November 3, 2009

AT EARLY AGE, CRAIN IMPRESSED BY THINGS ENGINEERS COULD DO

Rita Mitchell
Reader Submitted

MARTIN, Tenn. The idea of becoming an engineer crossed Jordan Crain’s mind at an early age. “I spoke with engineers and was impressed by all the things that they could do,” he said. Later, with engineering as a career goal, he began preparing himself. That included focusing on math and science in high school to get ready for college.

Crain, a University of Tennessee at Martin senior engineering major from Stewart County, was uncertain about the specific field of civil engineering on which he wanted to focus. It was an internship at the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area located in Western Kentucky that helped him decide. “I really could not grasp all of the differences between environmental, transportation, or structural engineering. After working at LBL, I have learned that I would like to focus more on the transportation and environmental side of civil engineering.”

While an intern, Crain became inspector-in-training for multiple projects, allowing him to inspect the work done by contractors to ensure they followed the specifications. He developed cost estimates for road repair on four washed out corridors, which provided him with AutoCAD (computer-aided design) and GIS (geographic information systems) experience. It also provided him with experience in collecting and organizing prices for materials used in road construction.

“I learned many things at Land Between the Lakes that cannot be taught in a classroom,” said Crain. “The experiences I had enhance my comprehension of the things expected of me as an engineering student. This internship has provided a clear definition of what I want to do with my future.”

As a result of the internship, Crain is currently talking to LBL about the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). As a SCEP employee, he can continue to work with LBL while in school. “After graduation, I plan to apply for an engineering trainee position through the (U.S.) National Forest which will hopefully lead to full time employment eventually,” he said.

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UT Martin travel study to Italy has it all

The University of Tennessee at Martin will sponsor a travel-study trip to Italy, March 11-22. Italy has it all – popes, painters, poets – wrapped in history, culture and cuisine.

The travel-study group, led by Dr. John Overby and Stan Sieber, will visit Roman ruins, admire Renaissance art in Florence and explore the canals of Venice. They will tour San Marino – the third smallest state in Europe (after the Holy See and Monaco) that claims to be the world’s oldest republic. Participants can also indulge in the more elementary pleasures of enjoying good food and wine, improving one’s wardrobe and seeking out “la dolce vita.”

For complete information, contact Dr. Overby, Department of Management, Marketing, Computer Science and Information Systems chair, at 731-881-3268. Sieber, professor of history, at 731-881-7467 or the Center for International Education at 731-881-1023.
Gale recognized as featured faculty scholar

Dr. Paula Gale, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of soil science, was recently named the Fall 2009 Featured Faculty Scholar.

Each semester, the university recognizes outstanding faculty for excellence in teaching and scholarship.

Gale received a bachelor of science degree in soil science, and a doctorate in soil biochemistry from the University of Arkansas.

Gale joined the UT Martin faculty in 1994 from the University of Florida, Gainesville. Gale teaches in both the Department of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and the Center for Excellence in Experiential Learning in the Agricultural Sciences.

She is an adviser to undergraduate students in environmental and agricultural soil sciences. Her work includes teaching courses in soil and wetland sciences, coaching the soil judging team, developing analytical laboratory capabilities for the department and providing leadership in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences.

Gale also has an extensive list of publications and presentations. Other activities include serving as the UT Martin Agronomy Club and Community Garden faculty adviser and chair of the No Child Left Inside Conference organizational committee.

She is an active member of the American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America and has held several leadership positions with these organizations.

Currently, she is serving as chair of Division S-10 Wetland Soils. She is also a member of the Tennessee Academy of Science, Soil and Water Conservation Society and Soil Scientist Association of Tennessee. She has received the Teaching Award of Merit from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture and was twice named UT Martin Outstanding Educator, among other honors.

A sample of Gale's publications and accomplishments is on display in the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus.

Deadline to enter Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageant, Nov. 10

Plans are underway for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant to be staged at 7 p.m., Nov. 21, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin.

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

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

The pageant application form is available online at www.utm.edu/missutm. Deadline to register is Nov. 10, and applications from all UT Martin students should be returned to the UT Martin Office of Student Life, 222 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. All others should be sent to Hollie Holt, 406 S. Lindell St., Martin, TN 38237.

General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Pageant will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be sold for $10 at the door with proper ID.

For more information, contact pageant executive director, Hollie Holt, 731-514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.
Reagan Leave provides research time for three UT Martin faculty members

Three faculty members representing the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Jozsef Devenyi and Dr. Phillip Davis, and the Department of History and Philosophy, Dr. Christopher Brown, have been awarded Reagan Leaves for FY2009/2010. Devenyi (professor) is conducting research in Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge for the 2009/2010 academic year.

Devenyi explained “there has been significant interest over the past several decades in creating active surfaces that respond to cues from their environment.”

Through collaborative research, Devenyi and his ORNL colleagues are working on the preparation of novel polymeric brushes where a layer of polymer chains are prepared and then tethered to a surface at one end thus forcing the polymer chains to extend away from the surface to avoid steric crowdedness.

In the last phase of his work Devenyi plans to test the response of the prepared polymeric “brushes” to outside stimuli, such as pH, ionic strength, and temperature change.

Davis (professor) will research and revise instructional videos used in introductory chemistry laboratory courses at UT Martin. The revision will include retaping, editing and preparing the videos for delivery in multiple formats.

He will also revise procedures for laboratory exercises in introductory chemistry courses at the university, which currently utilize the Calculator Based Laboratory (CBL) data collection interface to make these procedures compatible with the newer Lab Quest interface.

“Through the Reagan Leave, I will have opportunities to tie together the various strands of course development currently in progress, which would be a source of considerable personal satisfaction to me and, ultimately, a benefit to UT Martin and its students,” said Davis.

Brown (associate professor) will conduct research that will focus on the 13th century philosophical theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas, and his views on the nature of objective happiness.

Where subjective happiness refers to the experience of an overall positive feeling or mood, objective happiness refers to the satisfaction of those conditions necessary for living a human life that is good in all respects.

Brown plans to make progress on a book project that puts the views of Aquinas into conversation with contemporary philosophical discussions of the nature of objective happiness.

“The nature of human happiness is a subject getting a lot of attention from philosophers nowadays,” said Brown, and “a book-length treatment of Aquinas’s views on human happiness would make a real contribution to contemporary discussions of that topic.”

The UT Martin Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Program is designed to enable participants to become more effective teachers and scholars by engaging in a variety of academic/renewal experiences.

Tenured faculty members with six or more years of full-time service at UT Martin can apply for either a one-year leave or a one-semester leave.

The Faculty Research and Development Committee reviews completed application packages and determines the awardees based on an intensive rubric. More information about the Reagan Leave Program can be found at www.utm.edu/rgc/Faculty Research and Development.

Non-degree classes offered in November

Fall classes planned by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies offer area residents the opportunity to learn and pursue new skills and interests. The courses get under way in November in Martin.

A Concealed Handgun Carry Class is planned 5-9 p.m., Nov. 19 and 20. The instructor will be Cecil Clements, state certified handgun instructor. The fee is $75.

This handgun safety class will provide the student with the minimum requirements mandated by the state. The use, operation and cleaning of the handgun will be covered.

The first evening will be devoted to classroom instruction.

The second evening will be the firing range instruction. The student must score 70 percent on the firing range qualification and 70 percent on the written exam.

The successful completion of this course will allow the student to apply for a concealed weapons permit from the state of Tennessee.

Each student must be at least 21 years of age and provide a handgun, pen, pencil, paper, 50 rounds of ammunition for range instruction, safety glasses and hearing protection.

Beginning Microsoft Access is planned 9 a.m.-noon, Nov. 17 and 19. The instructor will be Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer.

The fee is $85. Participants will learn to design and create a database and what relational databases can do for them. Students will design and set up tables and relationships, edit data, sort and filter, create quick forms for data entry, create quick reports that can be customized and learn how queries can provide answers.

Participants will also work with Access 2007 and Vista.

For more information on these courses, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7081. Register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/courses_nondegree.php.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY - Dean Ernest Moser's First Year Initiative class from the UTM College of Business and Global Affairs, recently collected 15 bags of trash around the edges of the University Plaza Shopping Center on "Make A Difference Day" as a community service project. Pictured (from left) are: Jeremy Smith, Jesse Kowalewski, Tyler Doyle, Ayodele Aladenika, Tyler Price, Austin Granger, Dean Moser, Andrew Brown, Shayla Smith, Rebeca Garcia and Rachel Shearin.

Last UT Martin Preview Day set for Nov. 21

The final preview day is set for Nov. 21 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Preview days are opportunities for high school students and their families to visit and learn about the university.

Each event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life.

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

Registration for the preview day will be from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Elam Center.

Students are invited to attend the UT Martin Skyhawks vs. Austin Peay State University football game at 1 p.m., Nov. 21. Each student will receive a complimentary ticket for the game.

Registration will be followed by a welcome and general information session, the university’s academic fair, academic department visits and campus tours.

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

Final preview day at UTM slated Nov. 21

The final preview day is set for November 21 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Representatives of UT Martin will provide information and answers to students’ questions on a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid; college and housing costs; and the various university academic programs.

Registration for the preview day will be from 9 to 9:30 a.m. in the Elam Center. Students are invited to attend the UT Martin Skyhawks vs. Austin Peay State University football game at 1 p.m., November 21. Each student will receive a complimentary ticket for the game.

Registration will be followed by a welcome and general information session, the university’s academic fair, academic department visits and campus tours.

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Mosch to look at North Korea during program at UT Martin

University of Tennessee at Martin professor emeritus of political science Dr. Ted Mosch will speak at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16 in Watkins Auditorium.

He will provide “A Look at North Korea” as a part of the Academic Speakers Program and his appearance is co-sponsored by Honors Programs and the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science.

The event is free and open to the public.

Originally from Wisconsin, Mosch received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Ripon College, master’s degrees in education and in social work from the University of Wisconsin and a master’s degree and doctorate in political science from the University of Oklahoma.

He came to UT Martin in 1970 and compiled an extensive record of teaching and service through his retirement in 2002 and during his post-retirement teaching at the university until August 2006. During his career, Mosch received almost every major award and honor conferred by the university, several of them more than once. Among his many honors was service as the University of Tennessee National Alumni Distinguished Professor from 1996 to 2002, the UT Martin-Hiroasaki University Exchange Professor to Japan (2000), the Coffey Outstanding Teacher Award (2000), the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award (1974 and 1990), the Outstanding Advisor Award (2000) and the Excellence in Advising Award (1990 and 1995).

Mosch also performed years of service to the university and its students in a variety of functions, perhaps most notably his long service as pre-law adviser and as UT Martin coordinator for the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program.


In addition to his service to the university, Mosch served in the U.S. Army and compiled a long and distinguished record in the U.S. Army Reserves, attaining the rank of colonel. He attended the National War College in Washington, D.C., in 1981-82 and taught at the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., 1983-88. He received several military awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the NATO Knight of Jerusalem Award.

An important component in Mosch’s success both in the military and in his teaching career is his extensive international travel and experience in international affairs. His participation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Reserve Officers Organization provided important experience and travel opportunities. He has attended 10 professional seminars with the Council of International Education Exchanges, including programs in Germany, Turkey, South Africa, Mongolia, China (including Tibet), Taiwan, Chile, Argentina and Vietnam. His exhaustive travel has taken him to some of the most difficult “hot spots” in the world, including several trips to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe (before and after the collapse of communism), Cuba and, in August 2008, North Korea.

Percussion ensemble to perform

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble will perform its fall concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Campbell Auditorium in the Holt Humanities Building.

The concert will feature Dr. Cory Bozard, drum set; and Jacob Abbott, marimba.

Works will include “Cloud Forest” by Blake Tyson, “Identity Crisis” by Michael Aukofer, “Damn” by John Mackey, “Vespertine Formations” by Christopher Deane and several other surprises. The variety of instruments will consist of bird whistles, pots and pans, gurgling, marimbas, drums and more.

The ensemble is comprised of 17 music majors from across the state and is under the direction of Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of music.

For more information about the concert, contact Hill at (731) 881-7418.

Trip to Italy planned for March

The University of Tennessee at Martin will sponsor a travel-study trip to Italy March 11-22.

Italy has it all — popes, painters and poets — wrapped in history, culture and cuisine.

The travel-study group, led by Dr. John Overby and Stan Sieber, will visit Roman ruins, admire Renaissance art in Florence and explore the canals of Venice.

They will tour San Marino — the third smallest state in Europe (after the Holy See and Monaco) that claims to be the world’s oldest republic. Participants can also indulge in the more elementary pleasures of enjoying good food and wine, improving one’s wardrobe and seeking out “la dolce vita.”

For complete information, contact Overby, Department of Management, Marketing, Computer Science and Information Systems chair, at (731) 881-3268; Sieber, professor of history, at 881-7467; or the Center for International Education at 881-1023.
Vanguard Theatre set to perform ‘Spoon River Anthology’ next week

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present its opening performance of “Spoon River Anthology” at 8 p.m. Nov. 12.

Because of the Fine Arts Building renovation, performances will be staged in the Student Life Center. Additional performances will be at 8 p.m. Nov. 13-14 and 3 p.m. Nov. 15.

In the play, written by Charles Aidman, the inhabitants of Spoon River, Ill. — or former inhabitants of this fictional town — come back from the grave to tell their secrets in an insightful variety of monologues, vignettes and musical interludes. Constantly interesting and entertaining, offering an amazingly varied array of roles, raw passions and humor, “Spoon River” is a “brooding and loving American folk poem brought to life on stage.”

UT Martin cast members include Michael Boue of Nashville; Sarah Brousard of Pulaski; Aston Clark of Jackson; Hosanna Copeland of Memphis; Coleen Davis of Henderson; Kyle Douglas of Centerville; Ashley Farrell of Arlington; Nicolle Harrell and Justin Hunt, both of Martin; and Jade Johnson of Paris.

Other cast members include Sydney Kincer of Dresden; Matthew Maitland of Martin; John Nicholson of Centerville; Julie Simpkins of Springfield; Laken Smith of Pulaski; Ben Stoer of Gainesville, Fla.; Lauren Wallace of Arlington; Adrian Ward of Memphis; and Lizzie Wouters of Knoxville.

Tickets will be available two hours before each performance in the lobby of the Student Life Center. They are $5 each for students and children and $10 each for adults. All seats will be general seating. One section will be reserved for Friends of Vanguard, supporters of Vanguard Theatre who have donated $100 or more to the theatre.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7400.

UT Martin sets final Preview Day

The final Preview Day is set for Nov. 21 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

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

Registration for the preview day will be from 9:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Elam Center. Students are invited to attend the UT Martin Skyhawks vs. Austin Peay State University football game at 1 p.m. Nov. 21. Each student will receive a complimentary ticket for the game.

Registration will be followed by a welcome and general information session, the university’s academic fair, academic department visits and campus tours.

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

Church pianists invited to upcoming workshop

The Department of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin is presenting a workshop for church pianists from 9 a.m. - noon Nov. 14 at C.E. Weldon Public Library in Martin.

Topics being covered include choosing music for the service, accompanying soloists and choirs, hymn playing techniques and use of classical music in the service. Presenters will include Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor and interim chair of the department of music; Dr. Scott Roberts, associate professor of music; and Delana Easley, lecturer of music.

All three serve as church musicians in the West Tennessee area. All pianists are invited to attend. The workshop is open to the public without charge.

For more information about the workshop, contact Harriss at (731) 881-7411.
Vanguard Theatre presents 'Spoon River Anthology'

VANGUARD THEATRE – Rehearsing for “Spoon River Anthology,” to be staged Nov. 12-15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre are, from left, Lizzie Wouters, Matthew Maitland (with guitar), Jade Johnson, Adrian Ward and Justin Hunt.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present its opening performance of “Spoon River Anthology,” at 8 p.m., Nov. 12.

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Written by Charles Aidman, the inhabitants of Spoon River, Ill., – or former inhabitants of this fictional town – come back from the grave to tell their secrets in an insightful variety of monologues, vignettes and musical interludes. Constantly interesting and entertaining, offering an amazingly varied array of roles, raw passions and humor, “Spoon River” is a “brooding and loving American folk poem brought to life on stage.”

UT Martin cast members include: Michael Bouie, of Nashville; Sarah Broussard, of Pulaski; Aston Clark, of Jackson; Hosanna Copeland, of Memphis; Colleen Davis, of Henderson; Kyle Douglas, of Centerville; Ashley Farrell, of Arlington; Nicole Harrell, of Martin; Justin Hunt, of Martin; and Jade Johnson, of Paris.

Other cast members include: Sydney Kincer, of Dresden; Matthew Maitland, of Martin; John Nicholson, of Centerville; Julie Simpkins, of Springfield; Laken Smith, of Pulaski; Ben Stoer, of Gainesville, Fla.; Lauren Wallace, of Arlington; Adrian Ward, of Memphis; and Lizzie Wouters, of Knoxville.

Tickets will be available two hours before each performance in the lobby of the Student Life Center. They are $5 for students and children and $10 for adults.

All seats will be general seating. One section will be reserved for Friends of Vanguard – supporters of Vanguard Theatre who have donated $100 or more to the theatre.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 881-7400.

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Church pianist workshop at UTM Nov. 14

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Topics being covered include choosing music for the service, accompanying soloists and choirs, hymn playing techniques and use of classical music in the service. Presenters will include Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor and interim chair of the department of music; Dr. Scott Roberts, associate professor of music; and Delana Easley, lecturer of music. All three serve as church musicians in the West Tennessee area. All pianists are invited to attend. The workshop is open to the public without charge.

For more information, contact Harriss at 731-881-7411.
Creating monsters, writing epistles, developing spooky stories - all this and more took place for local students at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Ripley Center during the Young Writers Clubhouse on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Third- through eighth- grade students from area schools in Dyersburg, Halls, Ripley and Covington met in Ripley to participate in the unique writing experience sponsored by the West Tennessee Writing Project. The “ghostesses” were Jenny Brandon and Becky Hasselle, both teacher consultants from the West Tennessee Writing Project. Brandon has been a second-grade teacher at Ripley Primary School for 13 years and serves as Project L.E.A.D. technology and writing teacher at Lauderdale Middle School. She is also the West Tennessee Writing Project technology liaison.

“The Young Writers Clubhouse provides an avenue for creative children who enjoy writing and developing their skills,” said Brandon. “The students thrive in this environment, where they can share ideas and have an authentic audience. Time flies during our session. The students develop vocabulary, learn writing strategies, and write creatively using best-practices writing methods.”

The clubhouse experience includes writing workshops, writing response groups, mini-lessons on content and editing strategies, and one-to-one conferences with West Tennessee Writing Project teachers. Armani Harris, a fifth-grader from Halls Elementary, enjoyed her first Young Writers Clubhouse experience so much she can’t wait to return.

“This is really fun,” said Harris. “I wish we could come back next week!”

Becky Hasselle has taught for 13 years, nine of those at Dyersburg Middle School. She is a gifted-education enrichment teacher and enjoys providing additional opportunities for children to learn outside of school.

“The Young Writers Clubhouse experience develops a joy for writing in a fun, non-threatening atmosphere,” said Hasselle. “The students I bring from Dyersburg often continue to write all during our ride back home. They don’t want to stop. It’s fabulous to see their excitement!”

Erin Rausch, a sixth-grade student from Dyersburg Middle School also was a first-timer to the Young Writers Clubhouse experience.

“I liked all the activities but my favorite was writing stories from the Halloween people, places and things, and finishing the scary story starter,” said Rausch. “I will come again. It’s really fun!”

“I am so excited to have the opportunity to offer the Young Writers Clubhouse at the UT Martin Ripley Center,” said UTM Ripley Center Director Yolanda Jones. “It is so amazing to see such talented young writers express themselves through a series of writing experiences and activities. This is a wonderful program and I encourage young writers from the surrounding areas to join us for a day of creative writing at the next session in January.”
Bondurant honored in ‘Top 40 Under 40’

Barry “Skipper” Bondurant of Brighton, a native of South Fulton and the son of Barry and Sally Bondurant of South Fulton, was recently named one of the Top 40 Under 40 by the editorial staff of The Memphis Business Journal.

He has been administrator and chief executive officer of Baptist Memorial Hospital-Tipton since 2008 and formerly worked as assistant administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City.

Bonduarnt was selected from a field of more than 200 candidates based on a nomination submitted by Cyndi Roberts, who works in administration at BMH-Tipton.

In her nomination, she wrote, “Employees admire him for his integrity, honesty and loyalty, and Baptist Tipton has flourished under his leadership, which is reflected in the hospital’s increasing patient satisfaction scores.”

He earned a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master’s degree in exercise and sports medicine from the University of Memphis.

He also has a second master’s degree in business administration from Union University in Jackson.

Bondurant and the other Top 40 Under 40 recipients will be honored at a luncheon Friday at noon at the Hilton Memphis.

This year marks the 13th time the Memphis publication has presented the awards, given to young business professionals who give back to their communities. Christian Brothers University in Memphis is the sponsor of the 2009 awards.

Bondurant and his wife, the former Ginger King of Fulton, live in Brighton with their two children, Carter and Shelby Grace.

Events scheduled at UT Martin

Annual Faculty Art Exhibition

The University of Tennessee at Martin Graphism and Theatre Arts will present the Annual Faculty Art Exhibition beginning with an opening reception 5-7 p.m. Tuesday on the second floor of the Paul Meek Library.

Exhibitions sponsored by the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will be located in the Paul Meek Library while the Fine Arts Building undergoes renovations.

The exhibition features the latest works from UT Martin Visual Arts faculty. Contributing faculty will include David McBeth, Lane Last, Dr. Carol Eckert, Diane Shaw, Jason Stout and Grace Eckert. The exhibition will continue through the end of classes Dec. 11. It will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7400.

UTM Fall Choral Concert

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music and Martin First United Methodist Church will be hosting the 2009 UT Martin Fall Choral Concert at 3 p.m. Nov. 22 at Martin First United Methodist Church.

The concert will include a variety of a cappella and accompanied choral music performed by the University Singers and the New Pacer Singers, directed by Dr. Mark Simmons, assistant professor of music.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Simmons by telephone at (731) 881-7412 or by e-mail at marks@utm.edu.
UT Martin cross country runner receives second shock of her life

Shannon Wall was dead tired.

After completing the 5k course at the Ohio Valley Conference Championships at Vaughn’s Gap Course at Nashville’s Edwin Warner Park in a little under 21:30, the University of Tennessee at Martin senior cross country runner was reeling and anxious to see if she had qualified for the next step in her career — the NCAA Regional Championships.

Little did she know that the next step would take on a whole new meaning just minutes later.

With the possibility of her collegiate cross country career coming to an end hanging in the balance, Wall was guided by a cluster of family and close friends towards her boyfriend of four years — Brandon Dicorato of Chattanooga.

What happened next was a moment that brought on a flood of emotions from Wall, Dicorato and several other onlookers — the true beginning of the “next step” — an engagement proposal.

“As soon as I was able to catch my breath, Brandon professed his love for me with tears filling his eyes,” said Wall, a three-year letter-winner at UT Martin under head coach Gordon Sanders.

“Before I knew it, he was down on one knee pulling out a gorgeous engagement ring.”

Wall then began to cry before accepting the proposal, although her and Dicorato’s eyes weren’t the only ones who were moist at the moment.

A group of complete strangers and fellow runners from other OVC schools had huddled around witnessed the entire proposal.

“Many people we did not know came to congratulate us and see the ring,” Wall said.

“Brandon sure did announce to the world how much he loves me — which is something he always told me he wanted to do.”

Not knowing the proposal was coming, one can only imagine the wide range of emotions in such a short span of time that Wall experienced.

The Cordova native surely felt gratification of completing the race, anxiety to hear her final placing, confusion on why she was being rushed off to the side to be with Dicorato, shock once she figured out the proposal was real, and pure joy and excitement when she realized she would be spending the rest of her life with her boyfriend of four years.

“I did not get any hints (the proposal was coming),” Wall said.

“I really did not think he would propose until this coming summer or maybe the first of the year. He did very well with catching me off guard.”

The two met at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where Wall attended her freshman year and ran cross country. They became immediate friends before Sanders offered Wall a scholarship to come across the state to UT Martin.

“I took Coach Sanders’ offer knowing I would never get anything like that from Chattanooga,” Wall said. “It was extremely difficult to leave Brandon behind and start a new page in my life. Little did we know it would be the beginning to a wonderful journey.”

While most long-distance relationships are severely trying on the two souls, Wall kept strong and lived by a motto that Dicorato told her when she made her decision to come to UT Martin.

“Brandon has always told me, ‘I just keep my eye on the prize and know that times may be tough now but when I get to be with you all the rest of my days, then it will all be worth it,’” Wall said.

The strong relationship endured several trips back-and-forth between the two cities over the last three-plus years, as the two often burned Interstate 40 and Interstate 24 for the 296-mile trek.

Chattanooga seems to be the logical destination as to where the two will continue their relationship, as Wall plans to move there this summer for an internship in an occupational therapy setting.

Once she completes her internship, Wall wants to attend occup-
A JOYOUS OCCASION - UT Martin cross country NCAA South Regional finalist Shannon Wall gets a second welcome surprise after she finished the 5k course at the Ohio Valley Championships when her boyfriend of four years Brandon Dicorato proposed to her after the meet. The couple plans to wed within the next two years when they both complete their higher education requirements. Wall will take part in the NCAA South Regional on Saturday, Nov. 14 in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

WESTSTAR WEAKLEY COUNTY ALUMNI MEET - Weakley County alumni of UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program met Oct. 23 at First State Bank in Sharon. Lisha Tuck (right) of Martin was announced as the contact person for the county's WestStar alumni members. Thirteen alumni attended the meeting along with Virginia Grimes (left), WestStar coordinator, and Charley Deal, the program's executive director.
Dr. Ted Mosch brings knowledge of world’s trouble spots to UT Martin

University of Tennessee at Martin professor emeritus of political science Dr. Ted Mosch will speak at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 16, in the Watkins Auditorium. He will provide “A Look at North Korea” as a part of the Academic Speakers Program, and his appearance is co-sponsored by Honors Programs and the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science. The event is free and open to the public.

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Among his many honors was service as the University of Tennessee National Alumni Distinguished Professor from 1996 to 2002, the UT Martin-Hirosaki University Exchange Professor to Japan (2000), the Coffey Outstanding Teacher Award (2000), the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award (1974 and 1990), the Outstanding Advisor Award (2000), and the Excellence in Advising Award (1990 and 1995).

Mosch also performed years of service to the university and its students in a variety of functions, perhaps most notably his long service as pre-law adviser and as UT Martin coordinator for the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program.


In addition to his service to the university, Mosch served in the United States Army and compiled a long and distinguished record in the United States Army Reserves, attaining the rank of colonel.

He attended the National War College in Washington, D.C., in 1981-82 and taught at the United States Army Intelligence Center and School at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., in 1983-88.

He received several military awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the NATO Knight of Jerusalem Award.

An important component in Mosch’s success both in the military and in his teaching career is his extensive international travel and experience in international affairs.

His participation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Reserve Officers Organization provided important experience and travel opportunities. He has attended 10 professional seminars with the Council of International Education Exchanges, including programs in Germany, Turkey, South Africa, Mongolia, China (including Tibet), Taiwan, Chile, Argentina and Vietnam.

His exhaustive travel has taken him to some of the most difficult “hot spots” in the world, including several trips to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, before and after the collapse of communism, Cuba, and, in August 2008, the subject of this program, North Korea.

“With so many distinguished professionals available around the country, it is rare that we place a member of the UT Martin community in the Academic Speakers Program. Yet, given Ted Mosch’s long and meritorious record, particularly in visiting so many trouble spots around the world, it would be difficult to find anyone better suited to enlighten us upon the enigma of North Korea,” said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin honors program director.

“Having personally observed some of the most oppressive regimes in the world, Mosch brings a wealth of experience in interpreting what he saw of North Korea, its people and its government. As relations between North Korea and much of the rest of the world, and particularly the United States, continues to deteriorate, it is important that we gain as clear an understanding of that country and society as possible. Ted Mosch will help us make sense of the North Korean situation and provide us with some hints concerning the future of American relations with that closed and, sometimes, bizarre, society.”
Childhood interest turns into engineering career goal for Hunt

Walt Hunt, a Ripley native, translated a childhood interest into a college major that he hopes lands him in a career that benefits people. Hunt, a senior engineering major at UT Martin, recently completed an internship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the Biomedical Engineering Department.

His focus: performing research looking at the bond (strength) between a femoral implant and the surrounding bone.

“I have a strong interest in medical applications for engineering working toward improving the health or quality of life of the disabled,” said Hunt, whose immediate goal is to be accepted to a graduate program to pursue a mechanical or biomedical engineering career.

“Growing up, I always enjoyed putting together toys and making things. I attended Jackson Christian School where I realized I had a knack for mathematics and problem solving. I thought engineering would be a great career choice combining my interests and talents.”

Completion of an internship is a graduation requirement for engineering majors. “Research experience is an excellent opportunity to learn and prepare oneself...” he said.

Under mentor Dr. Alan Eberhardt, UAB School of Engineering associate professor, Hunt performed research on human cadaver specimens. “When a person has a hip replacement, the bone grows and attaches to the implant which causes a connection between the two,” he said. “This growth of the bone determines how stable and effective the implant will be. My research was looking at the strength of the connection between the bone and the implant.”

Hunt said during the internship he was struck by the importance of research. “Research allows our world to improve what we have. I hope to be able to research as a career or be somewhat involved in researching with my career choice.”

He added, “The internship this summer allowed me to see what a person can do with engineering outside of a classroom.”

Local students awarded UT Martin scholarships

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

• Tiffany Hunt, daughter of Ted and Pam Hurt of Martin, is a senior. She received the Langdon S. Unger History Scholarship.
• Kristin McCloud, daughter of Lil McCloud of Martin, is a freshman. She received the Alex Haley Scholarship.
• Emily Medling, daughter of Mike and Bobbie Medling of Greenfield, is a senior. She received the Gene and Verletta Stanford Scholarship.
• Sara Mitchell, granddaughter of Don Moore of Martin, is a senior. She received the Aspiring Women Scholarship.
• Toinette Reynolds, of Martin, daughter of Shirley Booker and granddaughter of Essie Coleman, is a junior. She received the Alex Haley Scholarship.
• Ashley White, of Martin, daughter of Tommy and Debbie White, is a freshman. She received the Giles Spirit Scholarship.
Evans receives Beth Maloan Outstanding UTM Student Employee Award

Presenting the Fall 2009 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award to Benita Evans, left, of Dresden, is Phil Dane, intercollegiate athletics director, middle, and Jennifer Stroh, right, daughter of Beth Maloan.

The Fall 2009 Beth Maloan Outstanding University of Tennessee at Martin Student Employee Award recently was presented to Benita Evans, the news director for WUTM, FM 90.3 “The Hawk.” Evans is a communications-broadcasting major and has been employed at the radio station for two years. The award was presented October 22 prior to an Academic Speaker Series presentation.

Among many tasks, Evans, of Dresden, gathers and writes stories, supervises radio practicum students and trains students in several communication classes to operate studio equipment. According to her supervisor, “Ms. Evans has performed her duties at WUTM with efficiency and dedication that go far beyond the call of duty. She is simply an outstanding individual who deserves to be recognized for her hard work and dedication to this campus and for her commitment to the betterment of UT Martin.”

This award, given every fall and spring semester, is a memorial for Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who, during her years of service, was a strong advocate for student employment. Maloan had a vision that more positions would be developed on campus to challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university’s mission.

Weakley County alumni of UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program met October 23 at First State Bank in Sharon. Lisha Tuck (right) of Martin was announced as the contact person for the county’s WestStar alumni members. Thirteen alumni attended the meeting along with Virginia Grimes (left), WestStar coordinator, and Charley Deal, the program’s executive director.

Workshop offered for church pianists

The Department of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin is presenting a workshop for church pianists from 9 a.m. to noon, November 14, at C.E. Welton Public Library in Martin.

Topics being covered include choosing music for the service, accompanying soloists and choirs, hymn playing techniques and use of classical music in the service. Presenters will include Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor and interim chair of the department of music; Dr. Scott Roberts, associate professor of music; and Delana Easley, lecturer of music. All three serve as church musicians in the West Tennessee area. All pianists are invited to attend. The workshop is open to the public without charge.

For more information, contact Harriss at 731-881-7411.

Tedford to perform voice recital

Linzie Tedford, a senior vocal music education major from Memphis, will perform her senior voice recital at 3:00 p.m., November 15, at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Martin.

Tedford will be singing vocal works written by composers Brahms, Gabriel Faure, John Jacob Niles and others. Accompanying Tedford are Delana Easley, lecturer of music, and Virginia Cherry, junior vocal music education major from Ripley. The recital is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Amy Yeung, associate professor of music, at 731-881-7408.
Weakley County students receive scholarships to attend UTM

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

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* Ashley White, of Martin, daughter of Tommy and Debbie White, is a freshman. She received the Giles Spirit Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.

2009 Tennessee Technology Symposium
November 18

Concurrent sessions dealing with technology on campus and in the classroom will be the focus of the 2009 West Tennessee Technology Symposium from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., November 18, in the Boling University Center. There will also be a vendor showcase located in Duncan Ballroom of the center.

The keynote speaker will be Lee Wetherington, Senior Vice President of Goldleaf Financial Solutions, Inc. His speech, "Space and Time Converge: A Technology Forecast," is about the convenience of technology and what to look for in the future of technology.

Early registration ends November 4 with a fee of $40. Registration after November 4 will be $50. The registration fee includes lunch. Door prizes, including Dell mini computers, will also be given away.

For more information or to register online, visit http://www.utm.edu/wtts/registereation.php.

UT Martin Fall Choral Concert November 22

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music and Martin First United Methodist Church will be hosting the 2009 UT Martin Fall Choral Concert at 3:00 p.m., November 22, at Martin First United Methodist Church.

The concert will include a variety of a cappella and accompanied choral music performed by the University Singers and the New Pacer Singers, directed by Dr. Mark Simmons, assistant professor of music. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Simmons at 731-881-7412 or marks@utm.edu.

Annual Faculty Art Exhibition Fall 2009

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will present the Annual Faculty Art Exhibition beginning with an opening reception, slated from 5:00-7:00 p.m., November 17, on the second floor of the Paul Meek Library.

Exhibitions sponsored by the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will be located in the Paul Meek Library while the Fine Arts Building undergoes renovations.

The exhibition features the latest works from UT Martin Visual Arts faculty. Contributing faculty will include David McBeth, Lane Last, Dr. Carol Eckert, Diane Shaw, Jason Stout and Grace Eckert. The exhibition will continue through the end of classes December 11. It will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
North Korea focus of Mosch speech

University of Tennessee at Martin professor emeritus in political science Dr. Ted Mosch will speak at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 16, in the Watkins Auditorium. He will provide "A Look at North Korea" as part of the Academic Speakers Program, and his appearance is co-sponsored by Honors Programs and the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science. The event is free and open to the public.

Originally from Wisconsin, Mosch received his A.B. in political science from Ripon College, master's degrees in education and social work from the University of Wisconsin, and a master's and doctorate in political science from the University of Oklahoma. He came to UT Martin in 1970 and compiled an extensive record of teaching and service through his retirement in 2002 and during his post-retirement teaching at the university until August 2006. During his career, Mosch received almost every major award and honor conferred by the university, several of them more than once. Among his many honors was service as the University of Tennessee National Alumni Distinguished Professor from 1996 to 2002, the UT Martin-Hiroskini University Exchange Professor to Japan (2000), the Coffey Outstanding Teacher Award (2000), the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award (1974 and 1990), the Outstanding Advisor Award (2000), and the Excellence in Advising Award (1990 and 1995). Mosch also performed years of service to the university and its students in a variety of functions, perhaps most notably his long service as pre-law adviser and as UT Martin coordinator for the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program. He is the author of numerous reviews and presentations and published one book, "The G.I. Bill," in 1975.

In addition to his service to the university, Mosch served in the United States Army and compiled a long and distinguished record in the United States Army Reserves, attaining the rank of colonel. He attended the National War College in Washington, D.C., in 1981-82 and taught at the United States Army Intelligence Center and School at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., in 1983-88. He received several military awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the NATO Knight of Jerusalem Award.

An important component in Mosch's success both in the military and in his teaching career is his extensive international travel and experience in international affairs. His participation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Reserve Officers Organization provided important experience and travel opportunities. He has attended 10 professional seminars with the Council of International Education Exchanges, including programs in Germany, Turkey, South Africa, Mongolia, China (including Tibet), Taiwan, Chile, Argentina and Vietnam. His exhaustive travel has taken him to some of the most difficult "hot spots" in the world, including several trips to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, before and after the collapse of communism, Cuba, and, in August 2008, the subject of this program, North Korea.

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"Having personally observed some of the most oppressive regimes in the world, Mosch brings a wealth of experience in interpreting what he saw of North Korea, its people and its government. As relations between North Korea and much of the rest of the world, and particularly the United States, continue to deteriorate, it is important that we gain as clear an understanding of that country and society as possible. Ted Mosch will help us make sense of the North Korean situation and provide us with some hints concerning the future of American relations with that closed and, sometimes, bizarre, society."

For more information, call 731-881-7436.

UTM art exhibit Nov. 17

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The exhibition features the latest works from UT Martin Visual Arts faculty. Contributing faculty will include David McBeth, Lane Last, Dr. Carol Eckert, Diane Shaw, Jason Stout and Grace Eckert. The exhibition will continue through the end of classes Dec. 11. It will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
Microsoft access, concealed handgun classes to be offered at UT Martin

Fall classes planned by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies offer area residents the opportunity to learn and pursue new skills and interests. The courses get under way in November in Martin.

A Concealed Handgun Carry Class is planned 5-9 p.m., Nov. 19 and 20. The instructor will be Cecil Clements, state certified handgun instructor. The fee is $75. This handgun safety class will provide the student with the minimum requirements mandated by the state. The use, operation and cleaning of the handgun will be covered.

The first evening will be devoted to classroom instruction. The second evening will be the firing range instruction. The student must score 70 percent on the firing range qualification and 70 percent on the written exam. The successful completion of this course will allow the student to apply for a concealed weapons permit from the state of Tennessee. Each student must be at least 21 years of age and provide a handgun, pen, pencil, paper, 50 rounds of ammunition for range instruction, safety glasses and hearing protection.

Beginning Microsoft Access is planned 9 a.m.-noon, Nov. 17 and 19. The instructor will be Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer. The fee is $85. Participants will learn to design and create a database and what relational databases can do for them. Students will design and set up tables and relationships, edit data, sort and filter, create quick forms for data entry, create quick reports that can be customized and learn how queries can provide answers. Participants will also work with Access 2007 and Vista.

For more information on these courses, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7081. Register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/courses_nondegree.php.
DMS students attend writing conference at UT Martin

The DMS students posed after the poetry reading with visiting poet Bill Brown. Pictured are: Vanessa Beard, Shehla Yousuf, Johni Armstrong, Bill Brown, Jed Finley, Katharine Lannom and Brett Bullard.

DMS students participating in the Plus 1 enrichment program and the writing club recently attended the Young Writer's Conference in Martin. The students attended hands-on writing workshops taught by UT faculty on fiction writing and play writing. Other events included a luncheon and a poetry reading and book signing by visiting poet Bill Brown, who is originally from Dyersburg. The students wrote creatively, connected with other young writers from the region, and learned from outstanding writers and teachers of writing.
Paris native named TAHRA president

Paris native John Bucy was recently named president of the Tennessee Association of Human Resource Agencies (TAHRA).

Bucy, who is the executive director of Northwest Tennessee Human Resource Agency and Development District in Martin, was elected to the two-year term as president by his peers from nine human resource agencies across the state earlier this year.

"I very much appreciate the vote of confidence from my colleagues in the other human resource agencies," he said. "Collectively we touch the lives of many Tennesseans through our various programs.

"We continue to look for additional programs and services that can help someone's quality of life."

The TAHRA was established in 1973 by the Tennessee General Assembly to serve as a delivery system for human resources across the state. The association has a variety of programs including regional planning, area agencies on aging and disability, elderly nutrition, rural public transportation, homemaker services, senior aides, long-term care and the retired senior volunteer program.

Bucy was recently appointed to the board of directors of the West Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission by Tennessee Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey. Bucy received his bachelor's degree in history and social studies from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Two years later, he earned his master's degree in science, educational psychology and guidance. He also served in the U.S. Army, and retired as lieutenant colonel from the Tennessee Army National Guard.

He lives in Martin with his wife, Kathy, a retired school psychologist for the Weakley County Board of Education.

"We are pleased to provide services in Henry County and appreciate the field staff and the volunteers who serve us on our committees and advisory councils," Bucy said.

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UT MARTIN HOSTS CLINIC — The Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently hosted a science activities clinic attended by local Boy Scouts. Among the participants from Troy Scout Troop 54 were (from left, from front row) Damian Alton, Andrew Dobbins, Hunter Emery, Cody Garner, Isaiah Kennedy, Andrew Marshall, Zackery McEven, Austin Wright and Blake Yeager. They were joined by (back row) Joseph Cook, Lepold Phialalath, Brittany Wyatt, Colton Eaton, Corey Jones and Sean Malloy, all of SMACS; Joe McEwen, scout master, and Kevin Dobbins, assistant scout master.
Maupins named Tennessee Young Farmers of the Year

KATHY KRONE
kkrone@stategazette.com

A bright red tractor was parked in the side yard of Eric and Jo Ann Maupin's home Tuesday.

The new Case IH Magnum 245 tractor is theirs to use for a year - for free. It is one of the prizes the Dyer County couple received after being selected the Tennessee Young Farmers of the Year by the Tennessee Farm Bureau.

They also received a $16,000 Kubota all-terrain vehicle, about $1,500 cash, an insurance policy on the tractor and a trip to the American Farm Bureau national convention Jan. 10-13 in Seattle, Wash. While they're in Seattle, the Maupins will compete for the national Young Farmers of the Year title ... and a new $36,000 Dodge truck.

The tractor was presented Tuesday by Tennessee Farm Bureau officials and representatives of Case IH and Tri-County Farm Equipment in Newbern. A small crowd of family, friends and well-wishers gathered in the warm autumn sun to watch.

Eric Maupin, a 34-year-old known for his sense of humor and antics, endured a bit of roasting.

Hi, my name is Eric Maupin, 34 year old son of Jo Ann and Eric. I have a 380 case IH tractor, and I have never driven a tractor before. I am looking forward to the big adventure.

Continued from Page 1

His friend, John Butler of Dyersburg, said he observed several traits that convinced him Maupin was going to be successful. Butler recalled the house that Maupin shared with Matt Fennell when he returned from college. The house was so dilapidated that the ground could be seen through the floor.

"I knew it didn't take much for the boy to live on, you know what I'm saying," Butler said. "I was excited about that for him. I know he would probably be a success there because he really didn't care where he lived."

Maupin and Fennell fixed up the house and turned it into a "pretty nice place" to live, Butler said. "I knew he had the ability to kinda start from the beginning and work his way to something. He had vision."

And, when Butler came home from work in the evenings, he often found Maupin and Fennell there. Butler said his grill was cranked up, his steaks had been cooked and a single slice of steak would be waiting for him. "What showed me," Butler said, "was that Eric had the ability to think about what had to be done. He was smart enough not to eat the last one.

"All joking aside, Eric is a great individual. He has a passion for agriculture that really no one else has. Really I mean that."

Butler, who was named the Tennessee Young Farmer of the Year in 2003 and the American Young Farmer of the Year in 2004, wished Maupin well in the national competition.

Maupin won second place in the state competition last year. The man who won first place, Donald Blankenship of Rutherford, also won the national title.

Candidates file a lengthy application and an interview to assess not only their agricultural acumen but also their leadership skills and community involvement. They must submit four years of financial statements, including the first year of farming and the three most recent years. Agricultural accomplishments account for about 60 percent of the candidates' scores with 20 percent for Farm Bureau leadership and the final 20 percent for community involvement and leadership.

Maupin represented Dyer County Farm Bureau in the state contest and competed against 24 or 25 farmers from other counties. In Seattle, he will compete with farmers from 40 to 45 states, said Charles Curtis, director of special programs for the Tennessee Farm Bureau.

Tennessee Farm Bureau President Lacy Upchurch said Tennessee has "a lot of really top young farmers in the state. What separated Eric is the leadership."

Maupin graduated from Dyer County High School in 1993 and from The University of Tennessee at Martin in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business and a minor in communications. He was elected
A number of persons gather to congratulate Eric and Jo Ann Maupin on being selected as the Tennessee Young Farmer of the Year. They're standing in front of a Case IH Magnum 245 tractor the Maupins may use for a year. The tractor, which was presented Tuesday, is one of several prizes they received. Participating in the tractor presentation are: (from left) Melissa Lowery, chairman of the Dyer County Young Farmers and Ranchers; James Hendrix, president of Tri-County Farm Equipment in Newbern; Randy Brooks of the Dyer County Farm Bureau; Jeff Panel, regional agency manager for Farm Bureau Insurance; Tim Mills of Case IH; Jo Ann Maupin, who is holding her 7-week-old daughter, Cara Maupin; Eric Maupin; Lacy Upchurch, Tennessee Farm Bureau president; Eric's mother, Joan Maupin; Charles Curtis, director of special programs for the Tennessee Farm Bureau; Eric's father, Larry Maupin; and Eric's brother, Stefan Maupin, assistant director of public affairs for the Tennessee Farm Bureau.

Maupin has also been known to try less traditional crops. He grew pumpkins for several years. This year, he tried sunflowers.

Maupin said he's part of the 23 Farmer Network, which is based out of Memphis. The program started with a state grant designed to find new profitable biomass products and alternative crops for Tennessee. The program has targeted sunflowers, canola, switchgrass and even cane sorghum.

Maupin also became an auctioneer in 1999, working with local fund-raisers in the beginning and now working with Fisher Realty and Auction in Dyersburg.

"The Farm Bureau has been a big part of my life," Maupin said while accepting the tractor. He attributed his community involvement to the examples set by his parents, Larry and Joan Maupin.

His desire to win the Young Farmer of the Year title, though, was inspired by someone else. Maupin said that he was impressed when Butler won the state and national awards. He said he told himself that day that he wanted to be just like Butler.

Now that a portion of his dream has come true, he said he's realized one thing: "It's a humbling experience.

Maupin's wife listened to the banter and offered her words in true seriousness. "I'm excited to be a part of Young Farmers, and Eric is a big part of me being involved," Jo Ann Maupin said. "I'm thrilled."

The littlest member of the family - 7-week-old Cara Maupin - wasn't sure what all the fuss was about. She slept through most of it.
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For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
CHAPTER AWARD — The University of Tennessee at Martin Student Members of the American Chemical Society chapter recently received a commendable rating from the Society Committee on Chemical Education (SOCED) and the Green Chapter Award from the Green Chemistry Institute of ACS for its activities in 2008-09.

The chapter activities of the last year included "chemagic" shows for UT Martin students, a National Chemistry Week observance and, for local high school and elementary school, the High School Science Bowl, Chemistry Merit Badge Clinic for Boy Scouts of America, co-hosting of the Area Collegiate Chemistry Meeting at Murray where the ACS president spoke and five UT Martin presentations were among the 16 student research papers. The local chapter also co-sponsored the new recycling facility in Martin, and three green chemistry speakers, several socials and organizational meetings and participation in the Kentucky Lake Section ACS. The chapter has been rated highly by ACS SOCED for more than 30 years and won the Green Chapter Award every year since the award was established in 2002. The local chapter leads the 900+ chapters nationwide in receiving high ratings and awards.

Seated left to right are UT Martin faculty adviser, Dr. S. K. Airee, president, Kayla A. Poindexter of Murfreesboro; UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes; standing, executive committee member, Leopold M. Phiapalath of Memphis; treasurer Ashish J. Patel of Columbia; vice president, Punam Patel of Martin; secretary, Casey Unger of Martin; and executive committee member, James K. Griffin of Lexington. Not pictured are two executive committee members, Elizabeth A. Abernathy of Pulaski; and Carolyn U. Nguyen of Smyrna.
UT Martin agriculture student recognized as National FFA Proficiency Award Winner

Andrew Thomas Collier, a University of Tennessee at Martin sophomore agriculture major and a collegiate chapter member, recently was recognized as a National FFA Proficiency Award Winner.

Collier, of Lebanon, was in the 2009 Diversified Horticulture - Entrepreneurship/Placement category. Collier's interest in nursery and landscaping plants began when he started helping someone with an annual plant sale. As the Wilson Central FFA member continued to help, he began to become familiar with planting, watering and the placement of mums. Along with that familiarity, he also began helping to maintain the farm, mowing and landscaping.

His interest then took a slight turn when he began to work at the local golf course, where he managed the agricultural-based side of the business, including the putting greens, and made sure the grounds were maintained.

Collier is supported in his endeavors by his parents, Jeff and Melodie Collier, as well as his high school FFA advisors, Benny McDonald and Pam Walker.

UT Martin students attend statewide event

Nine students from the University of Tennessee at Martin joined about 200 of the best and brightest students from around Tennessee to convene for the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature's 40th General Assembly last week.

UT Martin sent four students as its first team to TISL's Moot Court Challenge.

UT Martin's delegation included Allison Jones of South Fulton; Abigail Castleberry of Duck River; Ivie Crutchfield and Candace Dean, both of Martin; John W. Johnson of Mount Juliet; Eli Jones of Bells; Casey McCasland of Savannah; Grant Monroe of Linden; and Christie Rushing of Humboldt.

Students who competed in TISL's Moot Court Challenge included Brandon Burke of Union City; Daniel Ammon of Arlington; and Bryan Panovec and Jon K. Stewart, both of Memphis.

TISL, operated by an alumni board of directors and an elected student executive council, conducted student legislature elections and debate and voted on bills that could affect the future of Tennessee.

The top bills that were passed by the student legislature will be sent to the Tennessee State Legislature for consideration.

Tennessee's seat belt law originated as a TISL bill.

Alumni of this collegiate mock legislative program include Secretary of State Tre Hargett; State Treasurer David Lillard; current state senators Mike Faulk, Doug Overbye, Roy Herron and Russell Humphrey; current representatives Mike Kerness and Ron Lollar; and several judges and business leaders from across the state.

Author to sign book at university

Bill Halton — father, husband, lawyer and award-winning writer — will sign copies of his book, "Some Assembly Required," at 4 p.m. Dec. 3 at Paul Meek Library on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

On Christmas Eve, the three most terrifying words in the English language are "some assembly required." In "Some Assembly Required," Halton will make the father in anyone's life laugh this Christmas with his latest book.

Halton shares a fatherly perspective on the challenges Daddy faces at Christmas time, including balancing the tree, stringing lights on the roof of the house and helping Santa put together toys that could only be assembled by graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Halton, of Memphis, is the author of three books and has been a newspaper and magazine humor columnist for more than 20 years. He has served as chair of the editorial boards for four magazines, including the ABA Journal, the flagship publication of the American Bar Association. A popular speaker, Halton has delivered commencement addresses and has been the featured speaker at conventions, banquets and leadership seminars.

For more information about the local appearance, call (731) 881-7094.
Brian Brown Greenway dedicated at UT Martin

A perfect fall day provided an equally perfect setting for a vision to become a reality Saturday, Nov. 14, as the first phase of the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway was dedicated. The greenway, named for the late Brian Brown, will eventually connect downtown Martin with the city’s west side and UT Martin campus, providing a pedestrian trail for walking and bicycling.

Brown was killed in a July 2000 bicycling accident near Martin. A UT Martin campus recreation staff member at the time of his death, he envisioned a greenway that would provide a safe recreational trail for area residents. After his death, individuals and groups united to realize Brown’s dream.

Area residents, elected officials, and Brown family members and friends attended the 10 a.m. event. Dr. Laura Brown, Brian’s widow and a UT Martin faculty member, and the couple’s children, Boone and Georgia, sat behind the podium situated on a rise just above the paved trail as speakers told about the dedication and perseverance that created the greenway.

The trail starts at the Highway 431 and Skyhawk Parkway intersection and winds east through an old railroad bed and university farmland toward the city.

David Belote, Martin city alderman and a personal friend of Brian’s, quickly turned the gathering into a celebration of Brown’s life and the inspiration he provided to build the greenway. He recalled Brown’s personal philosophy of “pray hard, play hard, work hard and love your family,” adding, “Brian saw everyone as family.” Belote introduced Martin Mayor Randy Brundige who said, “We’ve persevered many years trying to get this greenway under way, and finally we got a portion of it built. We’ve still got a portion to go though, and I know with the Greenway Foundation’s help, we’re going to complete that task in the years to come.”

The greenway was originally financed with a $310,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation Grant, plus $80,000 in matching funds to be raised by the community. Belote recalled the daunting task and how many individuals and groups stepped forward to raise money, even once bringing a circus to town as a fund-raiser. “Some of the folks that have been a part of this had to ride elephants to make this happen,” he said.

Dr. Tim Johnston, now a Murray State faculty member and past president of the Brian Brown Greenway Foundation, Inc., brought his family to join the celebration. He recalled greenway volunteers experiencing “lots of emotional ups and downs,” including the first grant application that was turned down in 2003. He said that greenway volunteers decided, “We need to raise the priority and the visibility of Martin’s project. There’s a big stack of these applications in Nashville.” So, he said they asked a group of bike riders, led by UT Martin chemistry professor Phil Davis, to ride bicycles from Martin to Nashville to personally deliver the second grant application to TDOT officials. This step, combined with the support of many elected officials, resulted in approval of the grant a year later.

Belote closed by thanking the university, the city of Martin, TLM Associates of Jackson and many others for their efforts. He reported 49 businesses and civic groups, plus 134 individuals who have made significant contributions to the project. He also emphasized that more work lies ahead to complete the greenway to downtown Martin. Application for a second grant is due Nov. 1, 2010, plus there’s property to be purchased and about $50,000 in additional funds to be raised. “The challenge is to get to Lindell Street. That’s our charge. I hope you’re in with us, and let’s finish this dream, this vision for Brian Brown,” he said.

The event concluded as the crowd moved a short distance to the trail for a ribbon-cutting ceremony where the trail moves east across the university’s Farm Road. As Laura Brown cut the ribbon, the greenway officially opened to a grateful community. Fittingly, many in attendance headed east on the trail for an inaugural walk. Brian Brown’s spirit was in evidence as the greenway bearing his name officially came to life.
Brian Brown Memorial Greenway dedication at UTM realizes a vision

The first phase of the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway was dedicated Saturday morning, Nov. 14, where the trail crosses Farm Road north of the UT Martin campus. The greenway, named for the late Brian Brown, will eventually connect downtown Martin with the city’s west side and the UT Martin campus, providing a pedestrian trail for walking and bicycling. Brown was killed in a July 2000 bicycling accident near Martin. A UT Martin campus recreation staff member at the time of his death, he envisioned a greenway that would provide a safe recreational trail for area residents. After his death, individuals and groups united to realize Brown’s dream. Family members surround Dr. Laura Brown, Brian’s widow and a UT Martin faculty member, and the couple’s children, Boone (left) and Georgia (right), as Laura prepares to cut a ribbon officially opening the greenway. (See story on page 9.)

'Instant Piano For Hopelessly Busy People' Course Offered In Selmer

The University of Tennessee at Martin McNairy County Center Selmer will offer a piano course from 6-9:30 p.m., Dec. 9. The fee is $49 plus a $25 supply fee. The instructor for this course will be David Haynes, piano workshop teacher and former music director in Ringgold, Ga.

The course, "Instant Piano for Hopelessly Busy People," is for individuals who want to experience the joy of playing piano but don’t want years of weekly lessons. In one evening, students can learn enough secrets of the trade to make piano playing a part of their life. Participants will learn all the chords needed to play any pop song in any style or any key.

This is a beginning class in chord piano techniques, and if you can find middle C and know the meaning of Every Good Boy Does Fine, you already know enough to enroll. Topics in the class include how chords work in music, musicians’ shortcuts, how to speed read sheet music, how to handle different keys and time signatures, simple techniques of counting and how to substitute for 12,000 complex chords. The instructor will collect $25 for a book and 58-minute practice CD in class.

To register, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.
Deadline to apply for 2010 Governor’s Schools in Nov. 25

The deadline to apply for two 2010 Governor’s Schools hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin is November 25. Governor’s School for the Humanities will be June 6-July 3 and Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences is slated for May 23-June 18. Successful applicants will be notified February 15.

Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences focuses on the importance of agriculture and natural resources to the state and national economy. Emphasis on experiential learning and laboratory exercises related to the agricultural sciences will include production agriculture, agricultural business enterprises and natural resources management. For an application or for more information, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/caan/tgsas/. Brochures are available and may be requested by telephone to Suzanne Speight at 731-881-7211, by email at sspeight@utm.edu, or mail TGSAS at University of Tennessee at Martin, 256 Brehm Hall, Martin, TN 38238.

Governor’s School for the Humanities examines the role of language, history, philosophy, politics and the arts in defining the relevance of humanities in the modern age. Visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/govschool/ for an application or for more information.

Applications also are available in high school guidance offices.

Intercollegiate legislature convenes with UTM student participation

Nine students from the University of Tennessee at Martin joined approximately 200 of the best and brightest students from around Tennessee to convene for the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature’s 40th General Assembly on Nov. 12-15. UT Martin sent four students as its first team to TISL’s Moot Court Challenge.

UT Martin’s delegation included: Abigail Castleberry, of Duck River, Tenn.; Ivie Crutchfield, of Martin, Tenn.; Candace Dean, of Martin; John W. Johnson, of Mount Juliet, Tenn.; Allison Jones, of South Fulton; Eli Jones, of Bells, Tenn.; Casey McCasland, of Savannah, Tenn.; Grant Monroe, of Linden, Tenn.; and Christie Rushing, of Humboldt, Tenn.

Students who competed in TISL’s Moot Court Challenge included: Daniel Ammon, of Arlington; Brandon Burke, of Union City; Bryan Panovec, of Memphis; and Jon K. Stewart, of Memphis.

TISL, operated by an alumni board of directors and an elected student executive council, conducted student legislature elections and debate and voted on bills that could affect the future of Tennessee. The top bills that were passed by the student legislature will be sent to the Tennessee State Legislature for consideration. Tennessee’s seatbelt law originated as a TISL bill.

Alumni of this collegiate mock legislative program include Secretary of State Tre Hargett; State Treasurer David Lillard; current state senators, Mike Faulk, Doug Overbey, Roy Herron and Russell Humphrey; current representatives, Mike Kurell and Ron Lollar; and judges and business leaders.

Pageants to be staged at UTM Saturday

The combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be staged at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Student Life Center at UT Martin.

The theme is “Soul Train — the Hippest Trip in America.” Tennessee-Soybean Festival Idol Contest finalist Mary Williamson will perform during the pageant.

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

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

General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Pageant will be available at the door for $10. UT Martin student tickets will be sold for $5 at the door with proper ID.

For more information, contact pageant executive director Hollie Holt at (731) 514-3556 or by e-mail at hholt@utm.edu.
Greenway a place for all to enjoy

Martin — A perfect fall day provided an equally perfect setting for a vision to become a reality Saturday, Nov. 14, as the first phase of the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway was dedicated. The greenway, named for the late Brian Brown, will eventually connect downtown Martin with the city's west side and the UT Martin campus, providing a pedestrian trail for walking and bicycling.

Brown was killed in a July 2000 bicycling accident near Martin. A UT Martin campus recreation staff member at the time of his death, he envisioned a greenway that would provide a safe recreational trail for area residents. After his death, individuals and groups united to realize Brown's dream.

Area residents, elected officials, and Brown family members and friends attended the 10 a.m. event. Dr. Laura Brown, Brian's widow and a UT Martin faculty member, and the couple's children, Boone and Georgia, sat behind the podium situated on a rise just above the paved trail as speakers told about the dedication and persistence that created the greenway. The trail starts at the Highway 431 and Skyhawk Parkway intersection and winds east through an old railroad bed and university farmland toward the city.

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A SCENIC TRAIL — The falling autumn leaves rest on the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway. The trail allows hikers and bikers to take a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. hard, play hard, work hard and love your family," adding, "Brian saw everyone as family."

GREENWAY

FROM PAGE 1

Belote introduced Martin Mayor Randy Brundige who said, "We've persevered many years trying to get this greenway under way, and finally we got a portion of it built. We've still got a portion to go though, and I know with the Greenway Foundation's help, we're going to complete that task in the years to come."

The greenway was originally financed with a $310,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation Grant, plus $80,000 in matching funds to be raised by the community.

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He recalled greenway volunteers experiencing "lots of emotional ups and downs," including the first grant application that was turned down in 2003. He said that greenway volunteers decided, "We need to raise the priority and the visibility of Martin's project. There's a big stack of these applications in Nashville."

So, he said they asked a group of bike riders, led by UT Martin chemistry professor Phil Davis, to ride bicycles from Martin to Nashville to personally deliver the second grant application to TDOT officials.

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LEAVING A LEGACY — Brian Brown was killed in 2000 when a truck hit him while riding his bicycle on the Hwy. 45 by-pass in Martin. Nine years later, his family, (from left) son Boone, wife Laura and daughter Georgia, help open the door to his legacy with the grand opening of the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway in Martin Saturday morning. After several years of phases and fundraisers, the project is officially open for the public to enjoy. It features a scenic byway off of University Street to downtown Martin for hiking and bicycling. Brown’s motto was “pray hard, play hard, work hard and love your family.” Photos by Dawne Belote.

Book signing slated Dec. 3

Bill Haltom, father, husband, lawyer and award-winning writer, will sign copies of his book, “Some Assembly Required,” at 4 p.m., Dec. 3, at Paul Meek Library. In “Some Assembly Required,” Haltom will make the Daddy in your life laugh this Christmas with his latest book. Haltom shares a fatherly perspective on the challenges Daddy faces at Christmas time, including balancing the tree, stringing lights on the roof of the house and helping Santa put together toys that could only be assembled by graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The book is the perfect stocking stuffer for Dad. And while batteries are not included, there is absolutely no assembly required. For more information, call 731-881-7094.

Combined pageants set for Saturday

The combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be staged at 7 p.m., Nov. 21, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. The theme is “Soul Train... the Hippest Trip in America.”

Mary Williamson, Tennessee Soybean Festival Idol Contest finalist, will perform during the pageant.

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

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee.

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General admission tickets

See Pageants, Page 5

PAGEANTS FROM PAGE 1

for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Pageant will be available at the door for $10. UT Martin student tickets will be sold for $5 at the door with proper ID.

For more information, contact pageant executive director, Hollie Holt, 731-514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.
Superheros on display at UT Martin

It could be the largest gathering of superheroes since the last time the world needed saving from a notorious comic villain.

Trevor Ruszkowski's "Superheroes Project," exhibited at the University of Tennessee at Martin, likely will evoke memories of settling in to watch a caped crusader on the big screen or getting lost in a comic book tale.

The exhibition will open at 3:30 p.m., Nov. 17, in J. Houston Gordon Museum in Paul Meek Library and continue until Dec. 24.

This exhibit includes photographs of Martin students, Jordan Cole, Alex Harrison, James Eisterhold, Kassi Abney, Brett Smolen, and the late Kelly Murray, and Coach Darrin McClure, and Dresden student, Jake Doster.

Ruszkowski, UT Martin photographer, is a native of South Bend, Ind. Ruszkowski has been published in Sports Illustrated, Dime Magazine, ESPN.com, the Washington Post, numerous area newspapers, Soccer America and the Studebaker museum book. He also has two Upper Deck basketball cards. He has shot for numerous major sporting events, including the Sugar Bowl.

For more information, call 731-881-7615.

Santa’s Village continues good work

The legacy of Santa’s Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected and donated to service agencies through its 24 years.

Those donations — totaling $835,934 — have been distributed to area residents who need them.

Santa’s Village will mark its 25th anniversary Dec. 10-13, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment.

To date, a total of 213,477 people have attended Santa’s Village.

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

This year’s event — set for 6-9 p.m. Dec. 10-11; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 12; and 1-5 p.m. Dec. 13 — will return to the "Enchanted Forest" theme in scenes depicting the holidays.

Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s rides and vendor booths. Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and an expanded petting farm will add to the festivities. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Dec. 10. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include Chimes.

(See Page 6, Col. 4)
UTM bass fisherman team members in FLW regionals this weekend

The bass fishing program at UT Martin is catching on. Jordan Birch and Kevin Shorey are competing in the National Guard Forrest L. Wood (FLW) College Fishing Regional Championship which began Saturday and concludes Monday on Lake Monroe in Sanford, Fla.

Birch and Shorey earned their spot in the tournament after placing fourth overall at the National Guard FLW College Tournament on May 2 at Santee Cooper’s John C. Land III Landing in Manning, S.C., which had 40 schools participating.

Birch is majoring in business management from Drummonds, and Shorey is from Thompson’s Station majoring in agriculture.

The Lake Monroe tournament includes 20 schools and is one of five regional tournaments nationally.

The top five schools from each regional qualify to compete in the college fishing national championship, April 10-12, 2010, at Ft. Loudon-Tellico Lakes near Knoxville.

Besides UTM, Freed-Hardeman University and the University of Tennessee Knoxville have entries in this weekend’s tournament, which is being televised on the Versus Network.

Additional information can be found at www.collegefishing.com. "I would have never guessed any sport like bass fishing would have become what it has become at the college level," said Bud Grimes, UTM’s director of university relations. "Other universities around us are fielding teams and a colleague of mine at another university is well pleased, and they are getting a lot of attention."

Grimes said though it’s not an NCAA sport, any team (which includes UTM) that makes it as far as Birch and Shorey have are doing pretty good.

"This (UTM) bass fishing team has a good core of participants, and they are enthusiastic about doing well," Grimes said. "They do a lot of work in order to be able to participate, and we’re amazed at what they have done so far."

As others are.

"We’re actually getting prospective students asking about this team," Grimes said. "It’s becoming another recruiting tool for the university."

"It gives students another opportunity to participate and opens up other competition."

While Grimes is excited about the exposure for the school he also applauds the sponsors which make the tournaments possible.

"The exposure is excellent and from all we can tell and are told the tournaments are well run," Grimes said. "The sponsors are doing a good job, and there is a fair amount of prize money for these teams — money that is reinvested in the team which gives the team incentive to do well in tournaments."

Cotton a reminder of slavery for many

By MARIANN MARTIN
mmartin@jacksonsun.com

For more than 100 years, "King Cotton" was the driving force behind the Southern economy, creating enormous wealth for some people.

But the crop also created a system that enslaved more than 4 million people. Even after the Civil War, a peonage system kept black people and poor white people enslaved to the large landowners.

"The consequences are so significant," said David Barber, an assistant professor of history at the University of Tennessee Martin. "There is much glorification of the Old South, but you can’t describe the toll it took on African-American people."

Before the Civil War ended, even areas of the South that did not grow cotton were used to breed slaves, Barber said.

"Selling slaves was their main business in order to feed the cotton kingdom, a kingdom that existed for the white population owned slaves, Barber said.

"Poor whites were marginalized to the poorest lands in a system where only about one-quarter of the white population owned slaves, Barber said.

David Coffey, head of the department of history and philosophy at UT Martin, said the invention of the cotton gin only increased the power of cotton.

"Slavery would have had a much more rapid decline in the United States if it had not been for cotton," Coffey said. "There is a rapid expansion of slavery after the introduction of the cotton gin."

Little changed after the Civil War, Barber said, with both blacks and whites working as sharecroppers in a system that forced them into debt to the landowners.

"Literally every year they would fall deeper and deeper into debt," Barber said. "If a sharecropper started with a mule or a plow, after five or six years, he lost everything he had except his family."

In some ways, cotton came to represent the oppression of the South to the poor people, Coffey said.

"It was a tough life, and I would imagine that many people who worked the cotton came to view it as synonymous with their human oppressors," he said.

But David Thomas, a professor of history at Union University, points out that cotton was viewed both as a symbol of oppression and an escape route for the poor farmers.

"The farmers would secretly store some of this stuff away, until they had a bale they could sell," Thomas said. "In that way, it also became a way out."

"It was the backbone of the South and the center to which a great deal of hope and money flowed."

— Mariann Martin, 425-9782

"I would imagine that many people who worked the cotton came to view it as synonymous with their human oppressors."

David Coffey, head of the department of history and philosophy at UT Martin
Cotton woven into economy, history of South

By MARIANN MARTIN
mmartin10@jacksontn.com

The first settlers in West Tennessee brought with them plows, mules, household items — and cotton seeds.

"Cotton has always been the primary crop in the area, and it was the money crop through the years," said Billy King, president of the Big Black Creek Historical Association in Madison County.

The first settlers came to Madison County in 1818 and 1819, but the first recorded cotton crop was harvested in 1821, according to Madison County Historian Linda Higgins.

Letters from that time talk about the fertile land and bumper cotton crops, Higgins said. "One writer reported some farmers harvested up to 1,300 pounds of cotton per acre."

Higgins said cotton gins were built almost immediately.

"Early records show they alternated cotton and corn crops," she said. "They used flatboats on the Forked Deer River to take the cotton to the Mississippi and down to New Orleans."

The Hatchie River was another route the early farmers used to ship cotton, King said.

"Cotton buyers came from Memphis up the Hatchie River to Estamula Landing," King, 72, said. "The landing was a major cotton buying and selling place."

Those first gins were mule- or water-powered, King said. One of the gins in Mercer was built close to Big Black Creek, and water from the creek was used to run the gin.

Railroads were built in West Tennessee in the late 1850s, Higgins said, which meant that farmers and cotton buyers had a better way to ship their cotton.

As more farmers moved into the area and cotton production increased, businesses and cotton mills began moving into West Tennessee.

Both Dyersburg and Trenton had cotton mills that processed local cotton. A map factory in Humboldt used lower-grade cotton lint, said John Freeman of Bells.

Freeman, the owner of Green Frog Village, has worked to establish the Cotton Museum of the South, with displays of a 1915 cotton gin, several old cotton pickers and other memorabilia from the early days of cotton production.

"We are trying to preserve the way cotton was used to be grown," Freeman said.

The Bemis Bag Co., established in 1901, was one of the most well-known cotton businesses in West Tennessee.

Judson Bemis, the founder, built an entire town with a cotton gin, factory and houses for the workers to live in. The mill town used local cotton.

Higgins said Bemis was the only mill town in West Tennessee and possibly the only mill town in Tennessee.

More than 50 years later, Procter & Gamble built its Pringles potato crisps factory in Jackson because of the abundance of cotton seed oil in the area, Higgins said.

The cotton seed oil plant in Jackson closed in 1966, four years before the first potato chips were processed, but Memphis continues to manufacture cotton seed oil.

The story of cotton, farming and business in West Tennessee is representative of the importance of cotton across the South, said David Coffey, chairman of the history and philosophy department at the University of Tennessee Martin.

"Cotton was by far the biggest economic force in the South," Coffey said. "On the one hand, cotton made the South and brought it fabulous wealth. On the other hand, it locked the South into a certain economic model."

After the Civil War, the South continued to grow cotton, remaining dependent on a share-cropper system instead of diversifying.

"The South had to be forced out of its dependence on cotton with government involvement," Coffey said. "The New Deal and World War II brought a more diversified economy."

— Mariann Martin, 425-9782

2,000-plus pounds of food collected by UT Martin

Sodexo – UT Martin Dining Services hosted a very special "Helping Hands Across America" Food Drive on Thursday, November 12th, helping those in need within the community. This was made possible with the help of the entire UTM Campus Community, including several student organizations.

UT Martin Greek Life was recognized for their generous contributions of 1386.62 pounds. In addition, several student groups including PALZ (Pentecostal Apostolic Leaders of Zion) and the Clay Target Team donated items to the cause.

We are proud to announce that together we collected 2300 non-perishable food items for a total of 2066.78 pounds that were donated to our local charity and food bank, "We Care Ministries" just in time for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Sodexo - UT Martin Dining Services would like to thank everyone for helping make this event a huge success.
Fossil donation to UTM comes with personal explanation by collector

A collection of trilobites recently joined other fossil collections at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The collector, George Stone, of Cartersville, Ill., delivered to the university a large number of museum-quality trilobites and, while he was on campus, spoke to students in Dr. Michael Gibson's paleontology class. The trilobites will be the focus of a hallway display, with some (on loan from UT Martin) going into Discovery Park in Union City.

Trilobites, similar to today's horseshoe crabs, are part of a fossil group of extinct marine arthropods that form the class Trilobita. Trilobites first appeared in the fossil record during the Early Cambrian period (540 million years ago), thrived throughout the lower Paleozoic era before facing extinction when, during the Devonian, all trilobite orders, with the sole exception of Proetida, died out. Trilobites finally disappeared in a mass extinction at the end of the Permian about 250 million years ago.

The trilobites were collected by Stone and his wife, Janet, at a site in Bowling Green, Mo. The fossils were found in Maquoketa Shale. These trilobites belong to the genus Isotelus, several species of which are sometimes found in Tennessee. They are Stone Trilobites are special because of their unusually good preservation, even after 500 million years. Most of the specimens are complete, meaning the animals did not go through the typical molting stage to shed their shells to grow larger that usually fragments the exoskeleton.

Most likely this is due to rapid burial on the ancient seafloor. The good preservation makes teaching trilobite anatomy and physiology to students much easier.

Stone has donated specimens to a number of institutions in multiple states. Retired as president of the Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield) Foundation, he has spent considerable time amassing his collection, beginning in 1983. He is joined frequently on his quests by his wife, who retired as deputy director of health protection for the state of Illinois. In fact, the couple's first date was to a fossil hunt.

"It gives you a glimpse of the life of the Ordovician time (second period of the Paleozoic Era, from about 505 to 438 million years ago)," said Stone. "These only lived about two million years. They lived in a marine environment that is now above water." Mrs. Stone explained the donations to colleges and universities saying, "It is important that they (students) be able to feel them, to touch them, see how they're put together and how they broke apart and know that they were real."

"We are honored that he has chosen UT Martin as home to part of this collection," said Gibson.

For more information contact Gibson at 731-881-7435.

UT Martin bass anglers compete in tournament

The UT Martin bass anglers team of Jordan Birch and Kevin Shorey competed in the National Guard FLW College Fishing Regional Championship presented by Land O'Lakes, Nov. 21-23, on Lake Monroe in Sanford, Fla. The event will be televised nationwide on Versus.

The team earned a spot in the tournament after finishing 4th among 40 teams at the National Guard FLW College Fishing Tournament, May 2, at Santee Cooper's John C. Land III Landing in Manning, S.C.

Birch is a business management major from Drummonds, and Shorey is an agriculture major from Thompsons Station.

The Lake Monroe tournament will include 20 teams and is one of five regional tournaments being held around the country.

The top-5 finishers from each regional will qualify to compete in the college fishing national championship, April 10-12, 2010, at Ft. Loudon-Tellico lakes east of Lenoir City near Knoxville.

Other Tennessee teams confirmed for the tournament include UT Knoxville and Freed-Hardeman University. More information about National Guard College Fishing is available at www.collegefishing.com.
Santa's Village tradition celebrates 25th anniversary

The legacy of Santa's Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected and donated to service agencies through its 24 years. Those donations — totaling $835,934 — have been distributed to area residents who need them.

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

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 10-11 and 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 12 and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 13, the event will return to the "Enchanted Forest" theme in scenes depicting the holidays.

Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children's rides and vendor booths. Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and an expanded petting farm will add to the festivities. Doors open at 6 p.m., Dec. 10.

Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa's Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, Obion County Chapter American Red Cross, Santa's Helpers, Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Department of Children's Services and Weakley County Head Start.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods and Volunteer Community Hospital.

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

"This is the 25th year for the city of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin to work together on this great event," said Brian Moore, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director. "We will help approximately 1,750 families this year. So not only are we providing a fun and free holiday event for families, we are also helping to meet some of the needs of families in our community and surrounding area around the holidays."

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

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and UT Martin Chancell or Tom Rakes agree that in the country's economic times, the event is beneficial.

Rakes added, "Even in tough times we need to take time to celebrate and offer our children and community members an opportunity for seasonal greetings and fun. Santa's Village is one of the unique community events that make Martin and Weakley County a great place to live."

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

HELPING HANDS – Teresa Rowlett, We Care Ministries Food Bank Director (from left); Coco Boone, Sodexo Marketing Coordinator; Keith Royster, Sodexo Operations Manager; Charles Thomas, Sodexo General Manager; Anoush Lazarian, Sodexo Catering Manager; Stephen Shopher of the IFC (Interfraternity Council) and Sigma Alpha Epsilon member; Mary Unger of the NPC (National Panhellenic Conference) and Alpha Delta Pi and Emily Anne Sparks, Sodexo Customer Service and Chi-Omega Alumnus stand with nearly 2,067 pounds of food collected throughout the month in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. The food bank will benefit needy families in Weakley County through We Care Ministries in Martin. For more information, see Page 4.
Santa’s Village Dec. 10-13

The legacy of Santa’s Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected and donated to service agencies through its 24 years. Those donations – totaling $835,934 – have been distributed to area residents who need them.

Santa’s Village will mark its 25th anniversary, Dec. 10-13, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment. To date, 213,477 people have attended Santa’s Village.

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

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 10-11; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 12; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 13, the event will return to the “Enchanted Forest” theme in scenes depicting the holidays. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s rides and vendor booths. Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and an expanded petting farm will add to the festivities. Doors open at 6 p.m., Dec. 10. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, Obion County Chapter American Red Cross, Santa’s Helpers, Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Department of Children’s Services and Weakley County Head Start.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods and Volunteer Community Hospital. As part of the event each year, WCMT sponsors a can caravan for canned food donations collected at the schools.

“‘This is the 25th year for the city of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin to work together on this great event,’” said Brian Moore, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director. “We will help approximately 1,750 families this year. So not only are we providing a fun and free holiday event for families, we are also helping to meet some of the needs of families in our community and surrounding area around the holidays.”

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

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For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
GREENWAY DEDICATION – The first phase of the Brian Brown Memorial Gateway was dedicated Nov. 14, where the trail crossed Farm Road north of the UT Martin campus, in Martin, Tenn. The greenway, named for the late Brian Brown, will eventually connect downtown Martin with the city’s west side and the UT Martin campus, providing a pedestrian trail for walking and bicycling. Brown was killed in a July 2002 bicycling accident near Martin. A UT Martin campus recreation staff member at the time of his death, he envisioned a greenway that would provide a safe recreational trail for area residents. After his death, individuals and groups united to realize Brown’s dream. Family members surrounded Dr. Laura Brown, Brown’s widow and a UT Martin faculty member, and the couple’s children, Boone, left; and Georgia, right; as she prepared to cut a ribbon officially opening the greenway. (Photo submitted)

UT Martin wind ensemble concert set

The University of Tennessee at Martin wind ensemble will present its winter concert, “Song and Dance,” at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the Union City Municipal Auditorium.

The ensemble will perform musical selections featuring Franz Bieb’s “Ave Maria,” David Gillingham’s “Be Thou My Vision,” Alfred Reed’s “Armenian Dances” and John Mackey’s “Strange Humors.”

“We hope the community will enjoy a concert of music that we feel is beautiful, energetic, reflective and mysterious. In short we have programmed something for everyone,” said Dr. Nola Jones, assistant professor of music and director of bands. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Jones 731-881-7403 or njones@utm.edu.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, Wednesday, November 25, 2009

UT Martin piano ensemble December 1

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present its holiday concert at 7:30 p.m., December 1, at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Martin.

UT Martin piano students performing are Kyle Carter, of Troy; Kelsey Currie, of Brownsville; Matthew Damons, of Union City; Harold Johnson of Memphis; Andrew Moore, of Fulton; Victoria Morgan, of Cordova; Katie Snider, of Gleason; Brandon Whaley, of Dresden; and Michael Yandell, of Union City.

The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Elaine Harris, professor of music. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Harris at 731-881-7411 or elaineh@utm.edu.

UTM vocal studio recital slated for December 8

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music has planned an evening of vocal music performed by students, slated for 7:30 p.m., December 8, at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Martin.

The recital will feature students of Dr. Roberto Mancusi, assistant professor of music, and Dr. Amy Yeung, associate professor of music, who will perform one song each. Delana Easley, lecturer of music, and several students will accompany the performers on piano. The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Yeung at 881-7408.

UT Martin jazz band to perform

The University of Tennessee at Martin big band and small jazz group will be performing a concert at 7:30 p.m., December 5, in the Duncan Ballroom of Boling University Center.

The program will include the music of Oliver Nelson, Benny Carter, Charles Mingus, Tito Puente and others. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Kurt Gorman, associate professor of music, at 731-881-7404 or kgorman@utm.edu.
Taren Hatcher, of Greenfield, was crowned Miss University of Tennessee at Martin at the combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Student Life Center on campus. The UT Martin integrated studies K-6 major won the 2010 title and the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in June in Jackson.

Also headed to the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant is Loren Dean, of Brighton, a Mississippi State University freshman English major, who won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

The winners led a field of seven contestants. Miss UT Martin 2009, Kaitlin Turner, of Union City, crowned Hatcher. Dean was crowned by Hannah-Wade Powell, of Alamo, 2009 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

"I was seriously in shock," Hatcher, 19, said following her win. As for Miss Tennessee pageant preparations, she said, "I have to eat right, exercise, practice on my talent and have fun while I’m doing it. Hatcher’s platform is “Think Pink - Breast Cancer Awareness.”

Dean, 18, said, “I’m very shocked, but very happy,” about winning the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crown. To prepare for the Miss Tennessee Pageant Dean added, “I will work a lot - working out, working on my interview and working on my talent. Her platform is “Wear Blue So They Don’t Have To” Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention.

Runners-up for the Miss UT Martin crown were: Mikai Banks, Millington, a junior biology major, first; Shannon Trout, of Union City, a 19-year-old exercise science major, second; and Adrian Wilson, of Henning, an 18-year-old marketing major, third. All members of the Miss UT Martin court must be UT Martin students.

For Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Kendall Schultz, of Knoxville, a Walters State Community College freshman radiation therapy major was first runner-up, and Devin Hartdige, of Denver, Colo., a UT Martin history major, was second runner-up.

Turner and Powell were hostesses for the evening. Mary Williamson, Tennessee Soybean Festival Idol Contest finalist entertained the audience with vocal selections. Hollie Holt, of Martin, directed the pageant.

“I am excited about working with our two new title holders,” said Holt. “We had a great group of girls compete tonight,” Holt added. “Each year, the Miss Tennessee system gives young women the opportunity to learn and grow as they develop platforms and give back to their communities. Our two titleholders are prime examples of what the system is all about.”

Miss UT Martin crowned - Taren Hatcher, of Greenfield, center, was crowned 2010 Miss UT Martin at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Runners-up for the Miss UT Martin crown were: Mikai Banks, of Millington, first, second from left; Shannon Trout, of Union City, second, right; and Adrian Wilson, of Henning, third, left. All members of the Miss UT Martin court must be UT Martin students. Kaitlin Turner, of Union City, second from right, 2009 Miss UT Martin, crowned Hatcher.

Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowned - Loren Dean, of Brighton, second from left, won the 2010 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/ Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Student Life Center at UT Martin. First runner-up was Kendall Schultz, of Knoxville, left; and second runner-up was Devin Hartdige, of Denver, Colo., right. Dean was crowned by Hannah-Wade Powell, second from right, 2009 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.
Santa’s Village continues good work in 25th year celebration

The legacy of Santa’s Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected and donated to service agencies through its 24 years. Those donations totaling $835,934 have been distributed to area residents who need them.

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

Slated for 6-9 p.m., December 10-11; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., December 12; and 1-5 p.m., December 13, the event will return to the “Enchanted Forest” theme in scenes depicting the holidays. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s rides and vendor booths. Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and an expanded petting farm will add to the festivities. Doors open at 6 p.m., December 10. Admission is suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, Obion County Chapter American Red Cross, Santa’s Helpers, Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Department of Children’s Services and Weakley County Head Start.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods and Volunteer Community Hospital.

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

“This is the 25th year for the city of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin to work together on this great event,” said Brian Moore, Martin Parks and Recreation Department director. “We will help approximately 1,750 families this year. So not only are we providing a fun and free holiday event for families, we are also helping to meet some of the needs of families in our community and surrounding area around the holidays.”

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

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes agree that in the country’s economic times, the event is beneficial. Rakes added, “Even in tough times we need to take time to celebrate and offer our children and community members an opportunity for seasonal greetings and fun. Santa’s Village is one of the unique community events that make Martin and Weakley County a great place to live.”

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

Bill Haltom to sign ‘Some Assembly Required’

Bill Haltom, father, husband, lawyer and award-winning writer, will sign copies of his book, “Some Assembly Required,” at 4 p.m., December 3, at Paul Meek Library.

On Christmas Eve, the three most terrifying words in the English language are “Some Assembly Required.” In “Some Assembly Required,” Haltom will make the Daddy in your life laugh this Christmas with his latest book. Haltom shares a fatherly perspective on the challenges Daddy faces at Christmas time, including balancing the tree, stringing lights on the roof of the house and helping Santa put together toys that could only be assembled by graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The book is the perfect stocking stuffer for Dad. And while batteries are not included, there is absolutely no assembly required.

Haltom, of Memphis, is the author of three books and has been a newspaper and magazine humor columnist for more than 20 years. He has served as chair of the editorial boards for four magazines, including the ABA Journal, the flagship publication of the American Bar Association. A popular speaker, Haltom has delivered commencement addresses and has been the featured speaker at conventions, banquets and leadership seminars. For more information, call 731-881-7094.

PC Awareness course offered at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a Beginner PC class using Microsoft Windows from 9 a.m.-noon, December 15 and 17. The instructor for the course is Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer. The registration fee is $85.

Participants will expand their knowledge of using a computer. Students will learn about the desktop, taskbar, control panel, administration tools, backups, My Documents folder, task manager, how to change common settings and more. Other topics include browsing the Internet, antivirus and antispyware software, security updates and home networking.

To register, call UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.
The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, November 25, 2009

Beginning phase of greenway dedicated

A perfect fall day provided an equally perfect setting for a vision to become a reality recently as the first phase of the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway was dedicated.

The greenway, named for the late Brian Brown, will eventually connect downtown Martin with the city’s west side and the University of Tennessee at Martin campus, providing a pedestrian trail for walking and bicycling.

Brown was killed in a July 2000 bicycling accident near Martin. A UT Martin campus recreation staff member at the time of his death, he envisioned a greenway that would provide a safe recreational trail for area residents. After his death, individuals and groups united to realize Brown’s dream.

Area residents, elected officials and Brown family members and friends attended the morning dedication. Brown’s widow, Dr. Laura Brown, a UT Martin faculty member, and the couple’s children, Boone and Georgia, sat behind the podium situated on a rise just above the paved trail as speakers told about the dedication and persistence that created the greenway. The trail starts at the Highway 431 and Skyhawk Parkway intersection and winds east through an old railroad bed and university farmland toward the city.

David Belote, Martin city alderman and a personal friend of Brown’s, quickly turned the gathering into a celebration of Brown’s life and the inspiration he provided to build the greenway. He recalled Brown’s personal philosophy of “pray hard, play hard, work hard and love your family,” adding, “Brian saw everyone as family.”

Belote introduced Martin Mayor Randy Brundige who said, “We’ve persevered many years trying to get this greenway under way and finally we got a portion of it built. We’ve still got a portion to go though and I know with the Greenway Foundation’s help, we’re going to complete that task in the years to come.”

The greenway was originally financed with a $310,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation, plus $80,000 in matching funds to be raised by the community. Belote recalled the daunting task and how many individuals and groups stepped forward to raise money, even once bringing a circus to town as a fund raiser.

“Some of the folks that have been a part of this had to ride elephants to make this happen,” he said.

Dr. Tim Johnston, now a Murray (Ky.) State University faculty member and past president of the Brian Brown Greenway Foundation Inc., brought his family to join the celebration.

He recalled greenway volunteers experiencing “lots of emotional ups and downs,” including the first grant application that was turned down in 2003. He said greenway volunteers decided, “We need to raise the priority and the visibility of Martin’s project. There’s a big stack of these applications in Nashville.”

So, he said, they asked a group of bike riders, led by UT Martin chemistry professor Phil Davis, to ride bicycles from Martin to Nashville to personally deliver the second grant application to TDOT officials. This step, combined with the support of many elected officials, resulted in approval of the grant a year later.

Belote closed by thanking the university, the City of Martin, TLM Associates of Jackson and many others for their efforts. He reported 49 businesses and civic groups and 134 individuals have made significant contributions to the project. He also emphasized that more work lies ahead to complete the greenway to downtown Martin.

Application for a second grant is due Nov. 1, 2010, plus there is property to be purchased and about $50,000 in additional funds to be raised.

“The challenge is to get to Lindell Street. That’s our charge. I hope you’re in with us, and let’s finish this dream, this vision for Brian Brown,” he said.

Beginner PC awareness class to be offered

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UTM piano ensemble to perform concert

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present its holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Martin.

Included on the program is the first movement of Mozart's "Sonata in D Major" for piano duo plus two pieces for eight hands. Franz Liszt's "Rakoczi March," and William Gillock's "Champagne Toccata." Christmas selections to be presented include Vincent Persichetti's five-movement set of "Appalachian Christmas Carols," Norman Dello Joio's suite of seven "Christmas Carols" and Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride."

UT Martin piano students performing will be Kyle Carter of Troy; Matthew Daimons and Michael Yandell, both of Union City; Andrew Moore of Fulton; Kelsey Currie of Brownsville; Harold Johnson of Memphis; Victoria Morgan of Cordova; Katie Snider of Gleason; and Brandon Whaley of Dresden.

The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Harriss at (731) 881-7411 or elaineh@utm.edu.

Santa's Village continues good work in 25th year celebration Dec. 10-13

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

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The winners led a field of seven contestants. Miss UT Martin 2009, Kaitlin Turner, of Union City, crowned Hatcher. Dean was crowned by Hannah-Wade Powell, of Alamo, 2009 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

"I was seriously in shock," Hatcher, 19, said following her win. As for Miss Tennessee pageant preparations, she said, "I have to eat right, exercise, practice on my talent and have fun while I'm doing it. Hatcher's platform is "Think Pink - Breast Cancer Awareness."

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For Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Kendall Schultz, of Knoxville, a Walters State Community College freshman radiography major was first runner-up, and Devin Hartidge, of Denver, Colo., a UT Martin history major, was second runner-up.

Turner and Powell were hostesses for the evening. Mary Williamson, Tennessee Soybean Festival Idol Contest finalist entertained the audience with vocal selections. Hollie Holt, of Martin, directed the pageant.

"I am excited about working with our two new titleholders," said Holt. "We had a great group of girls compete tonight," Holt added. "Each year, the Miss Tennessee system gives young women the opportunity to learn and grow as they develop platforms and give back to their communities. Our two titleholders are prime examples of what the system is all about."

MISS UT MARTIN CROWNED - Taren Hatcher, of Greenfield, center, was crowned 2010 Miss UT Martin at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Runners-up for the Miss UT Martin crown were: Mikai Banks, of Millington, first, second from left; Shannon Trout, of Union City, second, right; and Adrian Wilson, of Henning, third, left. All members of the Miss UT Martin court must be UT Martin students. Kaitlin Turner, of Union City, second from right, 2009 Miss UT Martin, crowned Hatcher.
MISS TENNESSEE SOYBEAN FESTIVAL CROWNED – Loren Dean, of Brighton, second from left, won the 2010 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Student Life Center at UT Martin. First runner-up was Kendall Schultz, of Knoxville, left; and second runner-up was Devin Hartdige, of Denver, Colo., right. Dean was crowned by Hannah-Wade Powell, second from right, 2009 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

VINTAGE FRAMED IMAGE PRESENTED TO UT MARTIN – Ann Pope (left), associate professor emeritus of textiles and clothing, presents UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes with a costume-of-the-day image from her personal collection. The image was part of a larger display of historic clothing and related items assembled by a UT Martin textiles, clothing and fashion merchandising class to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences. The framed image, which will be kept in the Paul Meek Library's Corbitt Special Collections, possibly dates back to McFerrin College of Martin and the early 1900s. A reception and banquet recognizing the AAFCS milestone was held during Homecoming 2009 in the Boling University Center.
**UTM Concerts**

The University of Tennessee at Martin wind ensemble will present its winter concert, "Song and Dance," at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the Union City Municipal Auditorium. The ensemble will perform musical selections featuring Franz Bieble’s "Ave Maria," and David Gillingham’s "Be Thou My Vision." For more information, contact Jones 731-881-7403 or njones@utm.edu.

The University of Tennessee at Martin big band and small jazz group will be performing a concert at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 5, in the Duncan Ballroom of Boling University Center. The program will include the music of Oliver Nelson, Benny Carter and others. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Kurt Gorman, associate professor of music, at 731-881-7404 or kgorman@utm.edu.

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**Byford honored at retirement dinner**

Dr. Jim Byford, University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences dean, will be honored, Dec. 12, with a retirement dinner highlighted by the launching of the James L. Byford Scholarship Endowment fund.

Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. in Duncan Ballroom of Boling University Center. The cost is $30 per person, and reservations are due by Dec. 4.

The celebration will continue in Watkins Auditorium at 7 p.m., which is free and open to the public.

Byford joined the university in 1987 and also serves as professor of wildlife biology. He received a bachelor’s degree at UT Martin and a doctorate at Auburn University.

In recognition of his contributions to the wildlife profession through four decades, The Wildlife Society recently presented Byford with lifetime honorary membership.

As a certified professional wildlife biologist since 1979, he spent 20 years as extension wildlife specialist in Georgia and Tennessee. He has been a speaker at numerous seminars on agriculture, land management and natural resource conservation throughout the U.S., Ecuador and Japan.

For more information about the endowment, contact the UT Martin Office of Development, at 731-881-7620.

To make reservations for the dinner, contact the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at 731-881-7250.

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**UT Martin features piano ensemble**

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present its holiday concert at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 1, at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Martin.

Included on the program is the first movement of Mozart’s "Sonata in D Major" for piano duo plus two pieces for eight hands, Franz Liszt’s "Rakoczi March," and William Gillock's "Champagne Toccata."

Christmas selections to be presented include Vincent Persichetti’s five-movement set of "Appalachian Christmas Carols," Norman Dello Joio’s suite of seven "Christmas Carols" and Leroy Anderson’s "Sleigh Ride."

UT Martin piano students performing are Kyle Carter, of Troy; Kelsey Currie, of Brownsville; Matthew Damons, of Union City; Harold Johnson of Memphis; Andrew Moore, of Fulton; Victoria Morgan, of Cordova; Katie Snider, of Gleason; Brandon Whaley, of Dresden; and Michael Yandell, of Union City.

The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Harriss at 731-881-7411 or elaineh@utm.edu.

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**New warning system at UT-Martin**

Associated Press - November 27, 2009 9:35 AM ET

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) - The University of Tennessee-Martin has installed a new alert system for student and staff safety.

WCMT Radio in Martin reported the system includes outdoor speakers across campus, similar to a tornado warning system.

UTM Public Safety Director Scott Robbins said voice announcements can also be made over the new system, which is aimed at reaching the campus community quickly in emergencies.

The university spent about $10,000 to install it.


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Thursday event scheduled for scholarship endowment

A fund raiser to endow a scholarship will be hosted in honor and memory of Ron Lewellen’s birthday Thursday at Olivia’s Opera House Restaurant, located at 142 South Lindell St. in Martin.

The event will be from 5-7 p.m. in the upstairs banquet room.

Appetizers will be served and beverages will be available. All proceeds from the event will go toward the scholarship. The cost of the event is $20 per person and will be payable at the door. Anyone who plans to attend is asked to call (731) 881-7629 to RSVP.

Ronnie “Coach” L. Lewellen, 66, of Dresden died Sept. 16, 2008. He was a coach, principal and State Farm Insurance agent and was retired from Tennessee Army National Guard. He was a member of Dresden First Baptist Church, a former school board member, a past president of Dresden Rotary Club, a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin Ghosts of the Gridiron and the Football Hall of Fame and served on UT Martin Alumni Council.

UT Martin wind ensemble to present winter concert

The University of Tennessee at Martin wind ensemble will present its winter concert, “Song and Dance,” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Union City Civic Auditorium.

The ensemble will perform musical selections featuring Franz Bieble’s “Ave Maria,” David Gillingham’s “Be Thou My Vision,” Alfred Reed’s “Armenian Dances” and John Mackey’s “Strange Humors.”

“We hope the community will enjoy a concert of music that we feel is beautiful, energetic, reflective and mysterious. In short, we have programmed something for everyone,” said Dr. Nola Jones, assistant professor of music and director of bands.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Jones at (731) 881-7403 or njones@utm.edu.

YOUNG SCIENTISTS — Fourteen students from Union City High School recently participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin Science Bowl. They included (from left, front row) Kayla Eason, Nicole Hardin, Sarah Riley, (back row) Taylor Edwards, Hannah Jackson, Karly Hollis, Carlo Guercia Sammarco, Luke Searcy, Dustin Scott, Sarah Triplett, Walker Barnes, Katelyn Ray, Allison Bruff and Abram Carroll. Two students received Certificates of Merit: Allison Bruff for chemistry and Nicole Hardin for biology, according to UCHS science teacher Mandy Hopper.

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New warning system at UT-Martin


MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee-Martin has installed a new alert system for student and staff safety.

WIVCM Radio in Martin reported the system includes outdoor speakers across campus, similar to a tornado warning system.

UTM Public Safety Director Scott Robbins said voice announcements can also be made over the new system, which is aimed at reaching the campus community quickly in emergencies.

The university spent about $10,000 to install it.

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New queens crowned at UT Martin

Taren Hatcher of Greenfield was crowned Miss University of Tennessee at Martin at the combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant held recently at the Student Life Center on campus. The UT Martin integrated studies K-6 major won the 2010 title and the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in June in Jackson.

Also headed to the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant is Loren Dean of Brighton, a Mississippi State University freshman English major, who won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

The winners led a field of seven contestants. Miss UT Martin 2009 Kaithlin Turner of Union City crowned Miss Hatcher. Miss Dean was crowned by Hannah-Wade Powell of Alamo, 2009 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

"I was seriously in shock," Miss Hatcher, 19, said following her win. As for Miss Tennessee pageant preparations, she said, "I have to eat right, exercise, practice on my talent and have fun while I'm doing it." Miss Hatcher's platform is "Think Pink — Breast Cancer Awareness."

Miss Dean, 18, said, "I'm very shocked, but very happy," about winning the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crown. To prepare for the Miss Tennessee Pageant Miss Dean added, "I will work a lot — working out, working on my interview and working on my talent." Her platform is "Wear Blue So They Don't Have To" Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention.

Runners-up for the Miss UT Martin crown were first place, Mikai Banks of Millington, a junior biology major; second place, Shannon Trout of Union City, a 19-year-old exercise science major; and third place, Adrian Wilson of Henning, an 18-year-old marketing major. All members of the Miss UT Martin court must be UT Martin students.

For Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Kendall Schultz of Knoxville, a Walters State Community College freshman radiation therapy major, was first runner-up, and Devin Hartdige of Denver, a UT Martin history major, was second runner-up.

Miss Turner and Miss Powell were hostesses for the evening.

Mary Williamson, Tennessee Soybean Festival idol Contest finalist, entertained the audience with vocal selections. Hollie Holt of Martin directed the pageant.

"I am excited about working with our two new titleholders," said Ms. Holt. "We had a great group of girls compete tonight. Each year, the Miss Tennessee system gives young women the opportunity to learn and grow as they develop platforms and give back to their communities. Our two titleholders are prime examples of what the system is all about."

MISS UT MARTIN — Taren Hatcher of Greenfield (center) was crowned 2010 Miss UT Martin at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant held recently at the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Runners-up for the Miss UT Martin crown were first place, Mikai Banks (second from left) of Millington; second place, Shannon Trout (right) of Union City; and third place Adrian Wilson (left) of Henning. All members of the Miss UT Martin court must be UT Martin students. Miss UT Martin 2009 Kaithlin Turner of Union City crowned Miss Hatcher.
MISS SOYBEAN — Loren Dean (second from left) of Brighton won the 2010 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant held recently at the Student Life Center at UT Martin. First runner-up was Kendall Schultz (left) of Knoxville. Second runner-up was Devin Hartdige (right) of Denver. Miss Dean was crowned by 2009 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Hannah-Wade Powell.