UTM class raises money for county’s backpack program

By MEREDITH N. REYNOLDS
Special to the Press

Dr. Teresa Collard, assistant professor of communications, and her Interpersonal Communications class collected change on the campus of UT Martin Oct. 1-24 for the Weakley County Backpack Program.

Colin Johnson, Weakley County assistant district attorney and president of WCBP, met with the class Oct. 25 to receive the money raised.

The students’ goal was to raise $200 because that is approximately what it costs to sponsor a child for a year.

The class ultimately raised $301.63.

"The way this all happened was that we were covering self-esteem in class," Dr. Collard said. "I mentioned how hard it is to learn when you are hungry. Then I told them about the backpack program.

"Then the next thing I knew a few students were asking if the class could raise the money. With the hard work and industry of all the students, we raised it."

The Weakley County Backpack Program (WCBP) is a non-profit organization that benefits the children of Weakley County by providing nutritious meals on the weekends and when school resources are not available. WCBP relies upon donations.

For more information on the Weakley County Backpack Program, contact the board of directors at (731) 514-0858 or (731) 514-0594.

Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 196, Dresden TN 38225, or drop them off at any First State Bank location.

GOOD DEEDS — Dr. Teresa Collard’s interpersonal communications class at UT Martin raised $301.63 for the Weakley County Backpack Program. Among those taking part in the check presentation were (front row, left to right) Dr. Teresa Collard, Iryenna Braff, Kanara West, Whitney Pope, Natasha Burgemeier, Lisa Baskett, Tomoko Miyawaki and Brittany Chandler; (back row) Bobbie Smith, Kentrice Jones, Kristan Smith, assistant district attorney Colin Johnson, Steph Martin, Amber Woodruff and Nephiteria Davis.
Vanguard Theatre performs ‘Almost, Maine’

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will present the theatre production of “Almost, Maine” starting at 8 p.m. Nov. 8, in the Student Life Center on the main campus of UT Martin.

Additional performances will run 8 p.m. Nov. 9, 8 p.m. Nov. 10, and 3 p.m. Nov. 11.

“Almost, Maine” is a collection of stories that take place on a cold, clear, moonless night in the mythic town of Almost, Maine. Residents find themselves in unexpected and hilarious situations.

Tickets are $10 for adults, and $5 for students and will be available at the Vanguard box office two hours prior to show time.

The box office is located in the front lobby of the Student Life Center and can be reached at 731-881-7090.

For more information about the performances, contact Doug Cook at 731-881-7400 or at dcook@utm.edu

Professor of American history to Civil War give lecture Nov. 8

MARTIN — Dr. David Coffey, chair of the Department of History and Philosophy and professor of history at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will present a lecture titled “The Civil War at 150” at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8. His presentation will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Born in New Mexico and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, Coffey holds a doctorate from Texas Christian University, and teaches classes in U.S. and Latin American history at UT Martin.

Senior art exhibit to open at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host a senior art exhibit of works by JaColby Reynolds, of Antioch, and Jordan Phillips, of Jackson, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday. The exhibit will continue through Nov. 16 in the Paul Meek Library at UT Martin.

Reynolds and Phillips are both visual art/studio emphasis students. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Doug Cook at (731) 881-7400 or at dcook@utm.edu.

From left: UT Martin students Jaime Stiles, of Springhill, Tiffany Gann, of Hendersonville and John Parks, of Milan, celebrate homecoming at the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences tent during the Quad City event on Oct. 6. PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN

From left: UT Martin students Courtney Jordan, of Memphis, and Laura Argo, of Alamo, celebrate UT Martin’s homecoming festivities on Oct. 6 at the Alpha Delta Pi tent at the Quad City event. PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN
Identity Cubed (13) is a new dynamic percussion trio whose focus is to expose new and exciting works that transcend the standard percussion ensemble. This group will perform at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12 as part of the school’s Diversity Week.

The free concert is in the Boling University Center Ballroom.

One of the performers, Andre Dowell, is from Trenton and studied under Julie Hill, UTM percussion department head, while he was in the Trenton High School Band.

“Andre was in sixth grade percussion at Trenton Middle School when I was a student teacher there in the Spring of 1994,” Hill said. “He started taking lessons from me then and went on to become an All-State student, and then went on to the University of Michigan.”

“He is a shining star,” she said.

Dowell returns the compliment, stating that Hill is one of his “music idols,” along with Rolf Wallin, Tchaikovsky and Michael Udow.

At age 30, he is the oldest member of the trio.

“To be honest, I have never heard the group,” Hill said. “I am only booking them because I know Andre and if he is a part of something it will be excellent.”

Dowell lists the “opera gong” as his favorite instrument. His favorite activities outside of music are poker and table tennis.

“I discovered music when I was maybe seven or eight and my mom made me take piano lessons — thanks, mom. I love being able to express myself and using different sounds to connect to audiences,” Dowell added.

He believes people may never understand the full scope of percussion instruments, but everyone has the ability to understand expression, interpretations, and heart.

“That’s what makes music so great.”

The other members of Identity Cubed are six years younger than Dowell, but like him, attended the University of Michigan.

Brian Young’s hometown is Ann Arbor even though he also attended Eastern Michigan University.

His favorite percussion instrument is almost as exotic as Dowell’s gong — the glockenspiel.

Young’s music idols are Jake Nissly, John Mayer and Joe Granley.

He started playing music at five, teaching himself to play piano.

“Then, at church, I got to watching the drummer, loved it,” he said, “and had to try it!”

The third member of Identity Cubed also attended the University of Michigan but came quite a bit farther to do so.

Xavier Verna is from San Juan, Puerto Rico and, while in seventh grade, chose drums over flute and trumpet when given his choice of instruments.

While not playing his favorite instruments, the marimba or snare drum, he likes to play ping pong or basketball. His music idols are So Percussion, Michael Udow, Jonathan Ovalle, Chris Martin and John Tarcza.

“I was 12 when I started playing percussion,” Verna said, “and by age 16 I had decided my career was in music.

“I love teaching and performing music because it brings so much happiness.”
Raw foods prep course offered

A course on how to prepare raw foods will be offered at various dates and times in November at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center, according to a news release.

Tiffany Finney, a raw food chef and wellness coach, and Amy Koerner, a raw food chef, will conduct the class. Instruction will focus on the benefits of raw foods, how to incorporate them into your diet and how to prepare meals, the release said.

The dates and times are as follows:
- Today from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Nov. 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

» Nov. 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The registration fee to attend is $60, plus a $10 supply fee paid to the instructor, the release said. The course is sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. The UT Martin Jackson Center is located at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass in Jackson. An exact location for the course will be given upon registration.

To register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.

— The Jackson Sun

Business seminar planned

A seminar on how to write a business plan is scheduled for 5-7 p.m., Nov. 15, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Development Center.

This seminar is designed for those seeking to increase their chances for successful self-employment. Participants will learn the parts of a business plan, idea organization and many common mistakes made when writing effective business plans.

The UTM REED Center is located at 406 South Lindell St., Martin. The seminar is being offered in cooperation with the Tennessee Small Business Development Center.

There is no attendance fee, but pre-registration is required. To reserve a seat, call (731) 587-7333 or register online at www.utm.edu/reed or www.tsbdc.org.

Photoshop course

An Adobe Photoshop Elements course will be offered from 6-9 p.m. each Thursday beginning Nov. 13 and continuing through Dec. 4 at the Lee Academy for the Arts, 402 Lee St.

The course fee is $105, and photos will be provided for the course. There will be no class Nov. 22.

The course will be taught by Roger Hughes, who studied at the University of Tennessee, Rocky Mountain School of Photography.

The course is sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

To register call 731-881-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.
From left: University of Tennessee Martin alums and college classmates Linda Coffee Ramsey (1971), of Martin, and Wayne Gutch (1972), of Memphis, reunite at the unveiling of the 'Coaches' statues during UT Martin's homecoming festivities on Oct. 6. Three statues created in the likenesses of three women influential to athletics at UT Martin — Pat Summitt, Bettye Giles and the late Nadine Gearin — were unveiled in front of the Kathleen and Tom Elam center on the main campus. PHOTOS COURTESY OF UT MARTIN

UT Martin freshman Maya Thornton, of Humboldt, enjoys the 'Peace, Love and Skyhawks' theme of UT Martin's 2012 homecoming festivities on Oct. 6.

From left: UT Martin students Amy Belote and Chelsea Breeden, both of Martin, celebrate homecoming festivities Oct. 6 on the main campus.
Candidates in state Senate race outline positions on key issues

By Robby O'Daniel
robdaniel@jacksonsun.com

In the state Senate District 24 race, Republican John Stevens, of Huntingdon, eyes bringing more jobs to the area and promoting economic development, while Democrat Brad Thompson, of Union City, focuses on jobs, education and ceasing partisan arguments.

District 24 includes Obion, Weakley, Henry, Gibson, Carroll and Benton counties.

Stevens, 39, is an attorney who received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tennessee at Martin and his law degree from the University of Memphis. In an e-mail, Stevens called the federal government's growth the central issue to his campaign.

"It reaches into our homes, our businesses and even our churches and related organizations," he said. "The policies of the last four years have hurt West Tennessee, and the voters in West Tennessee, I believe, are going to overwhelmingly reject those policies."

He wants Tennessee to stand out from other states in terms of business growth and job development, he said.

"If elected, I will join what political insiders project to be a Republican majority," he said. "As part of that majority, I join Gov. Haslam and legislative leaders to push pro-growth, common-sense legislation based upon conservative principles — limited government, free enterprise, individual freedom and traditional values."

As part of why he stands out from his opponent, Stevens said he would be in the Senate majority and would be able to work with Gov. Bill Haslam and legislative leaders.

Thompson, 38, refers to himself not as a politician but as an advocate.

"My entire career, I've been focused on results, and I've worked with people, both Democrats and Republicans, in each of these counties in the 24th Senate district," he said.

He is the director of community development in Martin, and he worked for more than a decade as a top aide for former U.S. Rep. John Tanner.

"Partisan politics are not meaningful to me, and I'll put politics aside to get the job done because rural West Tennessee is meaningful to me," he said. "Born and raised right here in rural West Tennessee and lived and worked here, there won't be a learning curve about any of these six counties for our issues or the people here when I get to Nashville."

He earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural business from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master's of public administration from Murray State University.

Thompson wants small class sizes, meaningful cuts to the grocery tax and a freeze on college tuition, among other issues, he said.

"I come from a long line of public educators in my family, and we believe in public education," he said. "And I want to fight the politicians and bureaucrats in Nashville, who want to make bad decisions about our schools."

See SENATE, Page B2

Senate

Continued from Page B1

with Gov. Bill Haslam and legislative leaders.

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Robby O'Daniel, 425-9763
UT Martin professor to lecture on Civil War

Dr. David Coffey, chairman of the Department of History and Philosophy and professor of history at the University of Tennessee Martin, will present a lecture titled “The Civil War at 150” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. His presentation will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin main campus.

Coffey holds a doctorate from Texas Christian University and teaches classes in U.S. and Latin American history at UT Martin. His books include “John Bell Hood and the Struggle for Atlanta,” “Soldier Princess: The Life and Legend of Agnes Salm-Salm in North America, 1861-1867” and “Sheridan’s Lieutenants: Phil Sheridan, His Generals, and the Final Year of the Civil War.”

Coffey has contributed to 10 major historical reference works and served as an editor on three award-winning projects, including “The Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War.” He recently completed editing work on a new multi-volume encyclopedia of the Civil War.

Coffey is the 2012 recipient of UT Martin’s Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award, which recognizes strength in teaching and contributions to the profession. His lecture is sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Lionel Crews, director of Honors Programs, at (731) 881-7436 or lcrews@utm.edu.

PARIS TN: Henry County Farm Bureau awards six $1,000 scholarships to Henry County students

Published Monday, November 5, 2012 11:39 AM CST

Farm Bureau in Henry County awarded $1,000 scholarships this year to six Henry County High School graduates.

Receiving scholarships were:
- Brooke Rose, daughter of Todd and Teresa Rose.
- She is to attend Rhodes College in Memphis and major in English, so that can be used in agriculture journalism.
- Brooke Smith, daughter of John Smith and Jennifer Smith.
- She is studying to earn an animal and equine science degree from Murray State University.
- Russell Milam, son of Bobby and Donna Milam.
- He plans to pursue a degree in agriculture engineering at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
- Griffin Paschall, son of Andy and Becky Paschall.
- He is pursuing a degree in agronomy at Murray State.
- Mason Peale, son of Randy and Pam Peale. He plans to major in biology/agriculture at UT Martin.
- Taylor Townsend (not pictured), son of Chris Townsend and the late Kathy Townsend.
- He is pursuing a degree in agribusiness at UT Martin.

University to host Fall Preview Day

High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for the semester’s second Fall Preview Day, scheduled for Nov. 17.

Faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.

Each student will also receive a complimentary ticket to the Skyhawk football game against Tennessee State University that will be held the same day at UT Martin’s Graham Stadium.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Event Times are as follows:
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. – Welcome and Information Session
- 10:30-11:15 a.m. – Academic Fair
- 11:15 a.m.-noon – Academic Department Visit
- Noon-1:30 p.m. – Campus Tour

- 2 p.m. – Skyhawks vs. Tennessee State University UT Martin will also waive out-of-state tuition for any applicant with an ACT score of 25 or above and a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Students who qualify must participate in the university’s Honors Programs.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu.

Business writing seminar offered

Potential entrepreneurs can get help writing proper business plans Nov. 15 at a free seminar at UT Martin’s REED Center.

The seminar, from 5-7 p.m., is for those seeking to increase their chances for successful self-employment. Participants will cover the parts of a business plan, idea organization and many common mistakes made when writing effective business plans.

Pre-registration is required. Reserve a seat by calling 587-7333, or register online at utm.edu/reed or tsbdc.org.

The REED Center is located at 406 South Lindell Street. The seminar is offered in cooperation with the Tennessee Small Business Development Center.
Exhibitions to be held at UTM library

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host a senior art exhibit of works by JaColby Reynolds, of Antioch, and Jordan Phillips, of Jackson, from 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 6. The exhibit will continue through Friday, Nov. 16. Reynolds and Phillips are both visual art/studio emphasis students.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Doug Waites at 731-710-1400 or email dcook@utm.edu.

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UT Martin to offer new education graduate programs

The University of Tennessee at Martin now offers two new course concentrations in gifted and talented education and instructional design and technology for those wishing to earn a Master of Science in Education or complete +30 hours of coursework.

The five-course sequence in gifted and talented education is taught online by instructor Genevieve Felt-Meyer and can be used as a gifted endorsement for a current teaching license.

The courses include characteristics and needs of the gifted/talented, strategies and programs for teaching the gifted/talented, advanced methods in gifted education, theories and trends in gifted education and practice in gifted education. Participants must have already completed an entry-level special education course, either as an undergraduate or graduate student.

The second new concentration, instructional design and technology, focuses on improving online instructional methods. Participants will learn to teach online courses in a virtual classroom and use technology and online resources to enhance face-to-face instruction in a traditional classroom.

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University to host Fall Preview Day for high school students

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UT Martin will also waive out-of-state tuition for any applicant with an ACT score of 25 or above and a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Students who qualify must participate in the university’s Honors Programs. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu.

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‘Almost, Maine’ to be performed by Vanguard Theatre

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will present the theatre production of ‘Almost, Maine’ starting at 8 p.m. Thursday, November 8, in the Student Life Center on the main campus of UT Martin.

Additional performances will run 8 p.m. on Friday, November 9, 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 10, and 3 p.m. Sunday, November 11.

‘Almost, Maine’ is a collection of stories that take place on a cold, clear, moonless night in the mythic town of Almost, Maine. Residents find themselves in unexpected and hilarious situations.

Tickets are $10 for adults, and $5 for students and will be available at the Vanguard box office two hours prior to show time. The box office is located in the front lobby of the Student Life Center and can be reached at 731-881-7090.
Recipients of Melinda Rhea Garrett Scholarship

Students in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), have announced the 2012 recipients of the annual Melinda Rhea Garrett Scholarship. This year’s recipients are Rhys Moore of Germantown, TN, and Alexandra Punke of Sevierville, TN. Both incoming first-year pharmacy students will receive funds to support their academic needs. Moore will receive $1,000, while Punke will receive $700.

In 2006, students in the College of Pharmacy established the annual scholarship to honor the memory of their classmate, Melinda Garrett, a first-year pharmacy student who passed away the same year at the age of 23. Since that time, student pharmacists have raised money for the Melinda Rhea Garrett scholarship fund.

Garrett, the daughter of Dale and Fay Garrett of McKenzie, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she belonged to Alpha Delta Pi. She was also a University Scholar, president of the Panhellenic Council, and a member of the homecoming court and Miss UTM royalty. She would have graduated from UTHSC in spring 2013.

To contribute to the Melinda Rhea Garrett scholarship fund, contact Nell Blair, development director at (901) 448-8202 or by e-mail at NellBlair@uthsc.edu.

Lecture on Civil War scheduled at UT Martin

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin is presenting a free public lecture on the Civil War.

The lecture will be given by David Coffey, who is chair of the Department of History and Philosophy and a professor of history at Martin.

His books include John Bell Hood and the Struggle for Atlanta, Soldier Princess: The Life and Legend of Agnes Salm-Salm in North America, 1861-1867 and Sheridan's Lieutenants: Phil Sheridan, His Generals, and the Final Year of the Civil War.

Coffey also is a contributor to several major historical reference works, and he recently finished editing a new multivolume encyclopedia of the Civil War.

The lecture is titled “The Civil War at 150” and takes place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

The main entrance of the Putnam County Courthouse.

County commissioners approved the adornment at an Oct. 14 meeting with the cost covered by donations from businesses and individuals.

The national motto was placed in a 24-inch space above the columns at each entrance to the century-old courthouse in Cookeville.

County Executive Kim Blaylock told the Cookeville Herald-Citizen she started hearing positive comments from people as soon as the letters went up on Friday.

newshannel9

UT Martin presents free lecture on the Civil War

November 07, 2012 04:06 EST

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) -- The University of Tennessee at Martin is presenting a free public lecture on the Civil War.

The lecture will be given by David Coffey, who is chair of the Department of History and Philosophy and a professor of history at Martin.

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Table runner and coaster classes slated at UTM

A course on how to make a table runner will be offered 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday at the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus, followed by a course on making coasters from 6:30-8 p.m. Nov. 20.

Linda Arant will instruct. Participants in the table runner course will need one-third a yard of focus fabric, a half-yard of coordinating fabric, a spool of thread in coordinating color and straight pins. The instructor will provide batting.

Participants in the coaster course will need a half-yard of two coordinating fabrics (45-inch wide yardage), a spool of thread, straight pins and scissors. The instructor will provide batting.

The registration fee to attend one course is $35 per person. Registration for both courses is $60.

An exact location for the courses will be given upon registration. To register, call (731) 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/ nondegree/home.php.

‘Almost, Maine’ production to be presented by Vanguard

Residents find themselves in unexpected and hilarious situations.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students and will be available at the Vanguard box office two hours prior to show time. The box office is located in the front lobby of the Student Life Center and can be reached at (731) 881-7090.

‘Almost, Maine’ is a collection of stories that take place on a cold, clear, moonless night in the mythical town of Almost, Maine.

UT Martin receives funds for special ed programs

Two special programs under University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Educational Studies have received state awards to fund the recruitment and training of special education teachers.

The Tennessee Department of Education awarded the UT Martin Special Education Summer Institute $406,272 for the 2012-15 funding cycle.

The institute, offered since 1989, provides curriculum for educational assistants and teachers who work with children with disabilities. The program pays for tuition and provides an allowance for fees, materials, books and lodging for those participating.

Dr. Cherry Watts, assistant professor of educational studies, has served as the program’s director since 2006.

The state department also awarded the Become a Special Educator in Tennessee (BASE-TN) Teaching Program $270,000 for the 2012-15 cycle, representing a continuation award from 2010-11.

BASE-TN provides tuition assistance for two groups of participants.

The first group includes students who have completed two years of college credit and are serving students with disabilities as educational assistants or paraprofessionals in Tennessee public schools. The second group includes students who have already earned a bachelor’s degree and wish to complete a teacher licensure in special education.

“It is exciting to know that our program is able to offer tuition assistance to allow individuals to pursue their goal of special education teacher licensure. It is even more exciting to see their successes as effective special educators serving in Tennessee public schools,” said Dr. Beth Quick, chair of the Department of Educational Studies and BASE-TN project director.

For more information about the Special Education Summer Institute, Dr. Watts at (731) 881-7212 or by email at cwatts@utm.edu. For more information about the BASE-TN program, contact Dr. Quick at (731) 881-7193 or by email at bquick@utm.edu.

Preview scheduled at UTM

High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for the semester’s second Fall Preview Day, scheduled for Nov. 17.

Faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.

Each student will also receive a complimentary ticket to the Skyhawk football game against Tennessee State University that will be held the same day at UT Martin’s Graham Stadium.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Event times include: 9:30-10:30 a.m., welcome and information session; 10:30-11:15, academic fair; 11:15 a.m.-noon, Academic Department visit; noon-1:30 p.m., campus tour; and 2 p.m., Skyhawks vs. Tennessee State University game.

UT Martin will also waive out-of-state tuition for any applicant with an ACT score of 25 or above and a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Students who qualify must participate in the university’s Honors Programs.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu.
University listed among best buys

The University of Tennessee at Martin is listed for the seventh consecutive year among America's 100 Best College Buys, a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc.

UTM is among three public Tennessee higher education institutions listed.

“Providing a high-quality educational environment at the lowest possible cost is the result of planning and efficiency,” said Lewis Lindsey Jr., IRE president. “The University of Tennessee at Martin consistently offers programs that attract the best students to an affordable, quality educational opportunity.”

To be considered for the designation “America’s 100 Best College Buys,” an institution must be an accredited, four-year institution offering bachelor’s degrees. The institution must also offer full residential facilities, including residence halls and dining services.

Additionally, the institution must have an entering freshman class in fall 2011 with a high school grade point average and/or SAT/ACT score equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen. Also, the out-of-state cost of attendance in 2012-13 for three quarters or two semesters must be below the national average cost of attendance or not exceed the national average cost by more than 10 percent.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, noted higher education institutions are challenged more than ever to provide an affordable education that prepares students to compete in global economy.

“We strive to offer educational programs that are both affordable and educate students for the competitive job market,” Rakes said. “The university’s recent recognition for student satisfaction and high graduation rates compared to other state colleges and universities reaffirms the value of a UT Martin degree.”

The 2011-12 Tennessee Higher Education Fact Book ranked UT Martin first in the state among public universities for student satisfaction and second in the state for the university’s six-year graduation rate.

MBA program at UTM wins multiple awards

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Master of Business Administration (MBA) program has been ranked a top 20 “Best Buy” by GetEducated.com and placed on the website’s 2012 list of Best Online Master of Business Administration (MBA) Programs.

The program also received recognition from The Princeton Review.

A “Best Buy” designation indicates the UT Martin program has been independently reviewed and found to offer a high-quality distance MBA education to online learning students at a cost rate well below the national average.

The top-20 ranking is based on a comprehensive review of 139 Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business-accredited online programs across the nation. The review is unsolicited by featured programs, making inclusion an even higher honor.

This award applies specifically to the online MBA program, which provides busy business professionals an opportunity to fit classes into their personal schedules. The program, which focuses on banking and financial services, offers 35 course hours over 20 months.

Those seeking to enroll should hold a four-year bachelor’s degree and have a minimum of two years professional work experience. Each class cohort can accommodate 22 students.

The Princeton Review has also named UT Martin an outstanding business school and featured both the online and traditional MBA programs in the 2013 edition of its annual guidebook, “The Best 296 Business Schools.” In UT Martin’s profile, editors describe the school as “a friendly, flexible and low-key place to get a quality business education.”

Both awards follow an announcement in December 2011 that the program had been ranked in the top-30 Rising Star MBA Programs by findyourmba.com.
UTM Veterans Day program to feature retired Marine

In honor of the nation’s veterans, the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Veterans Association will host guest speaker Lt. Gen. John Castellaw (retired) as part of a Veterans Day program Monday at 1:30 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center.

Castellaw is president of the Crockett Policy Institute (CPI), a non-partisan policy and research organization chartered in Tennessee.

He graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor’s degree in agriculture and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1972 — serving for 36 years, leading Marines around the world and flying more than two dozen different aircraft.

Castellaw was with the United Nations during the Siege of Sarajevo, commanded a U.S. joint force in the multi-national security and stability operation in East Timor and was the chief of staff for the U.S. Central Command at the height of the war in Iraq. His last assignments on active duty were in the Pentagon, where he oversaw Marine Aviation and then the Marine Corps budget creation and execution.

In 2008, he returned home to Tennessee, where he is affiliated with several national security advocacy groups and is a teaching fellow at UT Martin. He also serves on several boards, works with economic development organizations and advises a number of corporations.

Monday’s event at UT Martin is free and open to the public.

UT Martin students get American FFA degrees

Fifteen students from the University of Tennessee at Martin were honored with American FFA Degrees at the 85th National FFA Convention and Exposition held Oct. 24-27 in Indianapolis, Ind.

American FFA Degrees are awarded annually to those FFA members who show dedication to premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The award recognizes ability and achievements in agricultural business, production, processing or service programs.

To be eligible for the award, FFA members must have earned and invested $7,500 through a supervised agricultural experience program in which they hold a professional position in an existing agricultural enterprise.

Recipients must also complete 50 community service hours, as well as demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement.

Each award recipient collects a gold American FFA Degree key and a certificate, as well as the opportunity to appear on stage during the national convention.

The UT Martin students who received the award this year were:

Lauren Bennett, of Murfreesboro; Seth Boroughs, of Parsons; Dakota Brasher, of Reagan; Jacob Everett, of Mount Juliet; Olivia Fernandez, of Trenton; Charles Thomas Hammond III, of Halls; Carrie King, of Toone; Gina Locke, of Franklin; Clint Murby, of Selmer; Jesi Ogg, of Martin; Beth Ray, of Dresden; Jacob Shea, of Parsons; Lindsey Turner, of Covington; John Garrett Vincent, of Martin; and Kaine Winstead, also of Martin.
Big Cypress Tree Fall Festival

More than 1,000 people attended the Big Cypress Tree Fall Festival on Saturday. The festival was held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the weather was sunny and beautiful.

The crowd was receptive to the various programs and demonstrations, as well as the food cooked by the parents of the Greenfield High School girls' tennis team.

The Tennessee State Park 75th Anniversary Exhibit was on hand during the festival. The traveling exhibit hit the road this year to tour state parks and various communities, sharing Tennessee State Parks rich and storied history, as well as the origins and heritage of Tennessee's State Park System.

Lt. Gen. Castellaw to address veterans

In honor of the nation's veterans, the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Veteran's Association will host guest speaker Lt. Gen. John Castellaw (retired) as part of a Veteran's Day program at 1:30 p.m., Monday, in Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

John Castellaw is the president of the Crockett Policy Institute (CPI), a non-partisan policy and research organization chartered in Tennessee.

He graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1972 and served for 36 years leading Marines around the world and flying more than two dozen different aircraft.

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In 2008, he returned home to Tennessee where he is affiliated with several national security advocacy groups and is a teaching fellow at UT Martin.

He also serves on several boards, works with economic development organizations and advises a number of corporations.

The event is free and open to the public as we salute our vets.
CASTING CALL — The "Almost, Maine" cast has been preparing for opening night, which is tonight. Among those taking part in the production are (back row, from left) Addy Wood, Casey Williams, Reuben Kendall, Cody Jarman, Jesse Capps, Michael Wilkins, Rachael Cagle, Jonathan Fisher, Kayla Ballard; (middle row) John Nicholson, Stephanie Klink, Carnecia Avant, Coleen Hunt, Courtney Pearson, Michael ChapPELL; (front row) Glenda Gayle Alexander, Matt Caldwell, Amanda Powers, Cyrus Morgan, Grace Carleton.
Vanguard Theatre’s ‘Almost, Maine’ debuts tonight

By SHEILA SCOTT
Special to The Press

Vanguard Theatre’s production of “Almost, Maine” opens tonight, in the Student Life and Leadership Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

“Almost, Maine” is a comedy that includes elements of fantasy and magic that examines the events that take place on one cold winter’s night, in the fictional town of Almost, Maine.

The play’s overall theme is love, looking for love, discovering love, falling in love and losing love.

The play includes a prologue, an interlogue, an epilogue, eight individual scenes and no intermission.

“One of the main goals in Vanguard Theatre is to provide as many students the opportunity to get on stage, to work backstage as we can,” said Ken Zimmerman, director of “Almost, Maine.”

With this goal in mind, “Almost, Maine” was chosen for its adaptability to allow several students this wonderful opportunity.

The play has been adapted from the originally called for cast of four actors to a total of 19 actors. This number does not include the many behind the scenes opportunities given to students working on the production.

“Theatre brings people from diverse backgrounds together to create something that is their own, something that belongs to the group,” Zimmerman said.

The cast of “Almost, Maine” is made up of a very diverse group of people including current UTM students, UTM alumni and people from the community.

This group also is very diverse in their acting experience.

For some in the group, this is their first time on the stage; however, many in the group are seasoned actors.

In the “Prologue,” “Interlogue” and “Epilogue,” Amanda Powers of Winchester plays Ginette and Matt Caldwell, UTM theatre major from Martin, plays Pete.

In “Her Heart” Cody Jarman, UTM Theatre major of Clarksville plays East and Grace Carleton, UTM Theatre major of Kingston Springs plays Glory.

In “Sad and Glad” Jesse Capps, UTM Biology major of Oakland plays Jimmy, Stephanie Klink, UTM Theatre major from Bartlett plays Sandrine and Camelia Avant, UTM Theatre major from Memphis plays the waitress.

In “This Hurts” Coleen Hunt, UTM Theatre major from Henderson plays Marvlyn and Michael Chappell, UTM Theatre major from Union City, plays Steve.

In “Getting it Back” Addy Wood, UTM Graphic Design major from Atwood plays Gayle and Michael Wilkins, UTM Graphic Design major from Memphis plays Lendall.

In “The Fell” John Nicholson, UTM Communications major from Centerville plays Chad and Jonathan Fisher, UTM Communications major from Trenton plays Randy.

In “Where it Went” Reuben Kendall, UTM English major from Union City plays Phil and Courtney Pearson, UTM Secondary Education major from Jackson plays Marc.

In “Story of Hope” Cyrus Morgan, UTM Theatre major from Lawrenceville, Ga., plays Daniel and Glen-da Gayle Alexander, UTM Broadcasting major from Odessa, Texas plays Hope.

In “Seeing the Thing” Rachel Cagle, UTM alumnus from Waverly plays Rhonda and Casey Williams, UTM Theatre major from Clarksville plays Dave.

Kayla Ballard, UTM Broadcasting major from Munford is the stage manager for the play. This is one of the vital but often overlooked backstage positions.

There are many things that go into the production of a play that are often overlooked such as the backstage positions and the technical positions. Some of these things are the set design and construction, make-up and costuming, lighting and sound, and stage management.

Melanie Hollis, lecturer of Visual and Theatre Arts, is the costume designer for the play.

Tim Barrington, instructor and technical director of Visual and Theatre Arts is the technical director and sound director for the play. He and his crew of students built all the scenery that is used in the play.

A special set called a unit set was required for this particular play due to the short scenes.

Doug Cook, chair of the UT Martin Department of Visual and Performing Arts, designed this set to represent many different locales with minimum scenery changes. He is also the lighting designer for the play.

“Almost, Maine” a Comedy by John Cariani

This play will take place at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday.

The tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students and may be purchased at the box office two hours before the play begins.

For more information visit Vanguard Theatre’s website at www.utm.edu/ departments/visualarts/vanguard/index.php or contact Doug Cook at dc001@utm.edu.

Sheila Scott is a junior English and communications major at UTM.
First Baptist Church makes historic finds

By MARVIN DOWNING
Special to the Press
MARTIN — Mush.
Mush.
Mush.
Nine First Baptist Church members recently expected to find much when they examined the contents of the 1905 auditorium cornerstone removed from a home freezer the night before. It was dried mush, if there is such a thing.

We anticipated fragments, too, and they were there abundantly, ranging from small paper pieces to a Bible cover.

As best we could discover besides that back, there were parts of "The Martin Mail" of December 2, 1904, "The Baptist Banner" and "The Primitive Baptist."

All of those periodicals were then published in Martin. According to the research of Rebecca and Larry Holder, that Mail issue was a special edition which included an extensive history of Martin and Weakley County. There was obviously scripture on a piece about the size of small playing cards. Attempts to separate any of it basically resulted in something like chalk.

We were gratified to find near each other the masthead of the Martin Mail and a partial picture of Hall-Moody, a Martin Baptist Institute then less than 5 years old and forerunner of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Another scrap showed the old cigar factory at the corner of Broadway and Frederick Streets. In later years, Martin Manufacturing occupied that spot where The Color Shop is now located.

How do you separate such materials? Carefully, of course.

Larry Washburn, minister of education and administration, whipped out his pocket knife and surgically operated, peeling back a sheet at a time. But a knife can only lift so much. We supposedly needed a spatula, which no one had in their pocket, purse or tool kit.

Larry Holder ingeniously started using the edge of a Mid-week memo, which worked amazingly well.

Retired photographer Tom Frey captured the personal efforts and digitally documented the legible images.

Participating in the exploration were pastor Dr. Mike Sams, Larry Washburn, Tom and Thelda Frey, facilities manager James Bryant, Larry Holder and archives committee members Patti Waggener, Sandy Downing and Dr. Marvin Downing.

The Freys have lovingly taken hundreds of photos (some jokingly say thousands or more) covering the construction of the new worship auditorium and the demolition of the 1905 sanctuary.

Holder is compiling a pictorial book drawing heavily from the Frey's dedicated work.

SEE CHURCH, PAGE 6
Second UTM fall preview Nov. 17

High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for the semester’s second Fall Preview Day, Nov. 17.

Faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life. Each student will also receive a complimentary ticket to the Skyhawk football game against Tennessee State University that will be held the same day at UT Martin’s Graham Stadium.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Event times are as follows:

9:30-10:30 a.m. – Welcome and Information Session
10:30-11:15 a.m. – Academic Fair
11:15 a.m.-noon – Academic Department Visit
Noon-1:30 p.m. – Campus Tour
2 p.m. – Skyhawks vs Tennessee State University
UT Martin will also waive out-of-state tuition for any applicant with an ACT score of 25 or above and a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Students who qualify must participate in the university’s Honors Programs. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu.
Capua to perform senior trombone recital

Chris Capua, of Martin, will perform his senior trombone recital at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 16, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin.


The event is free and open to the public.

UT Martin Women’s Basketball Coach Kevin McMillian spoke to the Martin Kiwanis Club Wednesday, November 7th about the upcoming 2012-2013 season. The Martin Kiwanis Club meets Wednesday at noon at UT Martin in the Boling University Center.

Dr. Teresa Collard, Assistant Professor of Communications, and her Interpersonal Communications class collected change on the campus of UT Martin between October 1 and October 24 for the Weakley County Backpack Program.

On Thursday, October 25, Colin Johnson, Weakley County Assistant District Attorney and President of WCBP, met with the class to receive the money raised. The students’ goal was to raise $200 because that is approximately what it costs to sponsor a child for a year. The class ultimately raised $301.63.

“The way this all happened was that we were covering self-esteem in class. I mentioned how hard it is to learn when you are hungry. Then I told them about the backpack program. Then the next thing I knew, a few students were asking if the class could raise the money. With the hard work and industry of all the students, we raised it!” stated Dr. Collard.

The fall 2012 online edition of BeanSwitch, the University of Tennessee at Martin’s art and literature magazine, will be launched Monday, November 19, during a special preview event, “BeanSwitch Fall 2012 Launches Celebration of the Arts,” in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin main campus. The event will begin at 6 p.m. and is open to the public.

BeanSwitch publishes original art and literature created by UT Martin students, faculty, staff and members of the surrounding community. UT Martin students, including co-executive editors Misty Dunlap, of Dresden, and Sheila Scott, of Kenton, and visual editor Kalsey Stults, of Collinwood, run the magazine.

Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, assistant professor of English, and Dr. Chris Hill, associate professor of English, and Tomi Parrish, instructor of communications, serve as faculty advisers.

Artists, poets and authors who have work published in this edition will attend and display original art and offer readings from the magazine. The event will also celebrate the accomplishments of pottery students and student musicians. Artwork of all types will be on display during the evening and guests will enjoy musical entertainment in a variety of styles. Light refreshments will also be served.

For more information, contact Scott at 731-796-0214, email beanswitch@utm.edu, visit www.beanswitch.utm.edu or connect on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BeanSwitch.
Applicants sought for leadership program

The University of Tennessee at Martin and the WestStar Leadership Program are now accepting applications for the second annual RisingStar Leadership Summit for high school juniors and seniors. The two-day leadership summit will take place Nov. 29-30 on the UT Martin campus and the deadline for registration is Nov. 21.

Youth who have participated in their local youth leadership program or have been active in a leadership role at their high schools are encouraged to apply. Community members may also offer scholarships to help with registration fees.

For more information or to register, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at (731) 881-7298 or visit the website www.utm.edu/weststar.

Wildlife biologist to lecture at UT Martin

Wildlife biologist Roger Thoma will present a lecture on the habitats and habits of burrowing crayfish at 5:15 p.m. today in room 258 of Brehm Hall on the University of Tennessee Martin campus.

Thoma is a senior research associate at the Midwest Biodiversity Institute in Columbus, Ohio, and an adjunct professor at Ohio State University, where he volunteers to curate the Museum of Biological Diversity’s crustacean collection.

He has worked to develop biological criteria and habitat assessment techniques for Ohio’s Lake Erie shoreline and currently is conducting crayfish research throughout the Southeast. Thoma is also responsible for the discovery and description of three new crayfish species to date and is primarily interested in crayfish conservation, evolution and taxonomy.

His lecture is sponsored by the UT Martin Wildlife Society and is free and open to the public.

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His lecture is sponsored by the UT Martin Wildlife Society and is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Wildlife Society correspondent Brittany Hoback at brimhobac@ut.utm.edu.
Conducting for charity
Student establishes orchestra to give back to community

By Michelle Corbet
news@dailyhelmsman.com

Published: Wednesday, November 14, 2012
Updated: Wednesday, November 14, 2012 23:11

While Zachary McCoy takes 23 hours of classes and spends up to 18 hours working as a certified pharmacy technician weekly, he still finds time to serve as the music director of the Balmoral Chamber Orchestra.

The orchestra was established by McCoy as a volunteer ensemble that performs for donations to local charities.

"Every concert the Balmoral Chamber Orchestra has had and will have involves benefitting others," McCoy said. "We are not interested in getting paid. We are interested in making music together for the sake of making music, not because of an academic requirement or to pay the bills. And we mean to use our talents to help others."

Established with an inaugural concert on March 31, the Balmoral Chamber Orchestra was 14 months in the making. Today, it is made up of about 80 percent University of Memphis students, a handful of local professionals and a few local high school students.

Miguel Lesmes, first year musical arts doctoral candidate in violin performance, said he first began playing with the group at its breast cancer benefit concert, "Pink for Memphis," in October.

Being a part of a volunteer orchestra is rewarding, Lesmes said, because the musicians are there because they are passionate about the music and cause, not because they are getting paid.

"Every person must be in it for some reason; those reasons would be to either contribute towards charity or simply to enjoy making music," he said. "This is very rare to find among
musicians of such high caliber, and I really enjoy playing with this orchestra because it reminds me of why I wanted to be a musician in the first place."

McCoy said he has dreamed of becoming a conductor since he was quite young. He said his passion comes from the human connections he shares through music.

"Mostly, my longing to be a conductor comes from my incessant need to have a voice, to make connections and share feelings with other human beings, and to express myself," he said. "I cannot think of a stronger way to be human than to make music, and to make it with other people."

McCoy, a junior music performance major and premedical student, spends 23 hours in class — mostly science and math courses in preparation for medical school — and works between 12 to 18 hours each week as a pharmacy technician.

He said being a conductor is far different from how he imagined it. He compares it to taking on a second job.

"It’s incredibly time consuming, but I love doing it," he said.

He spends between 10 to 40 hours studying a piece of music before rehearsing it with the orchestra.

"I work until I feel that everything is virtually memorized, as realistically as it can be, to ensure that rehearsals go as efficiently and as smoothly as possible," he said.

By the time the Balmoral Chamber Orchestra’s first concert approached, it stood at approximately 40 members strong.

"We performed with a more-than-packed house," McCoy said. "It was one of the greatest experiences of my life."

The performance, "Music for Memphis," served as a benefit concert to start "A Music for the People," a program that provides free violin lessons and materials to inner-city children. The concert raised thousands of dollars and "was able to easily start that program," McCoy said.

Lesmes said watching McCoy serve as a conductor while still in college proves he has great ambition.

"This shows his great passion for music-making, and it's really enjoyable to play with a conductor who is about music-making and not money-making," he said. "I've played with both types of conductors, but my experience with Zachary taught me that his passion is for making music and building friendships."

McCoy spent his freshman year of college at the University of Tennessee at Martin as a percussion performance major where he studied under Julie Hill, director of percussion studies and associate professor of music at UT-Martin.
"He was an outstanding student," she said. "His musicianship is in the top percentile, which makes him a great musician and a sensitive conductor."

When Hill heard of McCoy's endeavor of starting a volunteer orchestra that performs for charitable donations, she wasn't surprised.

"He is an entrepreneur," she said. "He created a marimba choir his freshman year. He wanted to increase the overall musicianship of students here at UT."

McCoy's first ensemble start-up, named the "7AM Marimba Choir" after the group's early morning meeting time each week, was successful and well-received.

After graduation, McCoy said he plans to become a medical doctor who continues to make music and give back to the community.

"No matter which city I end up [in] after Memphis, I intend to have some sort of semi-professional orchestra, like the Balmoral Chamber Orchestra, that will serve a very similar purpose for the community," he said.

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**Santa’s Village continues good work**

*Posted: Friday, November 16, 2012 10:01 pm*

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 27 years. Those donations — totaling $983,163 — have been distributed to area residents who need them.

Santa’s Village will mark its 28th anniversary Dec. 6-9, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment. A total of 254,621 people have attended Santa’s Village to date.

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.

This year's event is set for Dec. 6-7 from 6-9 p.m.; Dec. 8 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Dec. 9 from 1-5 p.m.

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 a petting farm will add to the festivities.

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

Service agencies which will receive food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include Chimes for Charity in Obion County, the Obion County chapter of the American Red Cross, We Care Ministries in Martin, Santa’s Helpers and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event, to date, include University Plaza, First State Bank, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Greenball, Savant Learning Systems and Frontier Communications. As part of the event each year, WCMT radio sponsors a can caravan for canned food donations collected at the schools.

"We would like to thank the sponsors and volunteers who contribute time and money," said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director. "Santa's Village is not only a wonderful, family-oriented holiday event, it helps the less fortunate in the surrounding area."

For more information about Santa's Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at (731) 587-6784.
Local students honored with degrees

Four local students from the University of Tennessee at Martin were honored with American FFA Degrees at the 85th National FFA Convention and Exposition held Oct. 24-27 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Beth Ray, a freshman from Dresden, and Jesi Ogg, John Garrett Vincent and Kaine Winstead, all sophomores from Martin, joined 12 other UT Martin students who also received the award this year.

American FFA Degrees are awarded annually to those FFA members who show dedication to premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The award recognizes ability and achievements in agricultural business, production, processing or service programs.

To be eligible for the award, FFA members must have earned and invested $7,500 through a supervised agricultural experience program in which they hold a professional position in an existing agricultural enterprise. Recipients must also complete 50 community service hours, as well as demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement.

Each award recipient collects a gold American FFA Degree key and a certificate, as well as the opportunity to appear on stage during the national convention.

The American FFA Degree is sponsored by Case IH, The Progressive Farmer, Farm Credit, Syngenta and Pioneer, a DuPont business, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 540,379 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,489 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

For more information, contact Dr. James Butler, professor of agriculture, geosciences and natural resources, at 731-881-7271 or by email at jbutler@utm.edu.

Santa’s Village continues good work

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Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event, to date, include University Plaza, First State Bank, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Greenball, Savant Learning Systems and Frontier Communications.

(See Page 11, Col. 5)
Online magazine launched

The fall 2012 online edition of BeanSwitch, the University of Tennessee at Martin’s art and literature magazine, will be launched Monday during a special preview event.

“BeanSwitch Fall 2012 Launches Celebration of the Arts” will begin at 6 p.m. in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus. It is open to the public.

BeanSwitch publishes original art and literature created by UT Martin students, faculty and staff and members of the surrounding community.

UT Martin students, including co-executive editors Misty Dunlap of Dresden and Sheila Scott of Kenton and visual editor Kalsey Stults of Collinwood, run the magazine. Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, assistant professor of English, and Dr. Chris Hill, associate professor of English, and Tomi Parrish, instructor of communications, serve as faculty advisers.

Artists, poets and authors who have work published in this edition will attend and display original art and offer readings from the magazine. The event will also celebrate the accomplishments of pottery students and student musicians.

Artwork of all types will be on display at Monday’s event and guests will enjoy musical entertainment in a variety of styles.

Light refreshments will also be served.

Piano ensemble to be featured

The University of Tennessee at Martin Piano Ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 29 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin.

Performers will include Victoria Russell of Memphis, Rachel Steiner of Murfreesboro, Ya Chieh Chen of Taiwan, Amy McLemore of Ripley and Shaun Paul of Bon Aqua.

Dr. Elaine Harriss, music department chair, and Delana Easley of Union City, music department collaborative pianist, will also perform with the ensemble.

The event is free and open to the public.

Applications now being accepted for second RisingStar Leadership Summit

The University of Tennessee at Martin and the WestStar Leadership Program are now accepting applications for the second annual RisingStar Leadership Summit for high school juniors and seniors. The two-day leadership summit will take place Nov. 29-30 on the UT Martin main campus, and the deadline for registration is Tuesday, Nov. 21, according to a news release.

Youth who have participated in their local youth leadership program or have been active in a leadership role at their high schools are encouraged to apply.

Community members may also offer scholarships to help with registration fees.

Participating students will hear from speakers Joe Barker, executive director of Southwest Tennessee Development District; David Belote, assistant vice chancellor of Student Affairs at UT Martin; Darron Billings, environmental health and safety training coordinator at Jackson State Community College; and many more.

For more information or to register, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at (731) 881-7298 or visit www.utm.edu/weststar.
More tuition hikes won't help improve workforce

Gov. Bill Haslam has concluded his initial review of budget requests for the 2013-14 fiscal year. And once again it appears the state's college students will be facing higher tuition to get the post-secondary education they need to meet modern workplace demands and secure good-paying jobs. The constantly rising cost of higher education is counterproductive to the state's long-term economic development goals and the hopes and dreams of Tennesseans.

Tennessee Higher Education Commission Executive Director Richard Rhoda has asked for a $33.5 million increase in higher education operation funding for next fiscal year. If the request survives the governor's final budgeting process and action by the General Assembly, it would mean tuition hikes at state four-year universities of 6 percent, and an increase at state two-year colleges and technical schools of 3 percent. If the full request doesn't make it into the budget, look for even higher tuition hikes for the 2013-14 school year.

According to Rhoda's increase estimates, tuition at UT Knoxville could rise to $8,270 for a full-time undergraduate student. At UT Martin, tuition could rise to $6,337 for full-time students. The cost of a four-year degree, including housing, books and fees, easily could exceed $50,000. Post-graduate study tuition and proposed increases add substantially more expense to achieving graduate and professional degrees. Tennessee Lottery Hope Scholarships can help with $4,000 per year, but that still leaves a substantial bill to pay. Hope Scholarships are not available for post-graduate study.

The state has seen double-digit and near double-digit tuition increases for 10 years. Haslam has called for an end to such increases. But getting the issue from the rhetoric stage to the state budget has proven illusive in the past. Haslam already has cautioned Rhoda and higher education leaders that other anticipated state spending increases for items such as health care reform could mean there won't be enough money to meet higher education spending goals.

The state long has emphasized the important of economic development, and generally it has done a good job. It is attractive to business and industry for many reasons, including low taxation, no state income tax, solid state and local government incentive programs and outstanding transportation infrastructure. But the kind of business and industry expansion the state is looking for demands a highly educated workforce, and that is Tennessee's Achilles' heel.

We understand the need to balance the state budget and the pressing financial strains that challenge budget decisions. But if the state is to achieve its economic development and job growth goals, it must invest in workforce development. Haslam already has called for colleges and universities to more closely align higher education outcomes to business and industry needs. Now, he must find a way to more closely align higher education tuition with what students and their families can reasonably afford.

Applications now being accepted for second RisingStar Leadership Summit

The University of Tennessee at Martin and the WestStar Leadership Program are now accepting applications for the second annual RisingStar Leadership Summit for high school juniors and seniors. The two-day leadership summit will take place Nov. 29-30 on the UT Martin main campus, and the deadline for registration is Tuesday, Nov. 21, according to a news release.

Youth who have participated in their local youth leadership program or have been active in a leadership role at their high schools are encouraged to apply. Community members may also offer scholarships to help with registration fees.

Participating students will hear from speakers Joe Barker, executive director of Southwest Tennessee Development District; David Belote, assistant vice chancellor of Student Affairs at UT Martin; Darron Billings, environmental health and safety training coordinator at Jackson State Community College; and many more.

For more information or to register, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at (731) 881-7298 or visit www.utm.edu/weststar.
UTM roundup: agriculture lecturer chosen as ‘judge of the month’

Jason Duggin, lecturer of animal science at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been named “Judge of the Month” for livestock judging by the judgingconnection.com.

Duggin began competing in livestock judging competitions as a student at Connors State College and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., where he earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in animal science.

After college, Duggin worked in research and development for a top-tier food packaging company before joining the UT Martin faculty. He is currently working toward his doctoral degree in animal science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

“It is always an honor to represent the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources as a faculty member of UT Martin,” Duggin said. “Through the judging connection website, I have had the privilege to serve as a youth livestock show judge for many regional shows as well as others across the nation, including central Florida and southwest Colorado.”

In addition to teaching classes, Duggin also serves as coach of the UT Martin student livestock judging team, which participates in competitions and training exercises across the country.

“Thanks to Judging Connection we are able to make students more aware of what UT Martin has to offer. More incoming students are enrolling at UT Martin to be active members of the livestock team with each passing year,” Duggin said.

Piano ensemble to perform: The UTM Piano Ensemble will perform Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin. Performance selections for the free event include Rachmaninoff, Poulenc, Schubert, Brahms, Purcell and Dussek.

Dickson native named Fall 2012 outstanding student employee: The Fall 2012 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award recently was presented to Martin Sander, of Dickson. Sander is a senior agriculture major and has been employed for more than three years at the West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion on the UT Martin main campus.

Sander is responsible for the setup and cleanup of all events at the agricultural complex, including events involving horses, livestock and other animal industries and the annual Santa’s Village event. The complex includes an indoor and outdoor arena, interior and exterior holding facilities and a stalling barn with hundreds of stalls that are often set up differently to accommodate different animal species.

“Martin is gifted in so many ways, but still maintains humility and common sense that is not seen in today’s culture,” wrote Jason Duggin, animal science instructor, who nominated Sanders. “Martin is well known to all the event attendees as the go-to person at UTM for activities held at this complex. He must make on the site decisions daily regarding both planning and individual requests regarding specific events. He often makes decisions for the safety and welfare of the attending people and their animals.”

The 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 that would challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university’s mission. Recipients of this award exemplify a strong work ethic and commitment to the university, and they receive a $1,000 cash award, an engraved plaque and a nameplate on the perpetual plaque in a place of honor in the Boling University Center.

Contributions to this scholarship award may be made through payroll deduction by employees of UT Martin or by sending a contribution to the university’s Office of Development.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2012
UT Martin launches fall edition of magazine

The fall 2012 online edition of BeanSwitch, the University of Tennessee Martin's art and literature magazine, will be launched today during a special preview event, “BeanSwitch Fall 2012 Launches Celebration of the Arts,” in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin main campus. The event will begin at 6 p.m. and is open to the public.

BeanSwitch publishes original art and literature created by UT Martin students, faculty, staff and members of the community. UT Martin students — including co-executive editors Misty Dunlap, of Dresden, and Sheila Scott, of Kenton, and visual editor Kalsey Stults, of Collinwood — run the magazine. Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, assistant professor of English; Dr. Chris Hill, associate professor of English; and Tomi Parrish, instructor of communications, serve as faculty advisers.

Artists, poets and authors who have work published in the edition will attend and display original art and offer readings from the magazine. The event also will celebrate the accomplishments of pottery students and student musicians. Artwork of all types will be on display, and guests will enjoy musical entertainment. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Scott at (731) 796-0214, email beanswitch@utm.edu, or visit beanswitch.utm.edu or www.facebook.com/BeanSwitch.


UT Martin to Offer Certification for Montessori Teachers

By WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
By news@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Nov 20, 2012 at 4:35 PM CST
(Story Updated: Nov 20, 2012 at 4:43 PM CST)

JACKSON, Tenn. - Those who want to be certified to teach children using the Montessori method now have a new way to earn that certification.

During a special ceremony, the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Montessori Educational Institute of North America signed an agreement Tuesday between the two institutions to do just that.

University Chancellor Tom Rakes and leaders of the institute signed the formal agreement at the UT Martin Center in Jackson.

The collaboration will provide students who complete a Montessori teaching certificate and opportunity to earn graduate credits that can be applied toward a master's degree in education at UTM.

"These approaches are also useful to a teacher in a traditional classroom setting, public or private setting because they emphasize hands on participatory self directed learning," said Beth Quick, associate Professor at U.T. Martin.

For more information on the certification, contact U.T. Martin.
Santa’s Village to open Dec. 6

The 28th annual event is gearing up for Dec. 6-9 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex, on the campus of UT Martin.

Bring the kids for all the fun and excitement of “The Enchanted Forest,” a petting farm, children’s rides, visit with Santa, view the model train display, ride in a horse drawn wagon and listen to live entertainment.

It’s absolutely free to the public but a five-dollar toy or non-perishable canned good donation will be appreciated.

All proceeds from Santa’s Village will go to help less fortunate families.

You can help us to make a heartfelt thank you to the monetary sponsors of the Village by letting the following know how much their support is appreciated: University Plaza, First State, Greenball, Savant Learning Systems, Frontier, Tyson Foods, Hampton Inn and MTD Products.

For more information contact the department at 587-6784.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, November 21, 2012

UT Martin Agriculture Lecturer Chosen as ‘Judge of the Month’

Jason Duggin, lecturer of animal science at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been named “Judge of the Month” for livestock judging by thejudgingconnection.com.

Duggin began competing in livestock judging competitions as a student at Connors State College and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, where he earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in animal science.

After college, Duggin worked in research and development for a top-tier food packaging company before joining the UT Martin faculty. He is currently working toward his doctoral degree in animal science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

“It is always an honor to represent the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources as a faculty member of UT Martin,” Duggin said. “Through the judging connection website, I have had the privilege to serve as a youth livestock show judge for many regional shows as well as others across the nation, including central Florida and southwest Colorado.”

In addition to teaching classes, Duggin also serves as coach of the UT Martin student livestock judging team, which participates in competitions and training exercises across the country.

“Thanks to Judging Connection we are able to make students more aware of what UT Martin has to offer. More incoming students are enrolling at UT Martin to be active members of the livestock team with each passing year,” Duggin said.

Piano ensemble to feature UTM students

The University of Tennessee at Martin Piano Ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 29, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin.

Performers will include Victoria Russell, of Memphis; Rachel Steiner, of Murfreesboro; Ya Chieh Chen, of Taiwan; Amy Mc Lemore, of Ripley; and Shaun Paul, of Bon Aqua. Dr. Elaine Harris, music department chair; and Delana Eastley, music department collaborative pianist, will also perform with the ensemble.

The event is free and open to the public.

Holt named Miss Tennessee’s “Volunteer of the Year”

Hollie Holt, director of the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival scholarship pageants, was recently named “Volunteer of the Year” by the Miss Tennessee Organization.

Holt has served as director of the UT Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants for four years. Jane Alderson, executive director of the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, presented the award.

“It is an honor to be involved with an organization that is the nation’s leading achievement program for young women,” said Holt. “I believe in this organization and what it stands for. Without the work of countless volunteers, the opportunities and scholarships for these women would not be possible.”
UT Martin and the Montessori Educational Institute of North America to hold signing ceremony this morning

A special ceremony to finalize an agreement between the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Montessori Educational Institute of North America will be held at 9:30 a.m. today at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

University Chancellor Tom Rakes and key MEINA officials will sign the formal documents.

This collaboration will provide students who complete a Montessori teaching certificate through MEINA an opportunity to earn graduate credits that can be applied toward completion of a master's degree in education at UT Martin.

The center is located at 3031 Highway 45 Bypass. For information, call the Office of University Relations, 731-881-7615.

Retired businessman’s vision a multi-county shooting complex

Posted: Wednesday, November 21, 2012 9:10 pm
By KEVIN BOWDEN
Staff Reporter

Retired Union City businessman Steve Vaughn has a vision to build a trap and skeet complex to serve Obion and Weakley counties.

Vaughn has been using his backyard one-person trap range for training the University of Tennessee at Martin Clay Target Team since December 2006.

At that time he was asked to start the team by Dr. Jim Byford, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

A meeting was held last week at the Obion County Public Library to outline Vaughn’s plans for such a complex.

The meeting was sponsored by the Obion County Chamber of Commerce and was headlined by Vaughn, along with Steve Vannesse and Len Solomon of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“I was really disappointed in the turnout, but we’re still determined to get this program off the ground,” said Vaughn, who met recently with the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport Board and proposed using a 12-acre site on the airport property to build the new complex.

Vaughn and others involved in the shooting range project are hoping to build a state-of-the-art shooting facility that would allow UT Martin to host intercollegiate competitions. The complex being planned would be capable of hosting International Trap and Skeet competitions, as well as American Trap and Skeet competitions.

The first step toward securing such a complex at the local airport will be working out an agreement with the airport board for the use of its land. If that hurdle is cleared, the next task will be securing an estimated $60,000 to build the first two of four combination trap and skeet fields. The second phase of the project will be building an International (Olympic) Trap bunker, at an estimated cost of $125,000.

The third phase of the project will be to build two additional trap and skeet fields for International Skeet competitions.

An access road and parking lot will also have to be built to allow access to the range. Also, a clubhouse will have to be built to serve as a target storage building and a Hunter Safety Education building, according to Vaughn.

His son-in-law, Mike Rinker, is also working on the project. He is the coach for the Obion County 4-H Trap and Skeet Shooting team. The local 4-H team lost its shooting range when the local Goodyear plant shut down and now the group is practicing at Vaughn’s backyard range.

Vaughn and Rinker are hoping to secure the airport site or some other workable location for use as a trap and skeet shooting range. Vaughn said the airport property is not ideal, “but is the only option we have at this time.”

When asked about whether the Goodyear shooting range, which is being turned over to the county, could be used, Vaughn explained the Goodyear range wouldn’t work for trap and skeet shooting.

“We really need a good site to build this range and we’re keeping our options open at this point,” he said.

The shooting range is an ambitious undertaking considering the additional expenses for the cost of the land, preparing the site, utilities, maintenance and operational costs.

There are federal grants available to help finance the project, according to Vaughn.

“We only have to raise 25 percent of the money needed to build this facility because the TWRA will match that with a 75 percent grant using federal firearm and ammunition tax revenues,” he said.

He said the proposed facility will be used for high school and collegiate trap and skeet competitions, while also being accessible for use by law enforcement agencies, ROTC, Boy Scout groups, 4-H clubs, Hunter Safety education, and local charities for fund-raising events.

Vaughn was involved in competitive trap shooting for more than 10 years before he agreed to serve as coach for the UT Martin shooting team in 2006.

Both Vaughn and Rinker, along with their assistant coaches, do this as volunteers because they believe getting young people involved in the shooting sports helps them develop positive character traits.

For more information about the project, Vaughn can be reached at (731) 796-0848.

Staff Reporter Kevin Bowden may be contacted by email at kbownaden@ucmessenger.com.
MARTIN, Tenn. - Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, assistant professor of English at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Dr. Nathan Howard, associate professor of history, will lead a travel study to Ireland on May 5-16, 2013. This trip is open to community members as well as UT Martin students and faculty.

The trip will cost an estimated $3,800 per person, which includes a round-trip flight, 10-night hotel accommodations (double occupancy), coach and ferry transportation, itinerary entrance fees, daily breakfast and a four-course banquet at Bunruiare Castle.

Participants will have the opportunity to tour many sites of historical and literary significance. These include a Dublin literary walking tour, Trinity College, the James Joyce Museum and Tower, Kilmainham Gaol, Blarney Castle, the Ring of Kerry, the Cliffs of Moher and the Aran Islands.

For more information, contact Howard at 731-881-3470 or by email at nhoward@utm.edu.

WRITE ON — Ten young writers from Fulton High School recently attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Young Writers Conference. Among them were (from left) Jenni Lee, Mariah Davis, Caroline Rushing, Rachel Blasingim, Monica Brown, Lexi Snow, Abby Bell, Hailey Snyder, Allie Caldwell and Whittney McKinney. The students attended workshops on short story writing, song writing, chivalrous literature and writing successful letters of application. Dr. Marilyn Kallet, a University of Tennessee professor of English, poet and author of 15 books, presented several of her poems and answered students’ questions. The event ended with an open mic session in which area students shared their writings with all who attended.
Newbern UTM student to perform in percussion ensemble

A student percussion ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 27, in room 112 of the Boling University Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Will Kwasigroh, a junior from Newbern, will perform as a member of the ensemble.

A variety of percussion arrangements will be performed by the ensemble.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill at 731-881-7418 or at jhill@utm.edu.

http://www.wcmt.com/?p=4658

November 23rd, 2012 - By Chris Stockdale

Planning is already underway for the combined Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageants at the Student Life Center on Monday January 28th

The combined pageants are co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and are open to single women between the ages of 17 and 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 competition will include talent, evening gown, swimsuit and interview categories. Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the 2013 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson. The deadline to enter is Friday January the 18th.

It gets underway at seven o’clock, and tickets are fifteen dollars each, and ten dollars for UT Martin Students.
Students give back to community

By MEREDITH N. REYNOLDS
Special to the Press

Student members of Women in Communication recently gathered at the Tom and Ann Stuart Community Center to teach Girl Scouts from Troop 43001 effective communication skills. Participants ranged from third grade to seventh grade.

The purpose of the workshop was to aid the Girl Scouts in earning their badges.

"It was a marvelous gift watching my UTM students work with young women from the community," Dr. Teresa Collard said. "I am always encouraging them to take risks. With this project, they stepped out of their comfort zone and made a real difference."

The workshop was part of the Girl Scouts Ignite Program, which teaches the girls new information in exciting ways. The program hopes that at least one girl will become inspired by the information and that it will stay with her throughout her lifetime, helping her to become a successful and productive young woman.

"The girls absolutely loved it, and it was one of my favorite Girl Scouts events of all time," said Leah Burnett of Americorps Vista and Girl Scouts Heart of the South.

She said the Women in Communication were "organized, enthusiastic, educational and, most importantly, fun.

Women in Communication led six different sessions with the participants during the workshop. Sessions included writing news stories, defining key terms and concepts in communications, branding individual images, outlining ideas and concerns related to promoting an event and understanding verbal and non-verbal communication strategies.

The highlight of the morning was a performance of "Mr. Brown Can Moo. Can You?" by the participants and trainers.

"Teaching the Girl Scouts communication skills was one of the most delightful experiences I've had in college," Natalie Medling said. "The girls loved the hands on learning."
New Montessori teaching option open to UTM graduate education students

Children are the ultimate winners in a new partnership allowing UT Martin education graduate students to earn a Montessori teaching credential that can be applied toward completing a master’s degree in education.

A ceremony to finalize the agreement between the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Montessori Educational Institute of North America was held Nov. 20, at the UT Martin Jackson Center. University Chancellor Tom Rakes and Teri Canaday, institutional director of the MEINA instructional center located on Cooper Anderson Road in Jackson, signed the memorandum of understanding.

Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician who died in 1952, developed the specialized curricular approach that focuses on self-directed learning, said Dr. Beth Quick, professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Educational Studies.

Students will earn the Montessori teaching credential through the MEINA teacher education program and then take six core courses to complete a master’s degree in education online from UT Martin, she said.

This initial agreement covers the Elementary I course that focuses on first through third grades. Students can be accepted into UT Martin’s graduate program as early as January, pending submission and approval of a portfolio required by the university.

An early childhood course of study focusing on children ages 3 through 6 could follow as soon as summer 2013.

“This is an important event for the university and a very important partnership,” said Rakes, who has family members enrolled in Montessori schools in another state.

“This is all about serving children, and that’s what I see our work in education as being about,” Canaday added. She credited educators for the work they’re doing, “but when they have the Montessori education background, they’re going to have a whole lot more.”

SEE TEACH, PAGE 6

TEACH
FROM PAGE 1

Canaday said that students who complete the Montessori program must apply for the UT Martin graduate program. Students will receive 18 credit hours after completing approximately 330 academic hours in courses leading to the Montessori credential.

“They (the students) work extremely hard,” Canaday said. “The training course involves not only those academic hours, but for the elementary, it involves 1,080 hours of practice.”

Julie Riddle, business administrator for Montessori Center of Jackson, is certified in Montessori for early childhood. “Montessori includes a philosophy, a methodology and materials that help children develop independence, self-control, coordination and responsibility in their learning,” she said. “We teach them the skills they need to become lifelong learners. Hands-on learning and collaborative projects are key components in the Montessori approach.

“Montessori education is not about grades, it is about learning. Children are given opportunities to learn how to think rather than respond in a rote manner on tests.”

Riddle added, “Our goal for children is to master what they’re learning and feel the joy of the process. Montessori offers rigorous academics along with curriculum that includes a rich background in cultural studies and activities that encourage respect of self, others and the environment.”

For information about the program, call the UT Martin Education Graduate Programs office at 731-881-7128, or go online at utm.edu/edgrad.
Deadline set for Mission UTM, Soybean pageants

Plans are under way for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants to be staged at 7 p.m. on Jan. 28 in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the 2013 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson.

The combined pageants are co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and are 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 competition will include talent, evening gown, swimsuit and interview categories.

"The Miss America organization provides a great opportunity for women to earn scholarship money to continue and further their education," said Hollie Holt, executive director of the pageants. "Not only do these young women win money for school, they learn important interview skills, the importance of being physically fit and volunteering, they become self-confident, and they learn how to utilize the talents they have been given."

The pageant application form is available online at www.utm.edu/missutm or www.facebook.com/missutm.

The deadline to register is Jan. 18 and applications may be emailed to Holt at hholt@utm.edu.

General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be $10 at the door with proper ID.

For more information, contact Holt at 731-514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.

Hollie Holt receives Volunteer award

MARTIN — Hollie Holt (right), director of the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival scholarship pageants, was recently named "Volunteer of the Year" by the Miss Tennessee Organization. Jane Alderson, executive director of the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, presented the award.

"It is an honor to be involved with an organization that is the nation's leading achievement program for young women," said Ms. Holt. "I believe in this organization and what it stands for. Without the work of countless volunteers, the opportunities and scholarships for these women would not be possible."

The Miss Tennessee Organization annually awards more than $100,000 in scholarships to young women ages 17-24 across the state.

The Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant is the official state preliminary for the Miss America Organization.

For more information, contact Ms. Holt at (731) 514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.
DMS ATTENDS UTM FALL PREVIEW DAY: On Nov. 17, a group of Dyersburg Middle School students traveled to UT Martin to attend Fall Preview Day. These students were a part of DMS's College Prep/ACT STEP class, which prepares them with background knowledge about applying to and requirements for getting accepted to various colleges. While on campus, students were welcomed by the Chancellor, viewed a slide show about the different aspects of college life, attended a "job" fair, and toured the campus, which included visiting a department of interest for each of the students. These students were accompanied by DMS STEP coordinator Diana Mitchell and eighth grade teacher Kellie Callens. Pictured from left are: Jamaal King, Emiley Gardner, Shae Burrell, Xiaionna Burrell, Kiara Lewis and Holly Clay.

LEE ATTENDS FALL PREVIEW DAY: Ryan Lee (center), of Dyersburg, son of Brian and Shannon Lee, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's recent Fall Preview Day. Students had the opportunity to tour the UT Martin campus and meet with faculty and staff to learn about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.

Jan. 18, Jan. 28
Entry deadline for the Miss UT Martin/Soybean Festival pageants is Jan. 18. The pageants will be staged at 7 p.m. Jan. 28 in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Winners of each crown gain the opportunity to compete in the 2013 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson. Both pageants are open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageant is open statewide; the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students. Application forms available at www.utm.edu/missutm or www.facebook.com/missutm. Admission tickets for the pageants is $15; UTM student tickets, $10 with ID. 731-584-3556 or email hholt@utm.edu.
Contestants sought for pageants

Plans are under way for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants to be staged at 7 p.m. Jan. 28, 2013, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin.

Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the 2013 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson, Tenn.

The combined pageants are co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and are 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 competition will include talent, evening gown, swimsuit and interview categories.

“The Miss America organization provides a great opportunity for women to earn scholarship money to continue and further their education,” said Hollie Holt, executive director of the pageants.

“Not only do these young women win money for school, they learn important interview skills, the importance of being physically fit and volunteering, they become self-confident, and they learn how to utilize the talents they have been given,” she added.

The pageant application form is available online at www.utm.edu/missutm or www.facebook.com/missutm. The deadline to register is Jan. 18 and applications may be emailed to Holt at hholt@utm.edu.

General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be $10 at the door with proper ID.

For more information, contact Holt at 731-514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.

Santa’s Village to celebrate 28 years Dec. 6-9

The legacy of Santa’s Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys collected and donated to service agencies through its 27 years.

Those donations, totaling $983,163, have been distributed to area residents who need them.

Santa’s Village will mark its 28th anniversary, Dec. 6-9, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment. To date, 254,621 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. 6-7; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 8; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 9, 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 a petting farm will add to the festivities. 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 and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event to date include: University Plaza, First State Bank, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Greenball, Savant Learning Systems and Frontier Communications. As part of the event each year, WCMT radio sponsors a can caravan for canned food donations collected at the schools. “We would like to thank the sponsors and volunteers who contribute time and money,” said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director. “Santa’s Village is not only a wonderful, family-oriented holiday event, it helps the less fortunate in the surrounding area.”

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Santa’s Village to celebrate 28th year

The 28th Annual Santa’s Village, scheduled for December 6-9, at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex located on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin, will feature a winter wonderland providing the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas for the whole family to enjoy. Each year, visitors donate food and toys to those less fortunate. Santa’s Village includes: live entertainment, the ‘Enchanted Forest’ theme in scenes depicting the holidays, animated Christmas characters, a giant Christmas tree, free children’s rides, MTD model train display, arts and crafts booths, an animal petting farm, and a visit with Santa. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys. Santa’s Village is open 6:00-9:00 p.m., December 6-7; 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., December 8; and 1:00-5:00 p.m., December 9. 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 and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Mythology roundtable set at UTM

Anyone with interest in mythology is encouraged to attend a roundtable discussion — sponsored by the Joseph Campbell Foundation Mythological Roundtable Group of Martin — Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Room 118 of Paul Meek Library on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

During the event, titled “Love and Suffering: Strange Bedfellows or Mates for Life?” Dr. Joseph Ostenson, UT Martin psychology lecturer, will comment on the role of suffering in love in the myth of Psyche and Eros, the story of Tristan and Isolde and in Shakespeare’s play “Romeo and Juliet.” Portions of Joseph Campbell’s documentary “The Power of Myth” will also be shown.

Joseph Campbell (1904-87) was an influential American intellectual and mythologist known for his work in comparative mythology and comparative religion. The Joseph Campbell Foundation is dedicated to protecting, preserving and further pioneering his work.

For more information, contact Dr. Michelle Marks Merwin at mmerwin@utm.edu or (731) 881-7543. For more information about Joseph Campbell, visit www.jcf.org.
Totten named Faculty Scholar

Dr. Wesley Totten, associate professor of plant science at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, was named the UT Martin Featured Faculty Scholar for fall during a ceremony recently in the Paul Meek Library.

The award recognizes excellence in teaching and scholarship.

"It’s a great honor today for me to be able to speak on his behalf today for this wonderful award," said Dr. Tim Bunch, professor and interim chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, during the award presentation.

"He has developed and taught 14 different preps, 14 different courses, here at UT Martin ... that’s an incredible amount of prep for a faculty member."

Addressing the audience, Totten thanked his family and the university for their support.

"I'll continue to work hard for the university and continue to help build this university’s legacy, which I’m very proud of," Totten said. "Please know that I love this university, and I'll continue to give everything that I’ve got."

Totten specializes in golf course and landscape management.

His career began at UT Martin in 2007 as an assistant professor and he was promoted to associate professor in 2011. He received a bachelor’s in agronomy and soils and a master’s in horticulture from Auburn University in 2000 and 2003, respectively.

He obtained his Ph.D. in plant and environmental sciences from Clemson University in 2006.

Totten has had nine scholarly articles published and has given 21 professional presentations to peers in recent years. He was also named UT Martin’s 2012 Hardy Graham Distinguished Professor and received the 2011 North American College and Teachers of Agriculture Teaching Award of Merit.

A display featuring examples of Totten’s work will be on display in the Paul Meek Library on campus through the end of the fall semester.

UTM student earns recognition

The fall Beth Maloan Outstanding University at Martin Student Employee Award was recently presented to Martin Sander of Dickson.

Sander is a senior agriculture major and has been employed for more than three years at the West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion on the UT Martin main campus.

Sander is responsible for the setup and cleanup of all events at the agricultural complex, including events involving horses, livestock and other animal industries and the annual Santa’s Village event. The complex includes an indoor and outdoor arena, interior and exterior holding facilities and a stalling barn with hundreds of stalls that are often set up differently to accommodate different animal species.

"Martin is gifted in so many ways, but still maintains humility and common sense that is not seen in today’s culture," wrote Jason Duggin, animal science instructor, who nominated Sanders. "Martin is well known to all the event attendees as the go-to person at UTM for activities held at this complex. He must make on the site decisions daily regarding both planning and individual requests regarding specific events. He often makes decisions for the safety and welfare of the attending people and their animals."

The 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.

Mrs. Maloan had a vision that more positions would be developed on campus that would challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university’s mission. Recipients of this award exemplify a strong work ethic and commitment to the university and they receive a $1,000 cash award, an engraved plaque and a nameplate on the perpetual plaque in a place of honor in the Boling University Center.

Contributions to this scholarship award may be made through payroll deduction by employees of UT Martin or by sending a contribution to the university’s Office of Development.
WestStar’s first session to focus on transportation, agriculture

By KEVIN BOWDEN
Staff Reporter

WestStar will be holding its first session in Obion County in early January 2013, with an impressive program focusing on the importance of transportation and agriculture in West Tennessee.

WestStar, the regional leadership development program based out of the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently announced the names of the 34 members of WestStar’s class of 2013. From Obion County, Dawn Tittle has been named to the class.

She is president of Center Point Business Solutions at the Titan Tire plant in Union City.

Mrs. Tittle is a member of a class that includes company presidents, bankers, public officials, Chamber of Commerce officials and an attorney. This is the 24th year for the leadership development program.

Also a member of this year’s WestStar leadership class is Carol Reed, executive director of the Entrepreneur Center of Northwest Tennessee.

The opening WestStar session is scheduled for Dec. 13 at UTM. That session serves as an orientation for class members.

On Jan. 3, the class will begin its first full session in Martin with presentations from a variety of speakers involved in agriculture.

The next day, Everett-Stewart Regional Airport will host the morning program with planned presentations by state Reps. Bill Sanderson and Andy Holt, Obion County Mayor Benny McGuire, airport manager Jo Ann Speer and Obion County Joint Economic Development Corporation Economic Development Director Lindsay Frilling.

Mrs. Frilling is still working on finalizing the agenda for the Obion County session. She and WestStar officials have included a tour of Tyson Foods, a tour of the Obion County Public Library and a bus tour of Discovery Park of America.

The WestStar class will hear from former Congressman John Tanner as well as Robert Kirkland, Larry Snider and Jim Rippy, who will discuss plans for Discovery Park of America. Forum Lannom’s Randall Rhodes will give an overview of the Port at Cates Landing project in Lake County.

“We are very excited to have the opportunity to host the WestStar class in Obion County,” Mrs. Frilling said. “The theme for the session is agriculture, transportation and regionalism and we have numerous assets that tie directly in to the theme — Everett-Stewart Regional Airport, the Port at Cates Landing, Discovery Park of America, Tyson Foods, farmers and farm (See Page 10, Col. 3)
Montessori teaching option open to UTM grad students

Children are the ultimate winners in a new partnership allowing UT Martin education graduate students to earn a Montessori teaching credential that can be applied toward completing a master's degree in education.

A ceremony to finalize the agreement between the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Montessori Educational Institute of North America was held last week at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

University Chancellor Tom Rakes and Teri Canaday, institutional director of the MEINA instructional center, located on Cooper Anderson Road in Jackson, signed the memorandum of understanding.

Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician who died in 1952, developed the specialized curricular approach that focuses on self-directed learning, said Dr. Beth Quick, professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Educational Studies.

Students will earn the Montessori teaching credential through the MEINA teacher education program and then take six core courses to complete a master's degree in education online from UT Martin, she said.

This initial agreement covers the Elementary I course that focuses on first through third grades. Students can be accepted into UT Martin's graduate program as early as January, pending submission and approval of a portfolio required by the university. An early childhood course of study focusing on children ages 3-6 could follow as soon as summer 2013.

"This is an important event for the university and a very important partnership," said Rakes, who has family members enrolled in Montessori schools in another state.

"This is all about serving children, and that's what I see our work in education as being about," Ms. Canaday added.

She credited educators for the work they're doing, adding, "But when they have the Montessori education background, they're going to have a whole lot more."

Ms. Canaday said students who complete the Montessori program must apply for the UT Martin graduate program. Students will receive 18 credit hours after completing approximately 330 academic hours in courses leading to the Montessori credential.

"They (the students) work extremely hard," Ms. Canaday said. "The training course involves not only those academic hours, but for the elementary, it involves 1,080 hours of practicum."

Julie Riddle, business administrator for Montessori Center of Jackson, is certified in Montessori for early childhood.

"Montessori includes a philosophy, a methodology and materials that help children develop independence, self-control, coordination and responsibility in their learning," she said. "We teach them the skills they need to become lifelong learners. Hands-on learning and collaborative projects are key components in the Montessori approach."

"Montessori education is not about grades, it is about learning. Children are given opportunities to learn how to think rather than respond in a rote manner on tests."

"Our goal for children is to master what they're learning and feel the joy of the process," Ms. Riddle added. "Montessori offers rigorous academics along with curriculum that includes a rich background in cultural studies and activities that encourage respect of self, others and the environment."

For information about the program, call the UT Martin Education Graduate Programs office at (731) 881-7128 or go online at utm.edu/edgrad.
UT Martin offers travel study trips

Community members are invited to tour Germany, Brazil, Belize, New Zealand, Guatemala and many other locations, both foreign and domestic, with the University of Tennessee at Martin Travel Study Program.

University professors will lead a total of 15 travel study trips from January to June in 2013.

There are two trips scheduled for January, the first traveling to Guatemala under the direction of Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn, assistant professor of agricultural engineering, and Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, professor and interim chair for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and the chair holder for the Parker Chair of Excellence. Dr. Mark Simmons, associate professor of music, will lead the second January trip to Seattle, Wash.

There are three trips scheduled for March. Dr. Catherine Carls, professor of history and philosophy, will lead a trip to Washington, D.C. Another group will visit London and Paris with Dr. Jeff Hoyer, professor of communications, Stan Seiber, professor of history and philosophy, and Dr. Susan Buckelew, associate professor of behavioral sciences. The final March trip will take a group to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Dr. Stan Dunagan, associate professor of geology, and Dr. Michael Gibson, professor of geology, will direct this trip.

Dr. Sue Byrd, professor of textiles, clothing and fashion merchandising, will lead a trip to Atlanta, Ga., in April.

There are several trips scheduled throughout the month of May, and destinations are as follows: Germany, Dr. Kate Stumpo, assistant professor of chemistry, and Dr. Karoline Pershell, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics; Boston, Mass., Dr. Lionel Crews, associate professor of physics, and Dr. Charles Bradshaw, associate professor of English; Germany, Dr. Charles Hammond, associate professor of German; Washington D.C., Dr. Malcolm Koch, director of the UT Martin Center for International Education; Brazil, Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music; Washington D.C., Lt. Darrell Simmons, UT Martin Department of Public Safety and adjunct professor of political science; Ireland, Dr. Nathan Howard, associate professor of history, and Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, assistant professor of English; and Belize, Dr. Bradley Ray, associate professor of fisheries science.

The final trip of the semester will visit New Zealand in June under the direction of Dr. Mark Simmons, associate professor of music. For more information, contact Lorrie Jackson, travel study coordinator, or Mike Sudzum, travel consultant, at 731-881-1023, or visit the travel study website at www.utm.edu/departments/globalstudies.

Childress to address UTM graduates

Cheri Childress, an alumna of the University of Tennessee at Martin, will address graduates at the university’s fall commencement exercises beginning 11 a.m. on Dec. 15 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on Mt. Pelia Road in Martin.

Childress received her bachelor’s degree in secondary education and social work from UT Martin in 1972 and later earned her Master of Science in Education in 1978.

She has since served as director of social services at Milan General Hospital, taught in the Gibson County Special School District and evaluated Tennessee principals through the State of Tennessee Better Schools Program. Childress has also served as director of student services at the West Tennessee School of the Deaf in Jackson and is currently the co-owner of 10 Subway Sandwich Restaurants throughout the West Tennessee area and the CandyLand Gift Shoppe in Milan.

In addition to her position as vice-chair of the College of Business and Global Affairs at UT Martin, Childress remains an active member of the West Tennessee community by serving on multiple boards across the region, including those for the Kirkland Cancer Center, Milan General Hospital, UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program and the Gibson County Sports Hall of Fame.

Childress has received many awards since her time at UT Martin, including the Tennessee Economic for Women Excellence Award in 2007 and the Sterling Award in 2011, which named her one of the 20 most influential women in West Tennessee. Her Subway Sandwich Restaurant franchises have also been recognized for their excellence, winning the Franchise of the Year award in 1996 for the West Tennessee, North Mississippi and Northeast Arkansas areas.

Her locations also won National Franchise of the Year, selected from over 15,000 Subway restaurants nationally and internationally.

Childress is also the co-founder of the Living the Dream, Champions of Hope program and the Childress Foundation, which assists cancer survivors with expenses.

UT Martin commencement exercises are open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations, which may be reached by calling (731) 881-7615.
Hollie Holt receives Volunteer award

Hollie Holt, director of the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants, was recently named "Volunteer of the Year" by the Miss Tennessee Organization. Jane Alderson, executive director of the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, presented the award.

"I believe in this organization and what it stands for. Without the work of countless volunteers, the opportunities and scholarships for these women would not be possible."

The Miss Tennessee Organization annually awards more than $100,000 in scholarships to young women ages 17-24 across the state.

The Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant is the official state preliminary for the Miss America Organization.

For more information, contact Holt at (731) 514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.

Santa’s Village returns for 28th 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 27 years. Those donations, totaling $983,163, have been distributed to area residents who need them.

Santa’s Village will mark its 28th anniversary, Dec. 6-9, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment. To date, 254,621 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.

SLENTED for 6-9 p.m. Dec. 6-7; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 8; and 1-5 p.m. Dec. 9, 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 a petting farm will add to the festivities. 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, Salvation Army.

Recreation Department program director: "Santa’s Village is not only a wonderful, family-oriented holiday event, it helps the less fortunate in the surrounding area," Kirby added.

For more information about Santa's Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department, which can be reached at (731) 587-6784.
Santa’s Village sure to entertain

Visitors to the 28th annual Santa’s Village charity event will have an opportunity to enjoy more than 90 entertainers from across the region — including several from Obion County.

Scheduled performances include pop, country, Broadway, classical, jazz, blues and gospel musicians, in addition to dance performances and traditional Christmas music.

Santa’s Village will mark its 28th anniversary Thursday through Dec. 9, continuing a tradition of giving to those in need and providing four days of family holiday entertainment.

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

This year’s event is set for Thursday and Dec. 7 from 6-9 p.m.; Dec. 8 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Dec. 9 from 1-5 p.m. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

In its 27 years, Santa’s Village has collected and donated $983,163 worth of food and toys to service agencies which help those in need in this area.

Service agencies which will receive food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include Chimes for Charity, Northwest Tennessee Disaster Services, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

The event will return to an “Enchanted Forest” theme in scenes depicting the holidays this year. 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 a petting farm will add to the festivities.

The entertainment schedule for next week’s Santa Village will include:

Thursday — 5:45 p.m., Joy Jones, piano; 6, Carla Field, Ed and Elaine Knight, violin and accordion; 6:45, Lindsey Wade, vocal; 7:15, Rose Brawner, vocal; 7:45, Carla Lee, vocal; 8:15, Linda Ramsey, vocal; and 8:45, High Variety group, vocal.

Dec. 7 — 5:45 p.m., Brooke Baker, piano; 6, Lexie Knott and Rose Brawner, vocal; 7, Michael Brewer, vocal; and 8, Charles and Debbie Ross, vocal.

Dec. 8 — 10:40 a.m., Casey Lee and Hannah Laster, piano; 11, Rebecca Jones, Claire Gibson and Carson Gibson, vocal; 11:20, Emma Waycaster and Kelsie Winstead, vocal and dance; 11:50, Miriam Jones, Natalie Hurst and Joy Jones, vocal; 1 p.m., Collin Williams, keyboard; 1:30, Rose Brawner, vocal; 2, Stepz Dance Studio, dance; 3, Collin Williams, jazz keyboard; 3:30, the Jim Fieser Family, guitar and violin; 4:15, Lindsey Wade, vocal; 5, Carla Lee, vocal; 5:45, Tara Elam, vocal; 6:30, Tabitha Dawson, vocal; 7:15, Ashley Mitchell, vocal; 8, Lauren Rush and Whitley Southerland, vocal; and 8:30, Zach Rae, vocal.

Dec. 9 — 12:40 p.m., Dinah Batchelor, Lexie Knott and Rose Brawner, piano; 1:15, Lana Lee, vocal; 2, Oliver’s Chapel Church; 2:45, Lexie Knott, vocal; and 3:15, Michael Brewer, Kellie Phillips, Rob Phillips, Russ Phillips, Ramsey Phillips and Rose Brawner, vocal.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at (731) 587-6784.
Childress to address graduates during UT Martin Fall Commencement Exercises

MARTIN, Tenn. - Cheri Childress, an alumna of the University of Tennessee at Martin, will address graduates at the university's fall commencement exercises beginning 11 a.m. on Dec. 15 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on Mt. Pelia Road in Martin.

Childress received her bachelor's degree in secondary education and social work from UT Martin in 1972 and later earned her Master of Science in Education in 1978. She has since served as director of social services at Milan General Hospital, taught in the Gibson County Special School District and evaluated Tennessee principals through the State of Tennessee Better Schools Program.

Childress has also served as director of student services at the West Tennessee School of the Deaf in Jackson and is currently the co-owner of 10 Subway Sandwich Restaurants throughout the West Tennessee area and the CandyLand Gift Shoppe in Milan.

In addition to her position as vice-chair of the College of Business and Global Affairs at UT Martin, Childress remains an active member of the West Tennessee community by serving on multiple boards across the region, including those for the Kirkland Cancer Center, Milan General Hospital, UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program and the Gibson County Sports Hall of Fame.

Childress has received many awards since her time at UT Martin, including the Tennessee Economic for Women Excellence Award in 2007 and the Sterling Award in 2011, which named her one of the 20 most influential women in West Tennessee.

Her Subway Sandwich Restaurant franchises have also been recognized for their excellence, winning the Franchise of the Year award in 1996 for the West Tennessee, North Mississippi and Northeast Arkansas areas. Her locations also won National Franchise of the Year, selected from over 15,000 Subway restaurants nationally and internationally.

Childress is also the co-founder of the Living the Dream, Champions of Hope program and the Childress Foundation, which assists cancer survivors with expenses.

UT Martin commencement exercises are open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

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Deadline To Enter Miss Ut Martin / Soybean Festival Pageants

MARTIN, Tenn. - Plans are under way for the combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants to be staged at 7 p.m. on Jan. 28, 2013, in the Student Life Center at UT Martin. Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the 2013 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson.

The combined pageants are co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and are 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 competition will include talent, evening gown, swimsuit and interview categories.

"The Miss America organization provides a great opportunity for women to earn scholarship money to continue and further their education," said Hollie Holt, executive director of the pageants. "Not only do these young women win money for school, they learn important interview skills, the importance of being physically fit and volunteering, they become self-confident, and they learn how to utilize the talents they have been given."

The pageant application form is available online at www.utm.edu/missutm or www.facebook.com/missutm. The deadline to register is Jan. 18 and applications may be emailed to Holt at hholt@utm.edu.

General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be $10 at the door with proper ID.

For more information, contact Holt at 731-514-3556 or by email at hholt@utm.edu.