jon, and another companion were casting for salmon and trout while floating their way down the Aniak River in Western Alaska when they spotted what appeared to be tusks protruding from a cliff following a recent thaw. The town of Aniak and the river are about 50 miles west of Anchorage. The only access to the area is by air or water.

“We had heard from a few different sources that woolly mammoth ivory had been found here and there in the past and knew to keep an eye out for it,” said James.

The father and son from Nashville and Ty Roderick, who joined them from Oklahoma, used crude, makeshift tools to free the tusks after several hours of excavating. The tusks have been in a lab this semester being cleaned, preserved and studied by students in the geochronology class taught by Helmut Wenz and Dr. Michael Gibson. Wenz is a UT Martin professor of geography with expertise in archaeology. Gibson is a UT Martin professor of geology.

“The idea of touching and seeing something that no living creature had for thousands of years was a pretty amazing feeling for us all,” said James. “We were elated when we were finally able to realize their full size and beauty. The outside of the ivory had oxidized into a cobalt blue.”

And, while James and his companions were amazed at their find, Gibson, whose expertise is in the fossils of animals and plants, said such finds are more common than the public might think.

“Many people think the best fossil finds are made by professional paleontologists,” said Gibson. “While paleontologists are busy conducting research, writing and teaching, the average person is the one actually in the field... in many cases, and thus comes across finds.” He added, “Such encounters are where the majority of scientific discoveries come from.

“One of the things I tell my students as part of their courses is how to recognize when something they come across may be significant enough to ask a professional. After a few years of educating students on what fossils are, how they preserve, where they preserve and their importance, they become an extension of my eyes and ears. While they may not have the training to deal with the find, they do know to contact someone.”

And that is exactly what James did. “I brought them to professor Wenz for several reasons,” James said. “I knew that he and his department would take good care of them and tell me volumes of information about the tusks. James said he also saw it as a way to “give back” to the university. “I believe finds of this nature should not be kept in a private collection somewhere, but should have the chance to be studied and used to enlighten us about the past.”

It was Jon who actually saw the tusks as the trio floated around a sharp bend in the river. They were about three feet above the water with the proximal sides sticking out of the cliff and the distal sides, the points, along with the majority of the tusks embedded in the clay.

“Luckily, we were the first people down the river since the spring melt off and resulting floods that exposed the tusks for us to see,” said James, who added the tusks might have been lost forever if the river flooded and destroyed them. “Although we had no real equipment to excavate the tusks, we used a small tent stake mallet and fashioned some crude tools out of tent stakes wrapped in duct tape for handles to dig and chip away the substrate from around the tusks.”

A log jam that nearly flipped the raft later in the day jeopardized the find, “but we finally got them home after another week on the river and the trip back to Tennessee.”

Once at UT Martin, Wenz and Gibson, who often collaborate, immediately expanded the benefit of the fossil find by placing them in the classroom. “We find ways to include students in these collaborative endeavors because we know that students like the thrill of discovery and this excites learning,” said Gibson. He added there are not many things better than participating in being the first people to find and handle objects that predate humans or have not been seen by others.

“So, as we have done in the past, we offered a special-topics course built around the two tusks found by one of our alumni, who thought of our department as the best place to get some answers... to me a sure
TENT STAKES USED FOR DIGGING TOOLS — James Clapper, chips away at the bank of the Aniak River in Alaska. On a fishing trip, Clapper and two companions made digging tools from tent stakes and a mallet to free the woolly mammoth tusks they found.

Students are learning how to clean and preserve the tasks and how to document and evaluate the find. "Science, history and geoarchaeology are usually taught in different departments, but overlap," Gibson said. "Why not show students the value of a true liberal arts education and approach? Along the way, everyone will have worked on a real find and developed a professional relationship that will last their careers. And we will have preserved and documented a very interesting and important piece of history that would have otherwise been lost."

As for James, who has a bachelor of science degree in history, he will teach English in Shenzhen, China, through next summer. Career objectives after that are still being considered. "I don't have a clear idea on what I'm going to do. Perhaps I'll try my hand at archaeology - woolly mammoth ivory today, El Dorado tomorrow."

WOOLY MAMMOTH TUSKS FOUND — Meredith Woodard (left), of Pulaski, and Josh Ratliff, of Morris Chapel, UT Martin students, are enrolled in a geoarchaeology class that is cleaning and preserving woolly mammoth tusks found embedded in an Alaskan riverbank by UT Martin alumnus James Clapper and his father, Jon Clapper.

Santa’s Village sets record for donations

The 21st Santa’s Village set a record in donations of food items and toys with the value placed at $59,954. The total is up from last year’s record of $59,958. The annual event at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin was co-sponsored by the Martin Department of Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin.

The event featured 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Admission was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

This year’s attendance was the fifth largest in spite of inclement weather opening day that cancelled classes in some school districts and hampered travel in parts of the region. Suiter said sponsors were somewhat apprehensive about donation totals because of the variety of charitable needs this year following hurricanes and other events. "We were geared for the hit," he said, but added that donors still made contributions to Santa’s Village. Speaking on behalf of the sponsors, Suiter said, "From the volunteers who make the event available to all, the 'wonderful people' who attended, it is good to know we've all been a part of helping those less fortunate."

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
The University of Tennessee at Martin Livestock Judging Team walked away with several individual and team honors throughout this past year which concluded at the 100th National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest held in Louisville in November.

The National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest, which began in 1900, has been conducted in Louisville since 1976. Approximately 200 four-year students, representing 30 universities, participated in the national event. The team placed 12th in the national competition.

The competition capped a year-long effort that began with the Arizona National Livestock Show in January and ended in Louisville. The team vied for honors in seven major and numerous minor competitions and had its first highlight as reserve champions at the All-Eastern Livestock Evaluation Contest earlier this year in Martin. The group also competed at the Houston Stock Show, the San Antonio Stock Show, the Mid-South Fair in Memphis, and the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., and the Keystone International in Harrisburg, Pa., where they finished reserve champions.

"The livestock judging team represented UT Martin at contests throughout the United States," said Kyle Rozeboom, instructor of animal sciences in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and coach of the UT Martin team. "These students have traveled more than 25,000 miles and been in 23 states learning about the livestock industry as they prepared to compete in these contests."

Some of the individual highlights for the year included: Melissa Daniel, of Cypress Inn, placed in the top 25 at the North American International Livestock Exposition. Heather Whitten, of Collinwood, was named high individual in oral reasons at the Keystone International Livestock Judging Contest and third high individual at the Mid-South Fair. Bryan Barnes, of Franklin, was named 10th high individual at the San Antonio Livestock Show.

Rozeboom said that many people don't realize the dedication that students put toward the judging. "We're far from a club. The livestock judging team works as hard as most athletic teams. Students will put in an average of 30 hours a week at practice. This effort is needed if they're going to compete at the high level that we expect of the UT Martin judging team. I expect UT Martin to be competing with the nation's best, and it takes devotion and motivation by the team members to do list. The coach added that in order for the team to be successful all members must be strong competitors that push each other. "This year's team of seven students was very deep and consistent," he said. "Throughout the team's judging career, there has been a day and a contest when each member achieved individual success. They were very competitive individually, but first and foremost they were always concerned with the team's success."

The success of the team also reflects well on the university. "It's great publicity for UT Martin and our agricultural department," said Rozeboom. "Competing across the United States has exposed many people..."
to UT Martin and the strength of our students. For many people the only impression they get of UT Martin is by the exposure they get from seeing our team members and the quality of our judging program. Hopefully, it will help with recruiting. The coach added that the livestock judging team has had the benefit of strong administration and alumni support in its quest for success.

Team members are quick to point to Rozeboom’s leadership as a foundation for their success. “He puts so much time and effort into the team and always reminds us to push ourselves to do our best,” said Whitten. “All the success we have achieved is because of his dedication to our team.” UT Martin is very lucky to have one of the best livestock judging coaches in the nation.” Whitten added that the team is also thankful for strong support from faculty and students.

“It requires a lot of time being away from school and family,” said Doggett, a junior, about the competitions. “But it gives you a more in-depth look at the livestock industry. I’m going to be an agriculture teacher. It will help me teach students the proper way to evaluate livestock.”

“The highlight of my judging career was placing in the top 25 at the North American International Livestock Exposition, which was the final and most important contest in Senior College Livestock Judging,” said Daniel.

“My participation in the UT Martin Livestock Judging Program not only allowed me to enhance my knowledge of the livestock industry and travel the country, but it also allowed me to grow as an individual, learning to overcome challenges and work toward my goals,” she said.

“The skills I gained through this experience will carry through to my graduate school and my career.”

“The coach and members of the livestock judging team has represented the department and College Agriculture and Applied Sciences well during the past year at each of the contests,” said Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources chair. “But above all, they have been great ambassadors for the university, their respective home communities, and their families. These young people have to be of high moral character and maintain a strong work ethic to compete at the highest level.” He added,

“...They just didn’t learn that while at UT Martin, but have been taught the importance of hard work and its rewards from their strong family backgrounds. I trust that the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources will continue to attract students of this caliber for all of our competitive teams and clubs.”

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**Students, producers to benefit from Ag Research Station Realignment**

The coordination of agricultural education in West Tennessee will be enhanced with the recent announcement that the land, buildings and equipment of the UT Experiment Station’s Martin Research and Education Center will become teaching resources of UT Martin’s Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. University of Tennessee Interim Vice President for Agriculture Buddy Mitchell and UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan jointly announced the transfer effective Jan. 1, 2006.

UT Martin currently operates 200 acres of the 600-acre farm adjacent to the campus as part of its Agriculture and Natural Resources Teaching Center. With this change, a swine production facility and the remainder of the land will be incorporated into UT Martin’s teaching and public service programs.

“This realignment of the Martin research station is positive for the university and also for West Tennessee agriculture,” said Mitchell. “We believe that our research efforts can now be more focused at our Milan and Jackson Experiment Stations, and the experiential learning for UT Martin students will be greatly enhanced.”

“We’re glad to join UT Martin in a new partnership that will greatly enhance our animal disease surveillance and diagnostic capabilities,” said Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens. “The development of a West Tennessee diagnostic laboratory will be critically important to our efforts to safeguard Tennessee’s billion-dollar livestock industry from naturally occurring and foreign animal diseases. With UT Martin providing high-quality service, this partnership creates a statewide presence and capability that we’ve never had before.”

The laboratory partnership is funded through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program, a $5 million appropriation for farm programs in this year’s state budget as proposed by Gov. Phil Bredesen and supported by the Tennessee General Assembly.

Chancellor Dunagan praised the innovative approach by UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Dean J. Byford and Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Chair Jerry Gresham. “I also appreciate the constructive role of Buddy Mitchell and Agriculture Research Dean Roland Mote. This truly is a case of the UT System working together to strengthen our respective missions.” Byford added, “This provides UT Martin an increased opportunity to do what it does best - prepare students with the necessary science background and experience to work in the real world.”

The following changes will go into effect:

* The Swine Research Facility will continue to house a reduced number of swine that will be used in the UT Martin animal science program;
* The granary at the Swine Research Facility will be converted into the West Tennessee Diagnostic Laboratory that is being funded by the Tennessee State Department of Agriculture. The facility is expected to be online within 12 months and will serve area livestock producers;
* The cropland will be utilized in the future by the UT Martin plant science facility for large-scale crop plots.

“We are pleased to have the opportunity to expand our teaching program with the additional cropland and research facilities currently operated by the experiment station,” added Gresham. “The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty members welcome the chance to develop new initiatives to benefit the experiential learning experience of our students and serve producers of our area.”

Experiment Station Dean Tom Klindi endorsed the organizational change, noting that research resources to serve West Tennessee producers will be better focused while permitting students an exceptional opportunity to learn by hands-on experience.
Alum’s chance ‘find’ enhances archaeological study at UT Martin

A chance encounter between James Clapper and an Alaskan riverbank netted a fossil find embedded in the bank for more than 10,000 years. The discovery of woolly mammoth tusks by the UT Martin alum and his father is now benefiting students in a UT Martin geoaarchaeology class.

Clapper, a May 2005 graduate, his father, Jon, and another companion were casting for salmon and trout while floating their way down the Aniak River in Western Alaska when they spotted what appeared to be tusks protruding from a cliff following a recent thaw. The town of Aniak and the river are about 500 miles west of Anchorage. The only access to the area is by air or water.

“We had heard from a few different sources that woolly mammoth ivory had been found here and there in the past and knew to keep an eye out for it,” said James. “The father and son from Nashville and Tyler Roderick, who joined them from Oklahoma, used crude, makeshift tools to free the tusks after several hours of excavating. The tusks have been in a lab this semester being cleaned, preserved and studied by students in the geoaarchaeology class taught by Helmut Wenz and Dr. Michael Gibson. Wenz is a UT Martin professor of geography with expertise in archaeology. Gibson is a UT Martin professor of geology.

“The idea of touching and seeing something that no living creature had for thousands of years, was a pretty amazing feeling for us all,” said James. “We were elated when we were finally able to realize their full size and beauty. The outside of the ivory had oxidized into a cobalt blue.”

And, while James and his companions were amazed at their find, Gibson, whose expertise is in the fossils of animals and plants, said such finds are more common than the public might think.

Many people think the best fossil finds are made by professional paleontologists,” said Gibson. “While paleontologists are busy conducting research, writing and teaching, the average person is the one actually in the field . . . in many cases, and this comes across finds.” He added, “Such encounters are where the majority of scientific discoveries come from.

“One of the things I tell my students as part of their courses is how to recognize when something they come across may be significant enough to ask a professional. After a few years of educating students on what fossils are, how they preserve, where they preserve and their importance, they become an extension of my eyes and ears. While they may not have the training to deal with the find, they do know to contact someone.”

And that is exactly what James did. “I brought them to professor Wenz for several reasons,” James said. “I knew that he and his department would take good care of them and tell me volumes of information about the tusks. James said he also saw it as a way to give back to the university. “I believe finds of this nature should not be kept in a private collection somewhere, but should have the chance to be studied and used to enlighten us about the past.”

It was Jon who actually saw the tusks as the trio floated around a sharp bend in the river. They were about three feet above the water with the proximal sides sticking out of the cliff and the distal sides, the points, along with the majority of the tusks embedded in the clay.

“Luckily, we were the first people down the river since the spring melt off and resulting floods that exposed the tusks for us to see,” said James, who added the tusks might have been lost forever if the river flooded and destroyed them. “Although we had no real equipment to excavate the tusks, we used a small tent stake mallet and fashioned some crude tools out of tent stakes wrapped in duct tape for handles to dig and chip away the substrate from around the tusks.”

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Once at UT Martin, Wenz and Gibson, who often collaborate, immediately expanded the benefit of the fossil find by placing them in the classroom. “We find ways to include students in these collaborative endeavors because we know that students like the thrill of discovery and this excites learning,” said Gibson. He added there are not many things better than participating in being the first people to find and handle objects that predate humans or have not been seen by others.”

“So, as we have done in the past, we offered a special-topics course built around the two tusks found by one of our alumni, who thought of our department as the best place to get some answers . . . to me a sure sign that we reached this student and influenced his life in a positive way,” Gibson added.

Students are learning how to clean and preserve the tusks and how to document and evaluate the find. “Science, history and geoaarchaeology are usually taught in different departments, but overlap,” Gibson said. Why not show students the value of a true liberal arts education and approach? Along the way, everyone will have worked on a real find and developed a professional relationship that will last their careers. And we will have preserved and documented a very interesting and important piece of history that would have otherwise been lost.”

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Revelle tells graduates to ‘make the best of your life’s circumstances’

Dr. Mike Reveille, a Jackson emergency room physician and a University of Tennessee at Martin alumna, delivered the fall commencement address at UT Martin, Dec. 17. He challenged graduates to “find stones for building a firm foundation for life.”

Highlighting three “stones” he deemed important, Reveille explained the “value of wisdom, the virtue of friendship and the privilege of circumstance.”

“The reason you are here today is that you, your parents, your spouse or someone gave up time, money and hard work to arrive at this milestone. All of us have different circumstances which brought us here and will face challenging consequences ahead. I dare say that in 20 years, you will be more disappointed by what you didn’t do than by what you did.” He added, “Make the best of your life’s circumstances.”

He continued about friends, “I met some of the best people I’ve ever met while here at Martin. Cherish those friends and family who helped make this possible.”

Finally, Reveille explained his value of wisdom. “Some of you have seen life’s darkest days and nights. For some, those days are yet to come, but I remind you that sometimes only when it is dark can you look up and appreciate the true beauty of the stars.” He added, “Remember that vision without action is a dream, and action without vision can be a nightmare."

Dr. Jack Britt, University of Tennessee executive vice president, and Dr. David Millhorn, vice president for research, also attended commencement.

“We extend congratulations...for your accomplishments. It’s a distinct honor to be a college graduate,” said Britt, who added, “UT Martin is a very significant part of the UT family.”

Britt commended the administration, faculty and staff for leading the way in leadership programs, technology advancements and overall continued quality of the institution.

UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the commencement exercises and conferred degrees to graduates from 47 Tennessee counties and 14 other states, including Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. The class also included students from Japan, Korea, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Kingdom. They join more than 32,000 graduates of UT Martin located throughout the world.

Following the conferring of degrees, Dunagan directed his final comments to the newest group of UT Martin alumni. “There are five things to help us be an even better university and thus, enhance the value of your degree,” said Dunagan. “Maintain your contact with your alma mater, let us know where you are and what you are doing. Give us your advice and give us your support. Help us recruit other good students, like yourselves. And finally, be supportive of higher education as you become taxpayers citizens. You will experience the personal benefits of a college degree.

I also remind you and all citizens of Tennessee that there is a public good represented by living in a state that has a high percentage of college graduates. You are joining a state population that has a college graduate rate of 20 percent. As a state, we should do better.” He added, “Be an advocate for higher education. When you arrived here as freshmen, we said ‘get involved.’ As you depart, my final words are ‘get involved. Make a difference.’

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2005

CARL SEALE AWARD — Nichole Brown, of Antioch, recently received the Carl Seale Student Teaching Award presented each semester to two students at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The awards are given in memory of Dr. Carl Seale, who served the university from 1971 to 1992 in numerous capacities. Recipients are chosen by the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Scholarship Selection Committee from students with a major in education/teacher licensure, who have been nominated for exhibiting exceptional classroom instruction, excellence in classroom management, professionalism and potential for leadership in the teaching profession. Brown is graduating with a bachelor of science degree in education. She served as a student teacher at Martin Primary School and Martin Middle School. Ann Cates, mentor teacher and Mike Taylor, her university supervisor, nominated her. Joan Howell also served as her mentor teacher.
Like some of his peers, Cody Alcorn arrived at the University of Tennessee at Martin undecided about his future. What transpired during the next four years could be a textbook case about how to focus on goals, graduate and then begin a career. Except that Alcorn, who will graduate in December with a bachelor of arts degree in communications and a concentration in broadcasting, interned with a top-16 market station in Phoenix, Ariz., and then began working full-time at WBBJ-TV in Jackson while still in school.

"Everything has fallen into place when it needed to," said Alcorn, who completed the summer internship at KPHO-TV in Phoenix last summer and is the only general-assignment reporter for the WBBJ 10 o'clock news.

It was his interest in rodeo and the fact that several friends attended UT Martin that led Alcorn, a native of Sikeston, Mo., here. The campus was just far enough away from home. "I looked around for colleges close to home. I had a lot of choices. I came and visited ... and ended up really liking the campus. I'd always heard good things about the campus," he said. "Rodeo added to it."

Alcorn initially pursued accounting while continuing his interest in rodeo events with the UT Martin rodeo team for two years. He appreciates the rodeo program for the friendships he developed and the many lessons that made him more independent. He was not a scholarship team member, however, so when he transported his two horses and traveled with the team, it was at his own expense - hotel, gas and entry fees.

"It was fun. We got to travel a lot," he said. "You're on your own. You manage your time, your money. I liked it. Rodeo teaches you to be independent. You learn responsibility and respect. I still rope ... when I go home, just more as a hobby." Alcorn has been involved in rodeos since he was 10, following his father and brother, who continue to "rope."

But when Alcorn decided to become a broadcast major, the time and money he spent on rodeo did not fit his new schedule or his career plans. He realized that he could not travel on weekends and devote the time he thought was necessary to broadcasting. "It was a big decision," he said, but added, "I knew where I wanted to be. I set goals that I wanted to do, and rodeo - it just didn't fit in. It's something that I can pick back up down the road when I get settled."

Settled is not something that comes to mind when describing Alcorn or his schedule. Since September, he has worked five days a week at WBBJ, driving 100 miles a day to Jackson and back, after attending classes.

Following his first day of "shadowing" at WBBJ, he arrived for work the next day at 3 p.m. and was told he would be "live" on the five, six and 10 o'clock newscasts from the West Tennessee State Fair in Jackson. "It was pretty much a test. I was nervous, you could tell, but I knew where I was, and I said the right station." Since that time, in addition to covering a broad spectrum of news, "I've gotten two breaking stories. I've made mistakes. You build on them. It's been an awesome experience."

Alcorn credits the UT Martin faculty and that summer internship in Phoenix in preparing him for his first paid broadcasting position at WBBJ. "I owe a lot to the faculty," he said, adding that he developed good relationships with his communications professors. "They're there to help you in any way possible. I took my first mass media class, and I knew. It's something I've always liked."

Even though things have "fallen into place," Alcorn does not leave much to chance. In addition to broadcast skills, he gained experience as a daily newspaper reporter one semester. He landed...
UT Martin Graduate (continued)

When he first called KPHO, a CBS affiliate, the executive producer he spoke to knew exactly where UT Martin was located, previously serving a stint at WPSD-TV in Paducah. “It’s big time out there and they knew our school.” After signing a contract with KPHO, a No. 2 market station in San Francisco offered Alcorn an internship, but he honored his commitment to KPHO. “Coming out of college, it’s all about hands-on experience,” he said. “In this business, it’s who you know, and what kind of impression you leave on them.” With that in mind, Alcorn is tenacious about maintaining contacts and networking in the industry.

Alcorn said he will know when the time is right to leave WBBJ. “The opportunity knocked for them to put me on the air while I was still in my senior year in college.” And, while he enjoys field reporting, his ultimate goal is the anchor chair. If the anchor chair is at a major network, so much the better.

“Realistically, when I get enough experience and the time is right, I could go back to Phoenix and stay there for a while.”

But just awhile. “There are so many things you can do in this field. I want to travel; not stay anywhere too long. Opportunity knocks. I’m not going to let a lot of things stop me at this point.”

Ag research station realigned

The coordination of agricultural education in West Tennessee will be enhanced with the recent announcement that the land, buildings and equipment of the UT Experiment Station’s Martin Research and Education Center will become teaching resources of UT Martin’s Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. University of Tennessee Interim Vice President for Agriculture Buddy Mitchell and UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan jointly announced the transfer effective Jan. 1, 2006.

UT Martin currently operates 200 acres of the 600-acre farm adjacent to the campus as part of its Agriculture and Natural Resources Teaching Center. With this change, a swine production facility and the remainder of the land will be incorporated into UT Martin’s teaching and public service programs.

The laboratory partnership is funded through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program, a $5 million appropriation for farm programs in this year’s state budget as proposed by Gov. Phil Bredesen and supported by the Tennessee General Assembly.

Chancellor Dunagan praised the innovative approach by UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Dean Jim Byford and Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Chair Jerry Gresham. “I also appreciate the constructive role of Buddy Mitchell and Agriculture Research Dean Roland Mote. This truly is a case of the UT System working together to strengthen our respective missions.”

Byford added, “This provides UT Martin an increased opportunity to do what it does best – prepare students with the necessary science background and experience to work in the real world.”

The following changes will go into effect:

• The Swine Research Facility will continue to house a reduced number of swine that will be used in the UT Martin animal science program;
• The granary at the Swine Research Facility will be converted into the West Tennessee Diagnostic Laboratory that is being funded by the Tennessee State Department of Agriculture. The facility is expected to be online within 12 months and will serve area livestock producers;
• The cropland will be utilized in the future by the UT Martin plant science faculty for large-scale crop plots.

“We are pleased to have the opportunity to expand our teaching program with the additional cropland and research facilities currently operated by the experiment station,” added Gresham. “The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty members welcome the chance to develop new initiatives to benefit the experiential learning experience of our students and serve producers of our area.”

Experiment Station Dean Tom Klindt endorsed the organizational change, noting that research resources to serve West Tennessee producers will be better focused while permitting students an exceptional opportunity to learn by hands-on experience.
REED Center announces January seminars

The Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center are sponsoring a series of business seminars in January.

"E-Commerce and Your Business" will be held from 9-11 a.m., Jan. 17, in Room 206A of the Boling University Center at UT Martin. This session will detail the different e-commerce options available to businesses and highlight the importance for developing plans to address the e-commerce needs of businesses. Steve Holt, director of the UT Martin Instructional Technology Center, will instruct the seminar.

"Personal Financial Plans" will be held from 9-11 a.m., Jan. 24, at the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce office in Dresden. Shirley Borden, a certified financial planner, will provide information to guide in the development of a personal financial plan. Participants will learn how to apply financial plans in the creation and modification of business plans.

The last seminar, "Small Business 101: How to Start a Business," will be held from 4-6 p.m., Jan. 28, in Room 206A of the Boling University Center at UT Martin. This session, instructed by Ron Acree, a small business specialist from the Tennessee Small Business Development Center, will be geared towards individuals who are thinking about starting a small business. It is also appropriate for new and existing small business owners and operators who want to know more about the basics of small business management. Topics include: licensing requirements, business planning, legal business structures and obtaining financing. A short question-and-answer period will follow the seminar.

All seminars are free and open to the public. There will be Continuing Education Units available for $10 at each seminar. Pre-registration is required two days before each seminar. Registration forms and more information are available by contacting Hollie Holt, coordinator of the REED Center, at 731-587-7333, or by visiting www.utm.edu/reed.

Santa's Village sets record in food, toy donations

The 21st Santa's Village set a record in donations of food items and toys, with the value placed at $59,954. The total is up from last year's record of $59,308. The annual event at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin was co-sponsored by the Martin Department of Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin.

The event featured 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Admission was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

This year's attendance was the fifth largest in spite of inclement weather opening day that cancelled classes in some school districts and hampered travel in parts of the region. "We had expected 1,000 children for the annual sneak previews. They were unable to attend because of school closings," said Dennis Suiter, Martin Department of Parks and Recreation director. "But attendance picked up Saturday, and we had a huge Sunday."

"I am absolutely thrilled with the level of donations," said Suiter. "It was a record-setting year."

Suiter said sponsors were somewhat apprehensive about donation totals because of the variety of charitable needs this year following hurricanes and other events. "We were geared for the hit," he said, but added that donors still made contributions to Santa's Village. Speaking on behalf of the sponsors, Suiter said, "From the volunteers who make the event available, to all the wonderful people who attended, it is good to know we've all been a part of helping those less fortunate."

Suiter pointed to three main donations that got Santa's Village off to a good start each year before the doors open to the public. Food provided by Gordon Food Service and E.W. James and Sons Grocery and the WCMT can caravan that taps Weakley County schools are always welcome contributors.

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

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

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

Dr. Mike Revelle, a Jackson emergency room physician and a University of Tennessee at Martin alumnus, delivered the fall commencement address at UT Martin, Dec. 17. He challenged graduates to "find stones for building a firm foundation for life."

Highlighting three "stories" he deems important, Revelle explained the "value of wisdom, the virtue of friendship and the privilege of circumstance."

"The reason you are here today is that you, your parents, your spouse or someone gave up time, money and hard work to arrive at this milestone. All of us have different circumstances which brought us here and will face challenging consequences ahead. I dare say that in 20 years, you will be more disappointed by what you didn't do than by what you did." He added, "Make the best of your life's circumstances."

He continued about friends, "I met some of the best people I've ever met while here at Martin. Cherish those friends and family who helped make this possible."

Finally, Revelle explained his value of wisdom. "Some of you have seen life's darkest days and nights. For some, those days are yet to come, but I remind you that sometimes only when it is dark can you look up and appreciate the true beauty of the stars." He added, "Remember that vision without action is a daydream, and action without vision can be a nightmare."

"Today truly marks the end of a beginning of a life as a college student. You are moving on to bigger and better things. For some, it means entering the workforce for the first time; for others, it may mean graduate school, medical school or law school. Congratulations again to all of you and best of luck in finding those stones in which you can build a firm foundation for the rest of your life."

Dr. Revelle, who recently received the UT Martin Outstanding Young Alumni Award, is an emergency room physician at Jackson Madison County Hospital. He also is Madison County assistant medical examiner and medical director for Medical Center Emergency Services, Hardeman County Emergency Medical Services, Crockett County First Responder Program and Jackson State Community College Paramedic Program. He is resident delegate to the board of directors, Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians. In March, Revelle returned from Iraq after serving four months as a medical officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

He is a native of Crockett Mills, graduating from UT Martin in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a doctor of medicine from UT College of Medicine in 1999. Revelle was named UT Martin Outstanding Male Graduate and was vice president of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the commencement exercises and conferred degrees to graduates from 47 Tennessee counties and 14 other states, including Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. The class also included students from Japan, Korea, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Kingdom. They join more than 32,000 graduates of UT Martin located throughout the world.

Following the conferring of degrees, Dunagan directed his final comments to the newest group of UT Martin alumni.

"There are five things to help us be an even better university and thus, enhance the value of your degree," said Dunagan. "Maintain your contact with your alma mater, let us know where you are and what you are doing. Give us your advice and give us your support. Help us recruit other good students, like yourselves. And finally, be supportive of higher education as you become taxpayers citizens."
Local residents receive degrees

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were Regina Fay Hammond of Dresden; Mark Barrett Brooks, Justin Scott Callis, Abbey Allison Dane, Matthew Scott Fortner, William Jesse Hammond, Robin-Paige Michelle Hauhe, Anuj Kumar Jain, Julie Nicole Johnson, Jeremy Andrew Lamb, Leslie Frederick MacDiarmid, Wesley Alan Morton, Lagretta Louise Owens, Sang Wook Park, Tomi McCutchen Parrish, Maribeth Bell Pearce, Jessica Renee Rhinehart, Shawna Lynne Shell, Stephanie Lynn Rogers, Sachelle Yvonne Shanklin, Sara Lorine Spain, Justin Robinson West, Melissa Dian Reynolds, all of Martin; Derick Wade Leach, Timothy Edward Pratt, Stephanie A. Sheridan, all of Gleason; Hollie Wren Allen, Beth Ann Coats, Nina Milan Poole, Lauren Elisabeth Pugh, Ashley Ann Tharpe, all of Greenfield; Erica Marie Boxx, Stewart Lee Broussard, Christopher Lee Cooper, Kayla F. Gaylord, Michael James Hester, Seth Patrick Witherington, all of Sharon.

The students receiving graduate degrees were Jamie Travis Gallowmore of Dresden; Laura Maryann Hesford, Jerrica Leigh Lamb, Debbie Wren Mount, Jamie Beth Rickman, Michelle Maloan Starr, all of Martin; Randy Scott Reynolds of Sharon.

Dr. Mike Revelle, Jackson, UT Martin alumnus, was the keynote speaker, and Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees.
LOCAL STUDENTS RECEIVE LEADERSHIP AWARDS FROM UT MARTIN — Amy Hedstrom, left, of Old Hickory, and Nina Poole, of Greenfield, accept Paul and Martha Meek Awards presented at the recent commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. David Belote, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, presented the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement exercises. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Hedstrom graduated with a bachelor of arts degree. While at UT Martin, Hedstrom received the John C. Burgess Political Science Award, was a foreign exchange student in Germany, a legislative intern for state Sen. David Fowler, was principal dance ensemble company member and a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Alpha Theta honor fraternities. She also was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and was Panhellenic Council president. She plans to attend law school. Poole graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree. While at UT Martin, she received the Essence Diversity Academic Award, a Harold Conner Scholarship, University of Tennessee Board of Trustees Scholarship and the Black Alumni Academic Achievement Award. She had the highest grade point average as a pre-med student for four consecutive years. She also is a graduate of the university’s LEAD Academy. Poole completed a summer internship at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She plans to attend medical school.

LOCAL STUDENT INDUCTED INTO PSI CHI HONOR SOCIETY — Scott Crittendon (left), of Martin, was recently inducted into Psi Chi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Psi Chi, founded in 1974 at UT Martin, is an honor society for psychology majors and minors. The organization holds regular business meetings, schedules speakers on careers and holds graduate training workshops. Pictured with Crittendon is Shanna Baker, Psi Chi president.

The Paris Post-Intelligencer, Paris, Tenn.,

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

Naik recognized at UTM scientific poster contest

Annie Naik of Paris was among students recognized recently at the first Tri Beta Biological Honorary Society and Department of Biological Sciences’ scientific poster contest at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ms. Naik was awarded third place for her poster, “Effects of Sleep on Short-term Memory and Academic Performance.” Twenty-one posters were presented and judged for scientific merit and quality of presentation. The event provided students the opportunity to display original undergraduate research.

The goal was to encourage students to develop skills needed to prepare professional scientific presentations.
UT Milan relinquishes control of research farm at U-T Martin

Land to be used for teaching tools

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UT Martin currently operates 200 acres of the 600-acre farm adjacent to the campus as part of its Agriculture and Natural Resources Teaching Center. With this change, a swine production facility and the remainder of the land will be incorporated into UT Martin's teaching and public service programs.

"This realignment of the Martin research station is positive for the university and also for West Tennessee agriculture," said Mitchell. "We believe that our research efforts can now be more focused at our Milan and Jackson Experiment Stations, and the experiential learning for UT Martin students will be greatly enhanced."

"We're glad to join UT Martin in a new partnership that will greatly enhance our animal disease surveillance and diagnostic capabilities," said Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens. "The development of a West Tennessee diagnostic laboratory will be critically important to our efforts to safeguard Tennessee's billion-dollar livestock industry from both naturally occurring and foreign animal diseases. With UT Martin providing high-quality service, this partnership creates a statewide presence and capability that we've never had before."

The laboratory partnership is funded through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program, a $5 million appropriation for farm programs in this year's state budget as proposed by Gov. Phil Bredesen and supported by the Tennessee General Assembly.

Chancellor Dunagan praised the innovative approach by UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Dean Jim Byford and Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Chair Jerry Gresham. "I also appreciate the constructive role of Buddy Mitchell and Agriculture Research Dean Roland Mote. This truly is a case of the UT System working together to strengthen our respective missions."

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Nine countians receive degrees from UTM

Nine Henry County residents were among students who received degrees during the fall 2005 commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Receiving undergraduate degrees were Brady Hope Bechard, Douglas Edward Billings, Mitzi Alise Byars, Paul William Carney, Theresa Crowe Comer, Kara Brooke Goddard and Holly Rae Meyer, all of Paris; and William Justin Cheek of Springville.

Jessica Marie Crews of Paris received a graduate degree.

UT Martin alumnus Mike Revelle of Jackson was the keynote speaker. UT Martin chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees.
2005 marked by ‘firsts’
at UT Martin

There is something about a new year - a fresh start, all that potential. At the University of Tennessee at Martin, the year began with the possibilities and promises of any year. The result was a collection of “firsts” that reflects the university’s commitment to provide a well-rounded, quality education. Progress has been made on a variety of fronts, most of them directly impacting students.

Whether it is the initiatives that enhance academic programs, awards that recognize fine teaching, facility improvements or collaborations that benefit the public as well as the university, UT Martin has had a good year.

“We can justifiably be proud of the year’s accomplishments,” said UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan, “but we need to continue to do the right things for the right reasons.”

Those reasons are the students. He added, “We must make sure we are providing them with a quality education, background, leadership skills, global exposure, real-world experiences and a sense of service to others. If students embrace all the university has to offer, they are more likely to be knowledgeable, well-adjusted and compassionate individuals who can make significant contributions to our world.”

Growth has been a hallmark of 2005 at UT Martin. As each semester’s enrollment topped its 2004 counterpart, administrators, faculty and staff planned how to serve the increasing student numbers with the same individual attention for which the university is known. “During the year, we have made managed growth a primary topic of discussion,” said Dunagan.

Also, a priority during the year has been more emphasis on student-leadership qualities. “The students who will be most successful are those who not only have excelled academically, but have leadership qualities and can be team players,” said the chancellor.

Real-world experiences and global exposure have been at the forefront during 2005. Internships in a variety of disciplines and study-abroad opportunities have been expanded. “We want to make sure the students will have the information and skills they need to deal with globalization,” Dunagan said.

Increasing the university’s reach throughout the region and beyond, UT Martin is the University of Tennessee provider of online education, accommodating the needs of non-traditional students with full-time jobs and family responsibilities. Other initiatives were approved that will make UT Martin more accessible at other locations, including a new center in Ripley.

The university continues to be “home” to the WestStar leadership program, founded 15 years ago to better prepare the region’s leaders.

There also is a constant upgrading of the university’s facilities from the replacement of traditional student dormitories with apartment-style housing to renovations of existing facilities.

Following are some of the 2005 highlights:

- Construction of the UT Martin Electrical Generation Facility, north of campus. The $4.9 million facility will help to control campus energy costs, channel more funds to academics and provide real-world laboratory experience for engineering and business students.

- The first four buildings of University Village, an apartment-style, five-building complex on campus opened in the fall. The last building is slated to open for the spring semester. The fully-furnished apartments include two-, three- and four-bedroom floor plans.

- Pat Head Summitt, head coach of the UT Lady Vols and a UT Martin alum, delivered her first commencement address at her alma mater on May 14. The legendary coach used her time as spring commencement speaker to share personal memories with the graduating class and to offer some “coaching advice” for success.

- The university received UT Martin’s first-ever Congressional earmark federal appropriation in the amount of $396,800 to enhance and expand the university’s Reesefoot Lake Research and Teaching Center. The earmark grant will be used to purchase essential educational and teaching equipment and supplies to support the center’s outreach mission to K-12 biology inservice workshops and courses. The project began fully in 2005 and is directed by Drs. Doug Sterrett and David Sammons, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

- UT Martin’s first-ever TRIO Student Support Services Program grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Teaching American History initiative. Dr. Danie McDonough, project director, and Dr. David Collins, department chair, are teaching the courses that give our students travel and in-class experiences.

- The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences constructed the Sheep and Goat Research Center, received a $240,000 grant, and established an agricultural communications option in agricultural science.

- Technology is being used to enhance learning. With two-thirds of UT Martin faculty members having Gateway tablet computers to begin the fall 2005 term, UT Martin is the only higher-education institution in Tennessee providing such a massive implementation of tablet computers for faculty. The tablet computers function as a desktop in the office and a mobile laptop with handwriting capabilities to use in the classroom. Formulas and diagrams can be hand-drawn on the tablet, saved electronically, and then transmitted to the students. Used in combination with the Blackboard Course Management System, the tablets open up new areas for integration into the curriculum.

- UT Martin was among the top 25 master’s level public universities in the South in the 2005 edition of America’s Best Colleges compiled by U.S. News & World Report. The 2005 rankings placed UT Martin in 23rd place in the South, the highest ranking ever awarded by the university in the annual listings. This fall, UT Martin saw its national ranking improve its ranking as the university tied for 20th place among public universities in the South that grant bachelor’s and master’s degrees in the 2006 edition of America’s Best Colleges compiled by U.S. News & World Report.
Dr. Richard Helgeson, interim chair and associate professor of engineering at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was recently named the featured scholar for the fall semester. Each semester the University recognizes outstanding faculty for excellence in teaching and outstanding scholarship. Helgeson received his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from California State University at Chico and a doctorate in structural engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He joined the UT Martin faculty in 1998. He is active in the research area of the control of structures in earthquake and wind excitation. Dr. Helgeson is an excellent teacher/scholar, who combines research and field experiences in his institutional efforts, said Dr. Tom Rakes, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Pictured from left are: Dr. Doug Sterrett, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Helgeson and Dr. Rakes.

Local students receive Leadership Awards from UT M

Amy Hedstrom, left, of Old Hickory, and Nina Poole, of Greenfield, accept Paul and Martha Meek Awards presented at the recent commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. David Belote, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, presented the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement exercises. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Hedstrom graduated with a bachelor of arts degree. While at UT Martin, Hedstrom received the John C. Burgess Political Science Award, was a foreign exchange student in Germany, a legislative intern for state Sen. David Fowler, was principal dance ensemble company member and a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Alpha Theta honor fraternities. She also was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and was Panhellenic Council president. She plans to attend law school. Poole graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree. While at UT Martin, she received the Essence Diversity Academic Award, a Harold Conner Scholarship, University of Tennessee Board of Trustees Scholarship and the Black Alumni Academic Achievement Award. She had the highest grade point average as a pre-med student for four consecutive years. She also is a graduate of the university's LEAD Academy. Poole completed a summer internship at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She plans to attend medical school.

Business consultant returns with advice January 12 consulting available every day

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 12. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping. Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

Acree will be available the second Thursday of each month from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., but the REED Center offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 920 University St., Martin, Tenn. 38237.

For additional services offered by the REED Center go to www.utm.edu/reed.
Local students inducted into Psi Chi Honor Society

Scott Crittendon, of Martin, was recently inducted into Psi Chi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Psi Chi, founded in 1974 at UT Martin, is an honor society for psychology majors and minors. The organization holds regular business meetings, schedules speakers on careers and holds graduate training workshops. Pictured from left are: Crittendon and Shanna Baker, Psi Chi president.

Stephanie Sheridan, of Martin, was recently inducted into Psi Chi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Psi Chi, founded in 1974 at UT Martin, is an honor society for psychology majors and minors. The organization holds regular business meetings, schedules speakers on careers and holds graduate training workshops. Pictured from left are: Sheridan and Shanna Baker, Psi Chi president.

ECCE Excel, Powerpoint classes planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering computer classes in January and February in Excel and PowerPoint. Shannon Burgin, UT Martin director of information technology services, will be the instructor.

Beginning Excel will be offered from 5-8 p.m., Jan. 12 and 19. The fee is $150.

Learn to build useful spreadsheets using easy-to-use techniques, complete functions, manage files, learn to move and copy, format, prepare sample worksheets, build multiple worksheets and summarize, and develop graphs. Participants will learn how to use drawing tools for special emphasis and much more.

Microsoft PowerPoint is planned from 5-8 p.m., Jan. 26. The fee is $75. PowerPoint is easy to learn and packed with useful features. Learn how to create effective presentations. Add text, notes, graphics. Get comfortable with navigation, templates, custom animation, transition and editing a slide show. Participants will learn how to easily create a professional presentation and enjoy the process.

Finally, Intermediate Excel is planned for 5-8 p.m., Feb. 2 and 9, at a cost of $150. Those interested can expand their knowledge of spreadsheets, work through complex functions and formulas, use “if” statements and conditional formatting. They will learn more about using relative and absolute referencing, create detailed examples and executive summaries, import data into a spreadsheet from an external source, customize graphs, integrate spreadsheets into word processing documents, practice planning and design skills and use Excel to answer what-if questions.

Burgin received a bachelor’s degree from Purdue University and a master’s degree from UT Martin. Burgin teaches both credit and non-credit courses for UT Martin.

To register call ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or 731-881-7082.
HOWARD TAKES OATH — Ronny Howard Jr. (right) of Union City was among the University of Tennessee at Martin engineering graduates inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony held prior to the recent fall commencement. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and to adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. Howard was presented with his ring and certificate by Dr. Robert LeMaster, associate professor of engineering.

Hilton Hickerson of Union City recently earned a teaching endorsement in secondary education agriculture from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Prior to attaining his teaching certificate, he had worked for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. He decided to pursue his lifelong dream of teaching when he was dislocated due to a mass layoff.

Hickerson secured funding for retraining at the Tennessee Career Center in Union City through the Federal Workforce Investment Act, designed to assist dislocated workers with training dollars. He is currently working at Lowe's and plans to pursue a teaching career.

The Workforce Investment Act is a federally-funded program. Job-seekers can qualify for federally-funded training programs, including the Teaching Endorsement Program at UT Martin. For more information, contact Don Dugger at the Tennessee Career Center in Union City at 884-2621.

LOCAL STUDENT INDUCTED — Michelle Hurst (left) of Obion was recently inducted into Psi Chi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Psi Chi, founded in 1974 at UT Martin, is an honor society for psychology majors and minors. The organization holds regular business meetings, schedules speakers on careers and holds graduate training workshops. At the induction, Ms. Hurst was joined by Shanna Baker, Psi Chi president.

At the college level

Twenty-seven students from Obion County and three students from Fulton County, Ky., recently received degrees during the University of Tennessee at Martin's fall commencement, held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on campus.

Students receiving graduate degrees included:

- Union City — Leah Alexander Jackson, Alicia Gomez Mabry, Joshua Dale Robinson and Thel Ward Taylor;
- Hickman, Ky. — Micah Danielle Gardner.

Among those receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Kenton — Todd Glen Littleton and Kimberly Marie Willis;
- South Fulton — Melissa Neal Jones, Jason Eric Nelms, David Andrew Sinclair and Susan Marie Workman;
- Troy — Angie Marie Davis and Cory Thomas Grady;
- Union City — Adam Gordon Campbell, Mary Beth Clapp, William Andrew Dellinger, Amber Denise Freeman, Deborah LeeAnn Garrett, Benjamin James Glasgow, Larry Don Glenn, Lindsey Morgan Graham, Sarah Gail Hamilton, Ronny Lee Howard Jr., William M. Hudson, Joel Elliott McKinnis, Lindsey Marie Bianca Thomas, Kachina Dawn Via and Cinthia Nayereh Wright;
- Fulton — Richard Neal Cruce;
Dunagan reflects on good year

By JOHN BRANNON
Messenger Staff Reporter

As the year 2005 dwindles down to its last days and 2006 waits in the wings, Dr. Nick Dunagan is confident the University of Tennessee at Martin will have an impact.

Dunagan, UT Martin's chancellor, recently reviewed the university's accomplishments during the calendar year 2005. The result was a collection of "firsts" that reflect the university's commitment to provide a well-rounded quality education.

"Progress has been made on a variety of fronts, most of them directly impacting students. Whether it is the initiatives that enhance academic programs, awards that recognize fine teaching, facility improvements or collaborations that benefit all, UT Martin has had a good year," Dunagan said. "But we need to continue to do the right things for the right reasons. Those reasons are the students," he said. "We must make sure we are providing them with a quality educational background, leadership skills, global exposure, real-world experiences and a sense of service to others."

"If students embrace all the university has to offer, they are more likely to be more knowledgeable, well-adjusted and compassionate individuals who can make significant contributions to their world."

Growth has been a hallmark of 2005 at UT Martin. As each semester's enrollment topped its 2004 counterpart, administrators, faculty and staff planned how to serve the increasing student numbers with the same individual attention for which the university is known. Dunagan said managed growth is a primary topic of discussion year-round.

Also, a priority during the year has been more emphasis on student leadership qualities. "The students who will be most successful are those who not only have excelled academically, but have leadership qualities and can be team players," Dunagan said.

Dunagan cites the following listed areas of UT Martin accomplishments during the year:

- Real-world experiences and global exposure.
- Internships in a variety of disciplines and study-abroad opportunities have been expanded. UT Martin wants to ensure students have information and skills they need to deal with globalization.
- Online education.
- UT Martin is the provider of online education, accommodating the needs of non-traditional students with full-time jobs and family responsibilities. Other initiatives were approved that will make UT Martin more accessible to other locations, including a new center in Ripley.
- WestStar program.
- UT Martin continues to be home to the West Star leadership program, founded 15 years ago to better prepare the region's leaders.
- Upgrading facilities.
- There is a constant upgrading of UT Martin facilities from the replacement of traditional student dormitories with apartment-style housing to renovations of existing facilities.
- New electrical facility.
- The 1,400,000 UT Martin electrical generation facility was constructed north of the campus. It will control campus energy costs and channel more funds to academics and provide real-world laboratory experience for engineering and business students.
- New apartments.
- The four first buildings of University Village, an apartment-style, five-building complex on campus, opened during the fall semester. The fifth and last building will open for the spring semester. The fully-furnished apartments include two-, three- and four-bedroom floor plans.
- Reelfoot Lake Center.
- UT Martin received its first federal appropriation — $396,800 — to enhance and expand its Reelfoot Lake Research and Teaching Center. Funds will be used to purchase educational and teaching equipment and supplies to support the center's outreach mission of K-12 biology in-service workshops and courses.
- The project began July 1. It is directed by Drs. Doug Sterrett and David Sammons of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.
- Student Support Services.
- UT Martin received a Student Support Services grant of $1.1 million. The purpose of the grant is the increase of disadvantaged low-income students, first-generation college students and students with disabilities who successfully complete a program of study. Support Services will help retain and graduate students and facilitate transfers from two-year to four-year colleges.
- History and philosophy.
- In June 2005, UT Martin offered the first history and philosophy graduate courses in support of the $981,000 Vertical Immersion Project grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Daniel McDonough, project director, and Dr. David Coffey are teaching the courses.
- Agriculture.
- The UT Martin College of Agriculture and the College of Arts and Sciences constructed the Sheep and Goat Research Center, received a $240,000 grant for goat research and established an agricultural communications option.
- Tablet computers.
- At the start of the fall semester, about two-thirds of UT Martin's faculty members had Gateway tablet computers. UT Martin is the only higher education institution in the state that provides such a massive implementation of tablet computers for its faculty.
- A tablet computer functions as a desktop in the office and a mobile laptop with handwriting capability to use in classrooms.
- Moving up.
- UT Martin was among the top 25 master's level public universities in the South, according to the 2005 edition of America's Best Colleges. Compiled by U.S. News & World Report magazine, the 2005 rankings placed UT Martin 23rd in the South, the highest ranking ever achieved by the university in the annual listings. This fall, UT Martin improved its ranking, now ranking 20th among public universities in the South that award bachelor's and master's degrees.

Dunagan said students' success will be determined by how well prepared they are when they graduate. Students' success will impact communities, states and the nation. He urges, "Think globally, act locally."

And the knowledge revolution will be a primary economic factor. The revolution will require a "retooling" of educational efforts. All levels of education will be scrutinized.

"Our new college online courses and distance-learning courses will have a growing market and a likelihood of greater competition," he said.

To best prepare students, he said, the university will need to be aware of emerging career needs and shortages, be mindful of careers that focus on effective use of the world's resources, and keep pace with all facets of technology.

"The question is whether or not we can visualize the changes that are taking place and how we are going to adapt," Dunagan said. "Subject matter is changing so fast, there may be more value in preparing students with the ability to think critically. While the majority of our students will remain in Tennessee, they will work in a global marketplace.

"Our task, our mission, is to prepare our students not only to exist, but to thrive in this world and be part of the solution, not the problem."

"I am confident we can have an impact," he said.
Doctor challenges UT Martin grads to build a firm foundation for life

Dr. Mike Revelle, a Jackson emergency room physician and a University of Tennessee at Martin alumnus, recently delivered the fall commencement address at UT Martin, challenging graduates to “find stones for building a firm foundation for life.”

Highlighting three “stones” he deems important, Revelle explained the “value of wisdom, the virtue of friendship and the privilege of circumstance.”

“The reason you are here today is that you, your parents, your spouse or someone gave up time, money and hard work to arrive at this milestone. All of us have different circumstances which brought us here and will face challenging consequences ahead. I dare say that in 20 years, you will be more disappointed by what you didn’t do than by what you did,” Revelle said.

“Make the best of your life’s circumstances,” he added.

He continued about friends: “I met some of the best people I’ve ever met while here at Martin. Cherish those friends and family who helped make this possible.”

Finally, Revelle explained his value of wisdom.

“Some of you have seen life’s darkest days and nights. For some, those days are yet to come, but I remind you that sometimes only when it is dark can you look up and appreciate the true beauty of the stars,” he said.

“Remember that vision without action is a dream and action without vision can be a nightmare.

“Today truly marks the end of a beginning of a life as a college student. You are moving on to bigger and better things. For some, it means entering the workforce for the first time; for others, it may mean graduate school, medical school or law school. Congratulations again to all of you and best of luck in finding those stones in which you can build a firm foundation for the rest of your life,” he said.

Revelle, who recently received the UT Martin Outstanding Young Alumni Award, is an emergency room physician at Jackson Madison County Hospital. He also is Madison County assistant medical examiner and medical director for Medical Center Emergency Services, Hardeman County Emergency Medical Services, Crockett County First Responder Program and Jackson State Community College Paramedic Program.

He is resident director to the board of directors, Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians.

In March, Revelle returned from Iraq after serving four months as a medical officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

A native of Crockett Mills, he graduated from UT Martin in 1993 with a bachelor’s degree in agriculture and from the College of Medicine in 1999 with a doctor of medicine degree. He was named UT Martin Outstanding Male Graduate and was vice president of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

Dr. Jack Britt, University of Tennessee executive vice president, and Dr. David Millhorn, vice president for research, also attended the recent commencement at UT Martin.

“We extend congratulations ... for your accomplishments. It’s a distinct honor to be a college graduate,” said Britt, who added, “UT Martin is a very significant part of the UT family.”

Britt commended the administration, faculty and staff for leading the way in leadership programs, technology advancements and overall continued quality of the institution.

UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the commencement exercises and conferred degrees to graduates from 47 Tennessee counties and 14 other states, including Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. The class also included students from Japan, Korea, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

They join more than 32,000 graduates of UT Martin located throughout the world.

Following the conferring of degrees, Dunagan directed his final comments to the newest group of UT Martin alumni.

“There are five things to help us be an even better university and thus, enhance the value of your degree,” Dunagan said.

“Maintain your contact with your alma mater, let us know where you are and what you are doing. Give us your advice and give us your support. Help us recruit other good students, like yourselves. And, finally, be supportive of higher education as you become tax-paying citizens.”

“You will experience the personal benefits of a college degree. I also remind you and all citizens of Tennessee that there is a public good represented by living in a state that has a high percentage of college graduates. You are joining a state population that has a college graduate rate of 20 percent. As a state, we should do better.”

“Be an advocate for higher education. When you arrived here as freshmen, we said ‘Get involved.’ As you depart, my final words are ‘Get involved. Make a difference,’” Dunagan said.

Local students receive degrees

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

• Trenton: Sunnie Jean Ferguson and Joe Michael Hunt Jr.;
• Bradford: Jenny Lee Lannom and Danielle Kristen Page;
• Dyer: Kevin Lee Depke and Drew Parker Duncan;
• Humboldt: DeVonna Teyon Burnett, Emily Catherine LeForge, Mary Christine Brown Harper, George Edward May, Dolan Daniel Murphy, Steven Matthew Ragan, Ashley Marie Shelton, and Lucretia Faye Westmoreland;
• Idlewild: Jeffrey Paul Hildebrand;
• Medina: Steven Daniel Torrance;
• Rutherford: Joshua Seth Dudley, John Blake White;
• Yorkville: Joshua Gray Turner.

Among students receiving graduate degrees were:

• Trenton: Jason Lee Deem;
• Dr. Mike Revelle, Jackson, UT Martin alumnus, was the keynote speaker, and Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees.
Santa's Village sets donation record

The 21st Santa's Village set a record in donations of food items and toys with the value placed at $59,954. The total is up from last year's record of $59,308. The annual event at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin was co-sponsored by the Martin Department of Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin.

The event featured 26,000 square feet of lights, holiday displays and continuous entertainment. Admission was the donation of $5 of food items or toys.

This year's attendance was the fifth largest in spite of inclement weather opening day that cancelled classes in some school districts and hampered travel in parts of the region. "We had expected 1,000 children for the annual sneak previews. They were unable to attend because of school closings," said Dennis Suiter, Martin Department of Parks and Recreation director. "But attendance picked up Saturday, and we had a huge Sunday."

Suiter said sponsors were somewhat apprehensive about donation totals because of the variety of charitable needs this year following hurricanes and other events. "We were geared for the hit," he said, but added that donors still made contributions to Santa's Village. Speaking on behalf of the sponsors, Suiter said, "From the volunteers who make the event available, to all the wonderful people who attended, it is good to know we've all been a part of helping those less fortunate."

Suiter pointed to three main donations that get Santa's Village off to a good start each year before the doors open to the public. Food provided by Gordon Food Service and E. W. James and Sons Grocery and the WCMT can caravans that taps Weakley County schools are always welcome contributions.

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

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

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

The Gazette, Trenton, Tennessee

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

Business consultant returns with advice

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., January 12. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues. Budding entrepreneurs may receive advice on developing a business plan, marketing and record keeping. Acree is knowledgeable about state and national resources that are available for businesses.

Acree will be available the second Thursday of each month from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., but the REED Center offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED(7333). The REED Center is located at 920 University St., Martin, TN 38237.

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

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

ECCE Excel, Powerpoint classes planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering computer classes in January and February in Excel and Powerpoint.

Shannon Burgin, UT Martin director of information technology services, is the instructor.

Beginning Excel will be offered from 5-8 p.m. Jan. 12 and 19. The fee is $150.

Students can learn to build useful spreadsheets using easy-to-use techniques, complete functions, manage files, learn to move and copy, format, prepare sample worksheets, build multiple worksheets and summarize and develop graphs. Participants will learn how to use drawing tools for special emphasis and much more.

Microsoft PowerPoint is planned for 5-8 p.m. Jan. 26. The fee is $75.

PowerPoint is easy to learn and packed with useful features. Students will learn how to create effective presentations, add text, notes and graphics and to get comfortable with navigation, templates, custom animation, transition and editing a slide show. Participants will learn how to easily create a professional presentation and enjoy the process.

Finally, Intermediate Excel is planned for 5-8 p.m. Feb. 2 and 9 at a cost of $150.

Those interested can expand their knowledge of spreadsheets, work through complex functions and formulas, use "if" statements and conditional formatting. They will learn more about using relative and absolute referencing, create detailed examples and executive summaries, import data into a spreadsheet from an external source, customize graphs, integrate spreadsheets into word processing documents, practice planning and design skills and use Excel to answer what-if questions.

Burgin, who received a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and a master's degree from UT Martin, teaches both credit and non-credit courses for UT Martin.

To register for a class, call the ECCE at 1-800-482-5199 or (731) 881-7082.
Year marked by ‘firsts’ at UT Martin

There is something about a new year — a fresh start, all that potential. At the University of Tennessee at Martin, the year began with the possibilities and promises of any year. The result was a collection of ‘firsts’ that reflect the university’s commitment to provide a well-rounded, quality education. Progress has been made on a variety of fronts, most of them directly impacting students.

Growth has been a hallmark of 2005 at UT Martin. As each semester’s enrollment topped its 2004 counterpart, administrators, faculty and staff planned how to serve the increasing student numbers with the same individual attention for which the university is known.

Real-world experiences and global exposure have been at the forefront during 2005. Internships in a variety of disciplines and study-abroad opportunities have been expanded. “We want to make sure the students will have the information and skills they need to deal with globalization,” Dunagan said.

Increasing the university’s reach throughout the region and beyond, UT Martin is the University of Tennessee provider of online education, accommodating the needs of non-traditional students with full-time jobs and family responsibilities. Other initiatives were approved that will make UT Martin courses accessible at other locations, including a new center in Ripley.

The university continues to be “home” to the WestStar leadership program, founded 15 years ago to better prepare the region’s leaders.

There also is a constant upgrading of the university’s facilities from the replacement of traditional student dormitories with apartment-style housing to renovations of existing facilities.

Following are some of the 2005 highlights:
- Construction of the UT Martin Electrical Generation Facility, north of campus. The $4.9 million facility will help to control campus energy costs, channel more funds to academics and provide real-world laboratory experiences for engineering and business students.
- The first four buildings of University Village, an apartment-style, five-building complex on campus opened in the fall. The last building is slated to open for the spring semester. The fully-furnished apartments include two-, three- and four-bedroom floor plans.
- Pat Head Summitt, head coach of the UT Lady Vols and a UT Martin alum, delivered her first commencement address at her alma mater on May 14. The legendary coach used her time as spring commencement speaker to share personal memories with the graduating class and to offer some “coaching advice” for success.
- The university received UT Martin’s first-ever congressional earmark federal appropriation in the amount of $236,800 to enhance and expand the university’s Reelfoot Lake Research and Teaching Center. The earmark grant will be used to purchase essential educational and teaching equipment and supplies to support the center’s outreach mission of K-12 biology inservice workshops and courses. The project began July 1 and is directed by Drs. Doug Sterrett and David Sammons, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.
- UT Martin’s first-ever TRIO — Student Support Services Grant in the amount of $1.1 million was awarded in 2005. The purpose of the Student Support Services Program is to increase the number of disadvantaged low-income college students, first-generation college students and college students with disabilities in the United States who successfully complete a program of study at the post-secondary level of education. The support services provided will increase their retention and graduation rates, facilitate their transfer from two-year to four-year colleges and foster an institutional climate supportive of their successes.
- In June 2005, history and philosophy offered the first of several scheduled graduate courses in support of the $981,000 Vertical Immersion Project Grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Teaching American History initiative. Dr. Daniel McDonough, project director, and Dr. David Coffey, department chair, are teaching the courses that involve both travel and in-class experiences.
- The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences constructed the Sheep and Goat Research Center, received a $240,000 goat research grant and established an agricultural communications option in agricultural science.
- Technology is being used to enhance learning. With two-thirds of UT Martin faculty members having Gateway tablet computers to begin the fall 2005 term, UT Martin is the only higher-education institution in Tennessee to provide such a massive implementation of tablet computers for its faculty. The tablet computers function as a desktop in the office and a mobile laptop with handwriting capabilities to use in the classroom. Formulas and diagrams can be hand-drawn on the tablet, saved electronically, and then transmitted to the students. Used in combination with the Blackboard Course Management System, the tablets open up new areas for integration into the curriculum.
- UT Martin was among the top-25 master’s level public universities in the South in the 2005 edition of America’s Best Colleges compiled by U.S. News & World Report. The 2005 rankings placed UT Martin in 23rd place in the South, the highest ranking ever achieved by the university in the annual listings. This fall, UT Martin improved its ranking as the university tied for 20th place among public universities in the South that grant bachelor’s and master’s degrees in the 2006 edition of America’s Best Colleges compiled by U.S. News & World Report.

While the “firsts” dominated UT Martin’s 2005 diary, Dunagan cautions against finding complacency in last year’s accomplishments and always urges faculty and staff to adapt highly. Wayne Gretzky’s strategy to “skate to where the puck will be, not to where it is.”

As detailed plans must evolve for the future, Dunagan thinks several
overall factors will govern how UT Martin and its students fare. He noted that, in large part, the success of students will be determined by how well prepared they are when they graduate. He noted that students' successes impact their communities, states and the nation. He urged adherence to the adage, “think globally, act locally.”

The knowledge revolution will be the primary economic factor. “As part of this revolution, there will be mandates to retool our educational efforts,” said Dunagan, adding that all levels of education will be scrutinized. “Our New College online courses and ECCE distance-learning courses will have a growing market and a likelihood of greater competition.”

Dunagan said to best prepare students, the university will need to be aware of emerging career needs and shortages, be mindful of careers that focus on effective use of the world's resources, keep pace with all facets of technology and continue to embrace and celebrate diversity.

“The question before us is whether or not we can visualize the changes that are taking place and how we are going to adapt. Subject matter is changing so fast that there may be more value in preparing students with the ability to think critically . . . .” He added, “While the majority of our students will remain in Tennessee, they will work in a global marketplace. Our task, our mission is to prepare our students to not only exist, but to thrive in this world and be part of the solution, not the problem. I am confident we can have an impact.”

UTM plans Excel, PowerPoint classes

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Local residents receive degrees from UTM

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

Receiving undergraduate degrees were: Richard Neal Cruce, of Fulton; Kimberly Dawn Hagler of Hickman; Melissa Neal Jones, Jason Eric Nelms, David Andrew Sinclair, Susan Marie Workman, all of South Fulton.

Micah Danielle Gardner of Hickman received a graduate degree. Dr. Mike Revelle, Jackson, UT Martin alumnus, was the keynote speaker.

Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees.
Sanders and Roberts Take Order of the Engineer Oath

MARTIN—University of Tennessee at Martin engineering graduates were inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony prior to fall commencement. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. Among those taking the oath and receiving a ring and certificate were Justin Dallas Sanders of Bruceton and Cody Roberts of Huntingdon. Making the presentation was Dr. Robert LeMaster, associate professor of engineering.

Business consultant returns with advice

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 12. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

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Local Residents Receive Degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Bruceton - Keith Lloyd Hodge;
- Clarksburg - Wendy Lynn Hillass, Cody Wade Roberts;
- Huntingdon - Jessica Raye Hawkins, Leonard Dale Heath, John Everett Williams;
- McKenzie - Shaila Gail Deaton, Jessie Lane Miller, Mark Thomas Smith.

Among students receiving graduate degrees was:
- Huntingdon - Tracy Lynn Connel.

Dr. Mike Revelle, Jackson, UT Martin alumnus, was the keynote speaker, and Chancellor Nick Dunagan presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees.

Local Student Inducted into Psi Chi Honor Society

MARTIN, Tenn. - Jasmine McMackins, of McKenzie, was recently inducted into Psi Chi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Psi Chi, founded in 1974 at UT Martin, is an honor society for psychology majors and minors. The organization holds regular business meetings, schedules speakers on careers and holds graduate training workshops. Pictured from left are; McMackins and Shanna Baker, Psi Chi president.
2005 Marked by 'Firsts' at UT Martin

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Whether it is the initiatives that enhance academic programs, awards that recognize fine teaching, facility improvements or collaborations that benefit the public as well as the university, UT Martin has had a good year.

"We can justifiably be proud of the year's accomplishments," said UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan, "but we need to continue to do the right things for the right reasons. Those reasons are the students." He added, "We must make sure we are providing them with a quality educational background, leadership skills, global exposure, real-world experiences and a sense of service to others. If students embrace all the university has to offer, they are more likely to be knowledgeable, well-adjusted and compassionate individuals who can make significant contributions to their world."

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- The university received UT Martin's first-ever congressional earmark federal appropriation in the amount of $96,000 to enhance and expand the university's Roelfoot Lake Research and Teaching Center.

The earmark grant will be used to purchase essential educational and teaching equipment and supplies to support the center's outreach mission of K-12 biology inservice workshops and courses. The project began July 1 and is directed by Drs. Doug Sierret and David Sammons, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

- UT Martin's first-ever TRIO - Student Support Services grant in the amount of $1.1 million was announced in 2005. The purpose of the Student Support Services Program is to increase the number of disadvantaged low-income college students, first-generation college students and college students with disabilities in the United States who successfully complete a program of study at the postsecondary level of education.

The support services provided will increase their retention and graduation rates, facilitate their transfer from two-year to four-year colleges and foster an institutional climate supportive of their successes.

- In June 2005, history and philosophy offered the first of several scheduled graduate courses in support of the $801,000 Vertical Immersion Project grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History Initiative. Dr. Daniel McDonough, project director, and Dr. David Colley, department chair, are teaching the courses that involve both travel and in-class experiences.

- The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences constructed the Sheep and Goat Research Center, received a $240,000 goat research grant and established an agricultural communications option in agricultural science.

- Technology is being used to enhance learning. With two-thirds of UT Martin faculty members having Gateway tablet computers to begin the fall 2005 term, UT Martin is the only higher-education institution in Tennessee providing such a massive implementation of tablet computers for its faculty.

The tablet computers function as a desktop in the office and a mobile laptop with handwriting capabilities to use in the classroom. Formulas and diagrams can be hand-drawn on the tablet, saved electronically, and then transmitted to the students. Used in combination with the Blackboard Course Management System, the tablets open up new areas for integration into the curriculum.

- UT Martin was among the top 25 master's level public universities in the South in the 2006 edition of America's Best Colleges compiled by U.S. News & World Report. The 2006 rankings placed UT Martin in 33rd place in the South, the highest ranking ever achieved by the university in the annual listings.

This fall, UT Martin improved its ranking as the university tied for 20th place among public universities in the South that grant bachelor's and master's degrees in the 2006 edition of America's Best Colleges compiled by U.S. News & World Report.

While the "firsts" dominated UT Martin's 2005 diary, Dunagan cautions against finding complacency in last year's accomplishments and always urges faculty and staff to adopt hockey great Wayne Gretzky's strategy to "skate to where the puck will be, not to where it is."

"Just as in hockey, we must take the necessary actions to be at the right place with the right programs for the future," said Dunagan in a presentation earlier this year. "If we plan according to today's needs, we'll miss the target on what our students will need in future years."

As detailed plans must evolve for the future, Dunagan thinks several overall factors will govern how UT Martin and its students fare. He noted that, in large part, the success of students will be determined by how well prepared they are when they graduate. He noted that students' successes impact their communities, states and the nation. He urged adherence to the adage, "think globally, act locally."
ECCE, Excel classes planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering computer classes in January and February in Excel and PowerPoint. Shannon Burgin, UT Martin director of information technology services, will be the instructor.

Beginning Excel will be offered from 5-8 p.m., Jan. 12 and 19. The fee is $150.

Learn to build useful spreadsheets using easy-to-use techniques, complete functions, manage files, learn to move and copy, format, prepare sample worksheets, build multiple worksheets and summarize, and develop graphs. Participants will learn how to use drawing tools for special emphasis and much more.

Microsoft PowerPoint is planned from 5-8 p.m., Jan. 26. The fee is $75. PowerPoint is easy to learn and packed with useful features. Learn how to create effective presentations. Add text, notes, graphics. Get comfortable with navigation, templates, custom animation, transition and editing a slide show.

Participants will learn how to easily create a professional presentation and enjoy the process.

Finally, Intermediate Excel is planned for 5-8 p.m., Feb. 2 and 9, at a cost of $150. Those interested can expand their knowledge of spreadsheets, work through complex functions and formulas, use “if” statements and conditional formatting. They will learn more about using relative and absolute referencing, create detailed examples and executive summaries, import data into a spreadsheet from an external source, customize graphs, integrate spreadsheets into word processing documents, practice planning and design skills and use Excel to answer what-if questions.

Burgin received a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and a master's degree from UT Martin. Burgin teaches both credit and non-credit courses for UT Martin.

To register call ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082.

Business consultant returns with advice

Ron Acree, a consultant of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), will return to the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED) from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Jan. 12. He will offer consulting services to local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

Acree will be available the second Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., but the REED Center offers consulting by appointment time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 920 University St., Martin.

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

LOCAL STUDENT INDUCTED INTO HONOR SOCIETY — Stephanie Sheridan (left), of Martin, was recently inducted into Psi Chi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Psi Chi, founded in 1974 at UT Martin, is an honor society for psychology majors and minors. The organization holds regular business meetings, schedules speakers on careers and holds graduate training workshops. Pictured with Sheridan is Shanna Baker, Psi Chi president.
PHILLIPS INDUCTED — Justin Phillips (right) of Rives was one of several University of Tennessee at Martin engineering graduates inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a recent ceremony held prior to fall commencement. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and to adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. After taking the oath, associate professor of engineering Dr. Robert LeMaster presented Phillips with his ring and certificate.

MCKINNIS TAKES OATH — Joel McKinnis (right) of Union City was among the University of Tennessee at Martin engineering graduates inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony held prior to the recent fall commencement. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and to adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. Afterward, McKinnis was presented with his ring and certificate by Dr. Robert LeMaster, associate professor of engineering.
Ashley Hooper of McEwen was recently inducted into Psi Chi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Psi Chi, founded in 1974 at UT Martin, is an honor society for psychology majors and minors. The organization holds regular business meetings, schedules speakers on careers and holds graduate training workshops. Pictured, from left, are Hooper and Shanna Baker, Psi Chi president.