Realizing lifelong goal: Applying healing hand to suffering animals

By JOHN BRANNON
Messenger Staff Reporter

To say Jamie Decker of Sharon is driven would be an understatement.

At age 23 and married, she’s graduated from two colleges and makes a daily commute from her home in Sharon to Union City, where she is a veterinary medical technician at Reelfoot Animal Hospital.

She will tell you she’s doing what she’s always wanted to do — apply a healing hand to sick and suffering animals brought in for treatment.

Her affinity for animals dates back to her childhood. Through the years, there were several pets — dogs and cats and such. And there is one she’ll never forget.

“When I was in the third grade, I had a cat. Her name was Whiskers,” she said. “When we first got her, she was very scared and shy. For the first year, she hid behind our TV set and, finally, she came out. She became my best friend. She slept at the foot of my bed. My little kitty, I carried her everywhere. She was very dear to my heart.

“Yes, I remember Whiskers.”

And now, Mrs. Decker is in a position to help such animals as Whiskers and give their owners a measure of comfort and assurance.

But getting there was no easy thing.

A 2003 graduate of Northside High School in Jackson, she is also a 2007 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture with a concentration in animal science with a business option.

While pursuing the four-year degree, she worked part-time for Dr. Leland Davis at Reelfoot Animal Hospital. “I worked 20 to 25 hours a week. That, and school work, was enough to keep me very busy,” she said.

“My last semester at UT Martin, I took 22 hours of academic courses and worked here, too. It was tough, but like they say, you do what you have to do.”

After moving to Union City, she moved into a new job at Reelfoot.

She kept her grades up and got her veterinary medical technician license in May 2008.

“Applying from Columbia qualified me to take state veterinary exams,” she said. “I was notified (last week) that I passed the exams and am now a certified and licensed veterinary medical technician. It is a dream that finally came true.”

A few months after graduating from UTM, she enrolled at Columbia State Community College for a veterinary technician course. In May 2008, she graduated from CSCC.

“Graduating from Columbia qualified me to take state veterinary exams,” she said. “I was notified (last week) that I passed the exams and am now a certified and licensed veterinary medical technician. It is a dream that finally came true.”

Mrs. Decker said she is happy to be on the Reelfoot Animal Hospital staff as a full-time technician.

“I like the small-town atmosphere. In a clinic like this, you can have more client relationships, get to know the animals and the people who bring them to us for treatment. I love my job,” she said.
Freeland to sign ‘Blood River To Berlin’

Author Michael Freeland will read from and sign copies of his book, “Blood River to Berlin: The World War II Journal of an Army Medic,” 2-4 p.m., Sept. 10, at the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The World War II era represents a defining period in U.S. history, a time when the nation as a whole was united with a common goal.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor mobilized the nation under President Franklin Roosevelt in a campaign to defeat the Germans, Italians and Japanese.

More than half a century after it ended, World War II remains the most destructive conflict in human history.

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Young men from all ranks of life enlisted in the armed services. Some young women also enlisted in the new women’s services.

On the home front, others became Red Cross volunteers making bandages, meeting troop trains with coffee and cookies.

All segments of society were affected by food rationing and shortages of gasoline, automobiles and other essentials.

For the first time in history, women went off to work in war plants and industry. Rosie the Riveter became as much an icon as Uncle Sam; children bought war savings bonds, collected scrap metal and paper.

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Freeland was a businessman in Carroll and Benton counties where he established radio stations, WFWL, WHDM and WKTA-FM.
Martin holds 15th annual festival

By MARIANN MARTIN
mmartin10@jacketsun.com

MARTIN — Think you don’t like soybeans? How about M&Ms and Cracker Jack?

“So many different things contain soybeans that you would never think about, including M&Ms, Cracker Jacks, marinade and crayons,” said Martin Mayor Randy Brundige. “Everybody names their festivals after something, and we decided the soybean would be a good thing since we are a huge farming community.”

This year Martin and Weakley County residents celebrate the versatile bean with the 15th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival. The weeklong event includes a parade, a carnival, concerts, a 5K run and a barbecue cookoff as part of the many festivities.

Last year, about 50,000 people attended throughout the week, and this year is expected to be even bigger.

Please see FESTIVAL, 2B

City honors versatile bean

The flagline from the University of Tennessee at Martin leads the marching band during the Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade on Tuesday evening in downtown Martin.

Braedyn Hazlewood, 3, sorts through the candy she collected at the Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade.

Anna Claire Gallien runs into the street to grab a bag of candy as she watches the Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade in downtown Martin.
Festival highlights

Today
- Salute to our Heroes, 6:30 a.m.
- Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m.
- Street Fair, 5 p.m. to midnight
- Concert: Martin Area Ministerial Alliance Faith and Community Night, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday
- Golf Tournament, 11 a.m.
- Street Fair, 5 p.m. to midnight
- Concert: Corey Smith, 8 p.m.

Friday
- School Children’s
- Street Fair, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Street Fair, 5 p.m. to midnight
- Concert: Nashville Song Writers, 5 p.m.
- Barbecue Cookoff, 5 p.m.
- Concert: Voo Doo Village, 6:30 p.m.
- Concert: Peacemakers, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
- 5K Race Run/Walk, 7:30 a.m.
- 12th annual Car & Bike Show, 3 p.m.
- Awards Presentation
- Bikers for Books Poker Run, 8 a.m.
- Antique Tractor Show, 9 a.m.
- Soybean Sporting Clay Shoot, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Street Fair/Carnival, 10 a.m. to midnight
- Pet Show, 2 p.m.
- Concert: Margarita Beach, 5 to 9 p.m.
- Concert: Peacemakers, 7:30 p.m.
- Concert: Lonestar, 9 p.m.

Sunday
- Bicycle Rodeo, 2 p.m.
- Bass Anglers Fishing Rodeo and Casting Contest, 3 p.m.

For more information, call Kimberly Craddock at (731) 588-2507, or visit tnsoybeanfestival.org

Brundige said.
“Almost everything is free,” he said. “This year we even have Lonestar in concert.”

On Tuesday night, people lined the street to watch the parade, complete with tractors of every size, shape and color. Children waved plastic bags and scrambled to fill them with candy tossed from passing vehicles.

“We come out every year,” Clyde Miles said as he sat in a chair at the edge of the street waiting for the parade. The 76-year-old was a city alderman when the festival started, and he has lived in Martin all his life.

“We wanted something to draw the community together,” he said. “This is an event that has activities for everyone.”

Naming the festival after the soybean brings support from the farming community and the agriculture center at the University of Tennessee Martin, Miles said.

The Tennessee Soybean Council also is heavily involved in the festival by helping to sponsor events and promote awareness about soybeans, Brundige said.

“We could never afford these concerts without all our sponsors,” the mayor said.

The festival does not raise any money, but simply aims to break even, he said.

In addition to the free concerts, a big hit is the Chicken Crazy, Hog Wild Barbecue Cookoff on Friday night.

Festival workers feed around 10,000 people with free barbecue that night, Brundige said, handing out anywhere from 2,500 to 5,000 chickens.

Johnny Richwine, who grew up in Martin, said the Hog Wild event has always been a favorite.

“You can’t beat the free food,” he said with a grin.

On Tuesday night, Richwine, a senior at UT Martin, helped put on a community picnic. The event is sponsored by his fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, and is held every year at the same time as the Soybean Festival.

“We invite the community leaders and all the people that live around the fraternity house,” Richwine said.

Several streets away, The Return, a Beatles tribute band, tuned its instruments for a concert right after the parade.

The band, from just outside Atlanta, came back to Martin for the third time, said Mike Fulop.
MARTIN, Tenn., Sept. 3 -- The University of Tennessee at Martin issued the following news release:

Koichi Funayama, acting consul-general of Japan in Nashville, will visit the University of Tennessee at Martin, Sept. 10. As part of his campus visit, he will speak in the International Lecture Series, from 11-11:50 a.m., in 205A, Boling University Center, with the topic, "Perspectives on the Japan-U.S. Relationship." The lecture is free and open to the public.

"As we all realize, Japan has become one of the United States' principal partners in Asia, playing a key role in our foreign policy in the Pacific," said Dr. Paul Cram, Center for Global Studies and International Education director. "Japan also contributes significantly to the economic well-being of our country ... and state. Indeed, as Tennessee has found itself at the center of the realigned U.S. auto industry, Japanese companies have followed the lead of domestic automakers and have established operations within the borders of our state. Toyota has opened a casting plan in Jackson. Nissan has located its North-American headquarters just south of Nashville. And, more than 150 Japanese suppliers have moved into our state to produce parts for the auto industry." He added, "Japan's decision to open a Consulate-General in Nashville this past spring is clear recognition of the growing importance of the Japanese business community in Tennessee. We are most fortunate to have the first consul-general visit our campus and give us his reflections on the special relationship which the United States shares with Japan."

Funayama has served as first secretary, Embassy of Japan, Bangkok, Thailand; councilor, Embassy of Japan, Bangkok (posted at the Embassy in Bangkok three times; altogether 14 years); chief officer, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Section, Embassy of Japan, Jakarta, Indonesia; deputy consul-general and consul, Consulate-General of Japan, New Orleans. He received his education at Nihon University and Thammasart University (Thailand).

The event is co-sponsored by the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and the Center for Global Studies and International Education. For more information, call the center at 731-881-1017.

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Author to read and sign books next week at UT Martin's library

Author Michael Freeland will read from and sign copies of his book, “Blood River to Berlin: The World War II Journal of an Army Medic,” 2-4 p.m., Sept. 10 at the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The World War II era represents a defining period in U.S. history, a time when the nation as a whole was united with a common goal. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor mobilized the nation under President Franklin Roosevelt in a campaign to defeat the Germans, Italians and Japanese.

More than half a century after it ended, World War II remains the most destructive conflict in human history. It involved all the major industrial countries, wrought unparalleled destruction, and it targeted civilians to an unprecedented extent.

Young men from all ranks of life enlisted in the armed services. Some young women also enlisted in the new women's services. On the home front, others became Red Cross volunteers making bandages, meeting troop trains with coffee and cookies. All segments of society were affected by food rationing and shortages of gasoline, automobiles and other essentials. For the first time in history, women went off to work in war plants and industry. Rosie the Riveter became as much an icon as Uncle Sam; children bought war savings bonds, collected scrap metal and paper.

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EARNED DEGREE — Jake Underwood (center), son of Mike and Kristi Underwood of Union City, recently received a bachelor of science degree in health and human performance from the University of Tennessee at Martin during recent summer commencement, held in the Elam Center on campus. Among those on hand to congratulate him were his brother, Zach, and his sister, Ally.
Seismic Safety Commission to meet at UT Martin; public invited

The West Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission will meet, September 4, at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and the public is invited. Slated for 12:15-2 p.m., the meeting will be in Room 229, Boling University Center, Wayne Fisher Drive, Martin.

The West Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission is a 12-member board, appointed as follows: two members chosen by the speaker of the house of representatives, two members chosen by the speaker of the senate and eight members appointed by the governor. The members include persons who represent the following professional areas: architecture, fire protection, public utilities, engineering, geology or seismology, local government, insurance, business, emergency health services, nonprofit emergency assistance, local education and emergency management. The commission mission, with the assistance and participation of other state, federal and local government agencies, is to initiate a comprehensive program to prepare the state for responding to a major earthquake.

For directions, special accommodations, or additional information, contact Gary Patterson at 901-678-5264 or Bev Cook at 901-678-5561.
‘Ships’ at UT Martin ensure institution stays on course, mission

From partnerships, internships and scholarships to championships, leadership and relationships, Dr. Tom Rakes, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, gave examples in his annual fall faculty address of what some of those “ships” mean to UT Martin and the region. He also offered several observations in pursuing the institution’s goals during the current economic conditions.

“By ‘ships’ I am referring to the value we bring to ourselves, our students, alumni, friends, business, community and other stakeholders,” said Rakes.

The chancellor spoke about relationships citing the connections faculty members foster with their students and colleagues. “I begin by thanking so many of you who, day in and day out, take the extra effort to ensure we offer the finest learning experience we can,” Rakes told those attending the meeting.

He also highlighted a major partnership for the next several years that will involve components of the Tennessee Campus Compact meshed with the UT Martin American Democracy Project and a reconfigured LEAD Academy. Citizenship, leadership, internships and stewardship all will be enhanced by this initiative. “Developing involved, informed student citizens in their academic, social and governmental communities will continue to be a cornerstone of UT Martin’s service-learning initiatives,” Rakes said.

Also an outgrowth of other relationships and partnerships, he highlighted UT Martin’s major growth areas - the extended campus and online programs - which now represent approximately 12 percent of the total enrollment. He added that a possible record or near-record enrollment this fall semester of first-year students in the institution’s history.

Speaking about overall growth and progress, he said, “Through multiple sites … we are realistically positioning ourselves to be more relevant and more viable as a university.”

Additionally, Rakes cited improvements to campus facilities as a sign that goals of the past are being met. “We completed renovation of the business building, Elam Center and a portion of the humanities building renovation, and the Brehm Hall expansion is under way, not to mention more than $50 million in completed residence hall construction during the past four to five years.” The chancellor also commented about the new animal diagnostic center, improvements to athletic facilities and touted planned construction of a student recreation center, the first phase of the Fine Arts Building expansion and renovation of Duncan Ballroom in the university center.

Turning his comments to recent system-wide budget news and how that affects UT Martin, he said, “Consider three to four observations related to the positive side of what we are facing. Many share our situation … Our citizens, our alumni, the public in general are feeling the crunch. Some area businesses and non-profit groups are struggling.” He added that there is a continued upswing in external interest in UT Martin that is reflected in overall enrollment and supportive alumni.

Finally, he added, “We have the collective knowledge and experience to strategically plan and manage our situation.”

As part of that management, he said “strategic allocation,” planning reductions and reallocations, not across-the-board approach, is being implemented. Resources will be maintained for the strongest, most essential mission-linked units, programs and services. And, campus-wide groups will be involved in the planning.

In closing, he said, “Consider the work environment we have your valuable role. Consider how well off we are and how much better we are than we might be. I am asking each of you to link your ‘power of one’ - leadership scholarship, entrepreneurship, stewardship, partnership - with a least one or two other persons as we enter this academic year.” He added, “Our successes will not be determined by chance, but by the wise choices and decisions we make - data-driven, calculated - but tempered by the realities of our strengths as a group of professional, positive individuals.

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May to give election year insight during UTM lecture

Dr. Vaughn May

Former University of Tennessee at Martin professor Dr. Vaughn May will speak at 7:30 p.m., September 8, in Watkins Auditorium at UT Martin, as the inaugural speaker in the 2008-09 Academic Speakers Series.

A specialist in American and Southern politics, as well as the politics of the Civil Rights movement, May is the author of a variety of articles on American politics appearing in such publications as the Southeastern Political Review, Studies in Popular Culture, Tennessee Historical Quarterly and the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture. He recently co-founded and serves as editor and lead ad-

visor of the Right Aisle Review, a campus newspaper designed to offer a voice to conservative/libertarian students looking to editorialize about political issues concerning the Belmont community.

In the midst of the presidential campaign, May notes "scholars from a variety of disciplines recognize the importance of candidate narratives in shaping political success. What stories are Barack Obama and John McCain telling in 2008? Which stories are likely to cohere with young voters?"

"The 2008 elections promise to be among the most historically significant in recent memory," said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin Honors Program director. "With serious foreign and domestic crises at hand, voters need all of the information necessary to make an informed decision at the polls. Vaughn May will cut through the campaign rhetoric and present the candidates and the issues in an accessible manner which will allow the audience to gain a clear understanding of the most pressing issues and the stance of the candidates upon them."

Having received his doctorate in political science in 1996 from Vanderbilt University, May joined the faculty of UT Martin, where he served from 1996 through 2002. May established himself as an outstanding young faculty member and earned numerous awards and honors, including the University of Tennessee National Alumni Award for Outstanding Teaching (2001) and the university's Outstanding Advisor Award (1999). In 2003, May joined the faculty of Belmont University in Nashville. In this position, as well as his role as an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University, he has continued to excel. He was appointed chair of the Political Science Department at Belmont and, in 2006, received the Tower Award for Exceptional Contribution to Campus Life.

His visit will be sponsored by Honors Programs with the Department of Management, Marketing and Political Science as co-sponsor. For more information, contact McDonough at 731-881-7436 or damc@utm.edu.
UT Martin’s McNairy County campus prepares for expansion

By RUSSELL INGLE
Staff Writer

Additional classrooms, office space and restroom facilities headline the changes that are forthcoming at UT Martin’s McNairy County campus in the not-too-distant future. Local campus director Deidra Beene, confirmed that plans have been approved and finalized through TLM Associates and that the bidding process is underway.

Beene says the plans call for four additional classrooms, three additional offices and new restrooms. The new addition, which will be approximately 4,330 square feet, will be joined by a hallway in the campus’ Tech room, towards the back of the current building.

Currently, the campus offers the Bachelor of University Studies (BUS) degree, the Elementary Education (K-6) degree and Masters of Education classes. Starting this fall, the local campus will also offer degrees in Social Work and History.

“This [expansion] will allow us to offer more programs and classes,” Beene said.

Bids for the project will be opened at 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 4. According to McNairy County Mayor Jai Templeton, the Selmer City Board and the McNairy County Commission Building Committee will meet at the UT Center to look over the bids.

“Assuming the bids come in within the amount allocated I anticipate the building committee will then make a recommendation to the full commission at the September meeting and that the Selmer City board will take action as well at their September Board meeting,” said Templeton.

Both Mayor Templeton and Selmer Mayor David Robinson have worked with Beene to obtain funding to expand the local college campus. Each believes that by offering a more complete college facility to local residents, improves chances for economic growth.

“The campus here has been an enormous positive impact on McNairy County,” said Templeton. “We want to attract higher paying jobs and it is important to have an educated workforce.”

“UT Martin adds tremendously to the assets and resources of our community, offering educational benefits to our citizens close to home, as well as helping in attracting new industries to this area,” said Robinson. We are very fortunate to have such a resource and we encourage all of our citizens to take advantage of this tremendous asset.”

“The center has an economic impact of over one-half million dollars to our county’s economy,” added Templeton. “This doesn’t include the benefits and opportunities to the students. In many ways those are priceless. It is a unique recruiting tool for prospective industries not only for our county but those surrounding us.”

“We are in the initial stages of developing a master plan for the remainder of the campus,” Templeton continued. “We have some individuals involved that have high hopes and a true vision for the center. I’m confident that we’ll continue to make the center a success and a true testament to what our county can do when we have a collective cause and base it around what is good for our area as a whole.”

Robinson added that the process has been long, but will be worth it in the end.

“We are pleased to finally begin the needed expansion for the campus,” Robinson said. “All of the partners, UT Martin, McNairy County and the Town of Selmer, have discussed the plans and are in agreement.”

The expansion project was made possible when a state grant totaling $500,000 was awarded to the facility. State Representative Randy Rinks and Senator John Wilder assisted in obtaining the grant.

According to Beene, construction will start soon after the bid is awarded, and if all goes according to plan, should be completed by August 2009.

“This is a special place where we have students of all ages,” said Beene, director of the campus since 2004. We are glad to be getting new classrooms.”

Beene said the expansion will be built so that more classrooms can be added in the future as the need arises. This will be the first expansion of the facility since it opened in 1998.

Local leaders and UT Martin administrators are preparing for expansion at the McNairy County campus.
UT Martin chancellor: 'Ships' ensure institution on course

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Realizing lifelong goal: Applying healing hand to suffering animals

By John Brannon
Special to The Press

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At age 23 and married, she's graduated from two colleges and makes a daily commute from her home in Sharon to Union City, where she is a veterinary medical technician at Reelfoot Animal Hospital.

She will tell you she's doing what she's always wanted to do — apply a healing hand to sick and suffering animals brought in for treatment. Her affinity for animals dates back to her childhood.

Through the years, there were several pets — dogs and cats and such. And there is one she'll never forget.

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And now, Decker is in a position to help such animals as Whiskers and give their owners a measure of comfort and assurance. But getting there was no easy thing.

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While pursuing the four-year degree, she worked part-time for Dr. Leland Davis at Reelfoot Animal Hospital.

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"My last semester at UT Martin, I took 22 hours of academic courses and worked here, too. It was tough, but like they say, 'you do what you have to do.' A few months after graduating from UT Martin, she enrolled at Columbia State Community College for a veterinary technician course. In May 2008, she graduated from CSCC.

"Graduating from Columbia qualified me to take state (veterinary) exams," she said.

"I was notified (last week) that I passed the exams and am now a certified and licensed veterinary medical technician. It is a dream that finally came true."

Apparently, the drive to acquire education and climb the tough ladder of life is shared by her husband, Robert. A student at UT, he works in Memphis on weekends and has a side job in Henry County.

"For this young couple, time together is like two ships passing in the night. "That's pretty much the way it is," she said. "We have the same day off, though. So that's something."

Decker is the daughter of Dickie and Kim Bearden of Jackson. She has two sisters — Crystal Jowers of Lexington and Britney Beard of Jackson.

Decker said she is happy to be on the Reelfoot Animal Hospital staff as a full-time technician.

"I like the small-town atmosphere. In a clinic like this, you can have more client relationships, get to know the animals and the people who bring them to us for treatment. I love my job," she said.
Workshop available

Anyone interested in expanding their businesses online is invited to attend a free workshop, "e-Commerce and Your Business: Take Your Business Online," from 9-11 a.m. Sept. 23 at the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce, located at 114 West Maple St. in Dresden.

The instructor will be Steve Holt, University of Tennessee at Martin Instructional Technology Center and Web Services director.

The seminar will show businesses and individuals the many different options they have to sell their products online.

Examples will be shown and step-by-step instructions will be given.

Those interested may register by phone at (731) 587-7333 or online at www.utm.edu/reed.

The Regional Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (REED) Center serves existing entrepreneurs and supports economic development in rural northwest Tennessee.

UT Martin choral society begins rehearsals

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music has announced the return of the Martin Choral Society. This community choir ensemble encourages all interested people in Northwest Tennessee, vocally experienced and those with limited experience, to come and join this group.

The first performance will be of the "Messiah," by George Fredrick Handel, Nov. 30. Rehearsals are scheduled at 7 p.m., on Monday evenings, beginning Sept. 29 and will be held in the chorale room of the Fine Arts Building, located at 16 Mt. Pelia Road on the campus of UT Martin. Music scores will be provided, but singers are welcome to bring their own copies. Registration is not required, and there is no fee. For more information, contact Dr. Mark Simmons, UT Martin assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, at 731-881-7412 (email: mark@utm.edu), or Sherry Adams at 731-881-7402 (email: sadams@utm.edu).

St. Benedict had an unprecedented number of students selected by Tennessee Governor's Schools who are attending institutes this summer: Anna Cabe, Governor's School for the Humanities at UT-Martin; Daniel Saba of Cordova, Governor's School for International Studies at the University of Memphis; Kaitlyn Stoddard of Eads and Johnny Tracy of Oakland, Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences at UT-Martin; Rebecca McCarthy of Eads, Governor's School for Computational Physics at Austin Peay St. University; Nathan Cummings of Memphis, Governor's School for Emerging Technologies at Tenn. Tech University; Rebekah Hermann of Eads, Governor's School for Scientific Models & Data Analysis at East TN State; and Brea Armstrong of Arlington and John Blount of Eads, Governor's School for Prospective Teachers at UT-Chattanooga.
CROSSROADS MEETING AT MAYOR'S KICKOFF LUNCHEON
- Sandy Brundige, wife of Martin Mayor Randy Brundige (from left) looks on as former Tennessee Gov. Ned Ray McWherter shakes hands with Con. John Tanner. University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes was also on hand at the Mayor's Kickoff Luncheon hosted last week as part of the 15th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival. The festival was held throughout the week and offered a barbecue cookoff, car show, street fair, free concerts, merchants' sidewalk sale and several concerts. For more pics from the event, see Page 2.

Edith Adcox and Janey Tyner check Caleb Harrison's ID for the free concerts held Friday and Saturday night on No. Lindell between the Opera House and Harrison Supply.
The 15th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival was amazing this year with new events, old favorites and the downtown streets of Martin filled with music this year. More pictures will run in our Thursday events of the sights and sounds of The BEAN!

Indie favorite Corey Smith rocked the college crowd Thursday night.

Nadine Gearin, Betty Giles and Audrey Roberts at the Community Luncheon at Festival Park last Wednesday.
Doug Cook hangs a sunflower portrait in preparation for the Tennessee Soybean Festival's Art Show last Wednesday. This year offered cash prizes for the winners of the event which featured photographs, paintings and sketches by local artists displayed at the C.E. Weldon Public Library.

Daniel Doss dazzles the crowd at Wednesday night's Faith and Inspiration concert on the main stage during the Soybean Festival.
Constitution Week to be observed at UTM

The U.S. Constitution will be at the center of several events slated at the University of Tennessee at Martin, during Constitution Week this month. Events will be sponsored by the UT Martin American Democracy Project and the Student Government Association. They are free and open to the public.

The observance will begin with the movie, "Iron Jawed Angels," to be shown at 6 p.m., Sept. 15, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center.

Dr. Harry C. Boyte, founder and co-director of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the University of Minnesota Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, will speak on the subject "Redeeming the American Dream: State Universities and the Future of Democracy," 7:30 p.m., Sept. 16, in Watkins Auditorium.

Since 1987, Boyte has worked with a variety of partners in Minnesota, nationally and internationally on community development, citizenship education and civic renewal. Currently, Boyte is working with state legislators, community groups, immigrants, foundations and nonprofit, religious, educational, neighborhood and citizen organizations to create Minnesota Works Together, a movement to strengthen civic life in Minnesota. He also serves on the steering advisory committee of the University of Minnesota's Office of Public Engagement. For several months each year, Boyte resides in South Africa, where is working with colleagues to analyze models of citizen democracy across Africa. Working with the Institute for Democracy in South Africa, he co-directed Lessons from the Field, an in-depth look at what has happened to South African democracy since the election of President Nelson Mandela in 1994. In the 1960s, Boyte worked for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a field secretary with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the Southern civil rights movement.

Prior to Boyte's speech, UT Martin student leaders will meet from 2:30-3:45 p.m., in Room 206A, university center, to discuss which knowledge-acquisition and life-strategy values are right for the student culture at UT Martin (or for any university). The ideas generated from this discussion will be used in a UT Martin Values Summit slated for Oct. 30. This Values Summit will draw from discussions with student leaders, administrators, faculty and community members. The summit will also be a celebration of the civic engagement work being done at UT Martin and a time to plan more projects.

Capping activities, a voter registration drive (co-sponsored by the SGA) is planned for Sept. 16-18, in the university center.

For more information, contact Dr. Mike McCullough, ADP director, at 881-7325 or mccullou@utm.edu, or Dr. Heidi Huse, assistant professor of English, at 881-7280 or hhouse@utm.edu.

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Mistric and Salyers art featured

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will again host a series of senior art exhibitions throughout the school year. First to exhibit this year will be John Mistric, an art studio emphasis student from Dyer, and Kara Salyers, an art education emphasis student from Humboldt. The exhibition will begin with an opening reception, slated from 5-7 p.m., Sept. 9, in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

The exhibition will run through Sept. 20. It will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 881-7400.
Chicago Cabaret Professionals will present 'Women of Paris'

Co-founders of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals, Claudia Hommel and her musical partner Bob Moreen will present “Women of Paris” at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 17, in Harriet Fulton Theatre located in the Fine Arts Building.

In “Women of Paris,” Hommel celebrates female singers of Paris — among them, Paulette Darty, the creator of the 1905 song, “Fascination;” Mistynguet, for whom was written “My Man;” African-American entertainers adopted by Paris as its own, Josephine Baker and Bricktop; the icon of post-war Left Bank “beat,” Juliette Gréco, and the superstar of French chanson, Edith Piaf. They will give a pre-concert presentation at the theater at 7 p.m.

Hommel is a national touring and recording artist. Born in Paris, raised in Detroit, seasoned in New York, and longtime resident of Chicago, she draws her repertoire from 20th century popular French chansons, the American songbook and international art songs. In addition to Parisian cabaret shows, her acclaimed Jazz Faure Project, “where French impressionism meets American jazz,” toured in Paris in spring 2008 by invitation of the University of Chicago Paris Center.

Moreen has been featured in virtually every type of entertainment venue as soloist, accompanist and ensemble member. He has worked with name entertainers such as Gisele McKenzie, Peter Palmer, Greta Keller, the Incomparable Hildegarde and Shirley Jones, and is sought after as music director, accompanist and coach by Chicago’s favorite cabaret singers. The Chicago Sun-Times calls him, “a special, eclectic piano player.”

In the Chicago Tribune, Howard Reich describes him as “an impressive singer in his own right — the complete entertainer.” Moreen’s theatrical credits include work at Chicago’s Goodman Theatre and the former Body Politic.

Come for the “ooh-la-la” and stay for sheer joy. You may not speak a word of French but you’ll understand the nuance of every song. Hommel and Moreen have distilled the energy of Parisian music-hall with a dose of intimate Chicago-style cabaret to create a theater piece that will transport you to Paris.

The production is supported by the Department of Music, the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and the Center for Global Studies and International Education. For more information, contact Dr. Amy Yeung, associate professor of music, at 881-7408. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.

AIIUE PRESENTS PAPER
- Dr. S.K. Airee, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of chemistry, participated in the 20th International Conference on Chemical Education in Mauritius in August. The theme of the meeting was “Chemistry in the ICT Age.” He presented a paper, “Green Chemistry in the Context of Curricular, Extra-curricular and Community Outreach Activities.” Besides the presentation, he was also chair of a session “Chemistry at Secondary and Tertiary Level.” The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) sponsored the meeting; Airee became an IUPAC Fellow in 2006. Mauritius is an island nation off the coast of the African continent east of Madagascar.

Beilke and Rogers featured in exhibit

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host the second in a series of senior art exhibition offerings for the 2008-09 school year with an art exhibition representing the works of Ali Beilke, an art studio emphasis student from Wildersville, and Mallory Rogers, an art education emphasis student from Lynchburg. The exhibition will begin with an opening reception, slated from 5-7 p.m., Sept. 23, in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

The exhibition will run through homecoming on Oct. 4. It is free and open to the public.

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

AAUW to meet

The American Association of University Women will hold its first meeting of the year at 6 p.m., Sept. 11, at the C.E. Weldon Library, Martin. Cherry Watts, assistant professor of educational studies, will be the featured speaker. Her topic will be “China: Women, Education and the Olympics,” in which she will use knowledge gained from her trip last year to China to discuss recent events in China.

The event is a covered-dish meeting. The program will begin at approximately 6:25 p.m.
Mason to teach percussion clinic

On Sept. 19, Brian Mason, assistant professor of percussion at Morehead State University, will be instructing a percussion clinic in the band room. A “Hands on Clinic” will take place from 3-4 p.m. and a “Vibraphone Improvisation Master Class” will follow from 4-5 p.m.

Mason has traveled throughout the United States, Mexico, Japan, Canada and Korea while gaining worldwide recognition for his percussion writing and teaching. He is best known as a co-author of the 2006 Modern Drummer Reader’s Polls “No. 1 Drum Set Method Book, The Commandments of R&B Drumming.”

Mason is director of the award-winning marching percussion ensemble and a member of the faculty jazz ensemble, the faculty chamber ensemble, the faculty brass quintet and the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra. Mason received his master’s degree in music at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and is pursuing a doctorate in music at the University of Kentucky, where he also received a bachelor of music degree.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of music, at 881-7418 or go to www.utm.edu/percussion.

USDA grant, matching funds provide $135,000 to students in global agriculture

The Office of International Science and Education Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that the University of Tennessee at Martin has been awarded $99,999 for a Global Agriculture Leadership Incubator Project (GALIP). With additional funds provided by UT Martin, the total project amount is $134,999.

Dr. Joseph Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural economics, will serve as project director of this pilot model for internationalizing the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources curriculum. Mehlhorn worked with Andrew Brown, assistant director for international initiatives, UT Martin Center for Global Studies and International Education, and Dr. Bonnie Daniel, senior research associate, UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts, to develop the proposal. Brown will serve as evaluator of the project.

“The GALIP grant program will allow UT Martin students and faculty to gain valuable experience in international agriculture trade issues,” said Mehlhorn. “In today’s global agriculture marketplace, it is essential to have an understanding of social, economic and technological factors facing consumers and producers in other countries.

“This is a chance of a lifetime for our students to experience another culture and learn another language,” he added. “This will enable UT Martin students to be more marketable for international jobs in agriculture. The program will also allow faculty members to better incorporate international issues into the curriculum.”

While this project will work specifically with the University of Guanajuato and Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Narro in Mexico, this model can be modified for application in other countries in the future. Participating students will earn an International Agriculture Certificate through 18 hours of coursework in agriculture topics, language and travel study. Students and faculty will spend four weeks in Mexico in an intensive, language immersion experience.

The following fall, students, faculty and agribusiness leaders will return to Mexico for one week and will present case studies. Back in the U.S., students will present their international case studies at regional professional conferences and at vocational agriculture programs at local schools. GALIP participants will increase their cross-cultural competence, and the revised curriculum will create new forums of dialogue about international agriculture issues.

“Mexico is one of the largest trading partners to the U.S. and is vitally important to U.S. consumers,” said Mehlhorn. “There is a great deal we can learn from studying Mexican agriculture that can make our producers and agribusinesses more competitive in the global marketplace. By understanding Mexican consumers and producers, we can better target our products for their market and increase the flow of goods between our two nations. This is truly a unique opportunity for students.”

For more information, contact Mehlhorn at 731-881-7257 or mehlhorn@utm.edu.
AG ECONOMY IN FOCUS — Farmers, lenders and agribusiness professionals received the most up-to-date information about the agricultural economy at the recent seventh annual Mid-South Ag Finance Conference. The conference, held at the University of Tennessee at Martin, featured Dr. David Kohl. He is one of the world’s leading ag economists who serves on policy boards and manages his own farming operation. Kohl focused on sustaining profits and maintaining investment value in a turbulent economy. Also featured was Dr. Matthew Roberts from Ohio State University, who discussed the opportunities and pitfalls of global competition, alternate uses and other factors affecting livestock, commodity prices and land values. Among those attending were (from left) Roberts, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics at Ohio State; Bob Egerton, president, CoBank Eastern Region Division, representing one of the sponsors; Dr. Tom Payne, UT-Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business interim chair; and Kohl, professor emeritus in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech.

Mason to teach percussion clinic at UT Martin campus

On Sept. 19, Brian Mason, assistant professor of percussion at Morehead State University, will be instructing a percussion clinic in the UT Martin band room. A “Hands on Clinic” will take place from 3-4 p.m. and a “Vibraphone Improvisation Master Class” will follow from 4-5 p.m.

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Mason is director of the award-winning marching percussion ensemble and a member of the faculty jazz ensemble, the faculty chamber ensemble, the faculty brass quintet and the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra. Mason received his master’s degree in music at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and is pursuing a doctorate in music at the University of Kentucky, where he also received a bachelor of music degree.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of music, at 731-881-7418 or go to www.utm.edu/percussion.
Former area resident, Major Peeler attributes success to small town values

Major Michael L. Peeler attributes his accomplishments to his small town upbringing. Major Peeler is a proud member of the United States Army's Field Artillery Corps.

The son of Benjamin and Christine Peeler, he was born July 25, 1971 at Saint Mary's Medical Center in Humboldt.

He grew up in Gadsden with five siblings, three brothers and two sisters, Benjamin Jr., Yolanda Peeler-Jackson, Julian Peeler, Shayna Peeler and Brandon Peeler.

Peeler is a 1989 graduate of the Crockett County School district. After graduating from high school, he began what would be an almost 20-year military career. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the armed services.

Gaining experience and encouragement from several members of the Tennessee National Guard (units in Humboldt and Martin), he decided to enroll at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) where he majored in physical education and health.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a field artillery second lieutenant and met and married the former Stephanie L. Lockett of Memphis.

The Peeler's are the proud parents of two daughters, Jacolby and Kristian.

During Major Peeler's military career, he has served both overseas and stateside. He has also served a combat tour in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Major Peeler and his family are currently stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where he attends the Command and General Staff College. He is also completing his Masters in Adult Education at Kansas State University.

Major Peeler and his family are scheduled to be assigned to Fort Campbell, Ky. later this year. They will reside in Clarksville, Tenn.

"My belief in God and the small town experience has given me the drive and motivation required to successfully achieve my goals," Peeler said recently.

"The United States Army continues to build on those values instilled in me by proud members of a small town — serving proudly!" he added.
Skyhawks schedule marching band invitational competition

Featuring 25-30 high school marching bands from Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky, bands of all sizes will face off in competition before a panel of experts at University of Tennessee Martin's Graham Stadium on Sept. 20.

The event is set to start at 1:30 p.m. and to conclude at approximately 10 p.m. A variety of music styles will be performed, including everything from classical music to rap, Broadway musicals and classic rock. There will also be exhibition performances by the UT Martin Skyhawk Marching Band and the UT Martin Steel Drum Band.

There is an admission fee for audience members (includes contest program). Children four and younger will be admitted for free. Concessions will be available at the stadium throughout this event.

Contact Dr. Bradley Coker, assistant professor of music, at 731-881-7401 for more info.

Martin Choral Society rehearsals to begin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music has announced the return of the Martin Choral Society. This community choir ensemble encourages all interested people in Northwest Tennessee, vocally experienced and those with limited experience, to come and join this group.

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For more information, contact Dr. Mark Simmons, UT Martin assistant professor of music at 731-881-7412 (email: marks@utm.edu), or Sherry Adams at 731-881-7402 (email: sadams@utm.edu).

Local 'Step Up 4 Kids' event a part of nationwide effort

To spotlight the need for national, state and individual investments in all children, the Every Child Matters Education Fund (www.everychildmatters.org) is sponsoring nationwide events called "Step Up 4 Kids" on Tuesday.

Their purpose is to draw public attention to issues - both positive and negative - affecting America's children: poverty, health care, juvenile incarceration, early care and education, child abuse and afterschool programs.

Locally, the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth will be spearheading nine individual "Step Up 4 Kids" regional events across Tennessee.

The free Northwest Regional "Step Up 4 Kids" Celebration will be held Tuesday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Student Life Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

The local celebration will feature hands-on activities, student performances, speakers, vendor booths and giveaways, prize drawings, fun, games and food for purchase.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and greet area legislators, visit with "Rocky T" the WLJТ Reading Ranger, try out the National Guard rock climbing wall, a fire simulator and a drunk driving car and much more.

Door prizes will include a computer, gas and food gift cards.

The Northwest Regional Step Up 4 Kids Celebration is a collaborative effort of northwest agencies that serve and/or advocate for children and families.

All children and adults who care about them are invited to be a part of this unique event, a spokesman said.

For more information, contact Dana Cobb, TCCY NW coordinator, at (731) 986-4243 or Sharye Hendrix at (731) 881-7868.
Miss McGaugh honored as top teacher

Amanda McGaugh of Thompson’s Station, a business teacher at Ravenwood High School in Brentwood, was recently honored as Teacher of the Year by Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee.

She is the daughter of Don and Caroline McGaugh of Union City.

Miss McGaugh graduated from Union City High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin before earning a master of business administration from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

Miss McGaugh was presented with the Teacher of the Year honor by Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee president Trent Klingensmith during recent Nashville Sounds pre-game activities at Greer Stadium.

Also honored was Ami Harvey of Caterpillar Financial Services as Volunteer of the Year.

Both honorees were recognized for their service to the organization and to students in the community after having been nominated by their peers out of 500 volunteers and 500 teachers.

They were selected for the awards based on their involvement in Junior Achievement and their commitment to the education of today’s youth and their passion to carry out the mission of the organization.

Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee, a franchise of JA Worldwide, aims to enhance the education of K-12 students through classroom programming focusing on the free enterprise system, workforce readiness and entrepreneurship.

Miss McGaugh has hosted JA programs, including JA Titan, Success Skills, Economics and Global Business Ethics, in her high school classrooms for the past five years.

“The curriculum JA provides works hand in hand with the state standards for those courses,” she said.

When asked why she invites JA programs and volunteers into her classroom, she explained it is because she has “seen the effect that the program has on my students firsthand and I’ve become a strong believer in JA because of that. I’ve learned to be much more open-minded about the way students learn.”

Bands to compete

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There will also be exhibition performances by the UT Martin Skyhawk Marching Band and the UT Martin Steel Drum Band.

Admission will be $8 for audience members ages 12 and older (includes contest program). Admission is $4 for children ages 5-11, and children 4 and younger will be admitted for free. Concessions will be available at the stadium throughout this event.

For more information, contact Dr. Bradley Coker, assistant professor of music, at 881-7401.

REED Center offers e-commerce seminar

A free seminar, “e-Commerce and Your Business: Take Your Business Online,” will be held from 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, at the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce, 114 West Maple, Dresden. Steve Holt of UT Martin will be the instructor. The course will show businesses and individuals the many different options they have to sell their products online. Examples will be shown and step-by-step instructions will be given. (This is not an eBay class.) The seminar guides participants through the process of setting up an online shopping cart for their business. Register by calling 587-7333 or register online at www.utm.edu/reed.
‘Women of Paris’ to be presented at UTM’s Harriet Fulton Theatre

Co-founders of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals, Claudia Hommel and her musical partner Bob Moreen, will present “Women of Paris” at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 17 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

In “Women of Paris,” Hommel celebrates female singers of Paris — among them Paulette Darty, the creator of the 1905 song “Fascination”; Mistinguett, for whom was written “My Man”; African-American entertainers adopted by Paris as its own, Josephine Baker and Bricktop; the icon of post-war Left Bank “beat,” Juliette Gréco; and the superstar of French chanson, Édith Piaf.

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The production is sponsored by the Department of Music, the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and the Center for Global Studies and International Education.

Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Amy Yeung, associate professor of music, at (731) 881-7408.

Fall enrollment numbers at UT Martin break record

The University of Tennessee at Martin continues to set all-time enrollment records, claims the largest percentage increase among Tennessee four-year public universities in preliminary fall reporting.

Along with that, UT Martin had record-high enrollments in six categories, based on fall 2008 enrollment figures.

A total of 7,578 students are enrolled for the fall semester, an increase from 7,173 recorded for fall 2007.

The fall 2008 total includes all-time record fall enrollments for total headcount, incoming freshmen, undergraduates, dual-enrollment students, total full-time equivalent and undergraduate full-time equivalent students. Public higher education funding is based on fall semester full-time equivalency.

“We are pleased to see this level of continued student interest in our programs,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. “Such enrollment growth is one indicator of support and affirmation concerning the overall quality of the college experience UT Martin provides.”

Based on final figures, this fall’s enrollment at UT Martin is a 5.6 percent increase over fall 2007. Final figures are compiled by the university’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

The record enrollment also reflects 1,342 freshmen, the largest freshman class on the UT Martin campus. Fall enrollment indicates that first-time freshmen have an average 3.38 high school grade-point average, up from 3.37 in 2007, and an average ACT score of 22.40, up from 22.07 in 2007.

“Although enrollment growth is exciting, more important is the fact that this entering class is the most academically capable group of new students we have admitted,” Rakes said.

Compared to last year’s totals, UT Martin will have 405 more undergraduates and graduates for a 5.6 percent increase and 113 additional dual-enrollment students, a 15.4 percent increase.

The enrollment growth trend follows the recent notification from The Princeton Review that named UT Martin a “Best Southeastern College” for 2009.
Martin Choral Society reorganized

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Voter registration drive, speaker, movie set to observe Constitution Week

The U.S. Constitution will be at the center of several events slated at the University of Tennessee at Martin during Constitution Week this month. Events will be sponsored by the UT Martin American Democracy Project and the Student Government Association. They are free and open to the public.

The observance will begin with the movie, "Iron Jawed Angels," to be shown at 6 p.m., September 15, in Watkins Auditorium of Boiling University Center.

Dr. Harry C. Boyte, founder and co-director of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the University of Minnesota Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, will speak on the subject "Redeeming the American Dream: State Universities and the Future of Democracy," 7:30 p.m., September 16, in Watkins Auditorium.

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For more information, contact Dr. Mike McCullough, ADP director, at 731-881-7325, or mccullou@utm.edu, or Dr. Heidi Huse, assistant professor of English, at 731-881-7280 or hhuse@utm.edu.

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Featuring 25-30 high school marching bands from Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky, bands of all sizes will face off in competition before a panel of experts at University of Tennessee Martin's Graham Stadium on September 20.

The event is set to start at 1:30 p.m. and to conclude at approximately 10:00 p.m. A variety of music styles will be performed, including everything from classical music to rap, Broadway musicals and classic rock. There will also be exhibition performances by the UT Martin Skyhawk Marching Band and the UT Martin Steel Drum Band.

Admission will be $8 for audience members ages 12 and older (includes contest program). Admission is $4 for children ages 5-11, and children 4 and younger will be admitted for free. Concessions will be available at the stadium throughout this event.

For more information, contact Dr. Bradley Coker, assistant professor of music, at 731-881-7401.
Enrollment up at both Union, UTM
Schools announce record numbers of students this year

The University of Tennessee Martin and Union University announced Thursday that they have record enrollment for the fall semester.

UT Martin has an increase of 405 students to 7,578. Last year, 7,173 students were enrolled for the fall semester.

"We are pleased to see this level of continued student interest in our programs," UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes said. "Such enrollment growth is one indicator of support and affirmation concerning the overall quality of the college experience UT Martin provides."

The record enrollment also includes the largest freshman class on the UT Martin campus, according to a university news release. There are 1,342 freshmen this semester.

The first-time freshmen have an average 3.38 high school grade-point average, up from 3.37 in 2007, and an average ACT score of 22.40, up from 22.07 in 2007.

This year's enrollment includes 405 more undergraduates and graduates for a 5.6 percent increase, and 113 additional dual-enrollment students, a 15.4 percent increase.

Union University has an increase of 437 students to 3,747. Last year, the university had 3,310 students enrolled in the fall semester. This is the 11th consecutive year for enrollment increase at the university, according to a Union news release.

"Seven months ago, we didn't know if Union University would still exist today," Union President David Dockery said in the release. "And now we're celebrating our highest enrollment ever and an unprecedented growth of 13 percent in a single year."

This year's enrollment includes 2,629 undergraduate students, compared to 2,382 last year, and 1,128 graduate students, compared to 928 last year.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

UT Martin Bass Anglers Team to Compete in National Tournament

MARTIN - UT Martin is among 57 schools from 23 states set to compete in the BoatUS National Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship, September 18-20, at Lake Lewisville near Dallas, Texas. Careco Multimedia and Fox College Sports are presenting the tournament.

UT Martin's bass anglers will have a pair of two-person teams in the competition that includes 108 teams, according to the tournament Web site. The university's team pairings are Matthew Tubbs (Savannah)/Kevin Shorey (Thompsons Station) and Michael Keatts (Indian Mound)/Matthew Jones (McKenzie). UT Martin joins teams from UT Knoxville and Freed-Hardeman University competing in the tournament from Tennessee.

To compete in the tournament, universities must have officially recognized school fishing programs. UT Martin's team is in its second year of competition and most recently finished 15th at the Under Armour College Bass National Championship, July 9-11, at Lake Maumelle in Little Rock, Ark. More information about the Texas tournament is available at www.collegiatebasschampionship.com.

“Step Up For Kids” event announced

We all know that our children should be the top priority of families and communities.

To spotlight the need for national, state, and individual investments in all of our children, the Every Child Matters Education Fund, www.everychildmatters.org, is sponsoring nation-wide events called “Step Up 4 Kids” on Tuesday, September 16th.

Their purpose is to draw public attention to issues, both positive and negative, affecting America's children: poverty, health care, juvenile incarceration, early care and education, child abuse and after-school programs.

Locally, the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth will be spearheading nine individual “Step Up 4 Kids” regional events across Tennessee.

The free NW Regional “Step Up 4 Kids” Celebration, will be held Tuesday, September 16, 2008, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., at the Student Life Center on the U.T. Martin Campus.

The Celebration will feature hands-on activities, student performances, speakers, vendor booths and giveaways, prize drawings, fun, games and food for purchase.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and greet area legislators, visit with Rocky TWLT’s Reading Ranger, and try out the National Guard Rock Climbing Wall, a Fire Simulator and Drunk Driving Car plus much more.

Door prices included: a computer (Donated by Wal-Mart), gas and food gift cards. The NW Regional “Step Up 4 Kids” Celebration, is a collaborative effort of Northwest agencies that serve and/or advocate for children and families.

All children and adults who care about them are invited to be part of this unique event. Please join us to celebrate children and address issues that affect them.

For additional information, please contact Dana Cobb, TCCY NW Coordinator, at 731-986-4243 or Sharye Hendrix, NWCCR & R, at 731-881-7868.
UTM has state's largest percentage enrollment increase in fall reporting

The University of Tennessee at Martin continues to set all-time enrollment records, claiming the largest percentage increase among Tennessee four-year public universities in preliminary fall reporting. Along with that, UT Martin had record-high enrollments in six categories, based on fall 2008 enrollment figures.

A total of 7,578 students are enrolled for the fall semester, an increase from 7,173 recorded for fall 2007.

The fall 2008 total includes all-time record fall enrollments for total headcount, incoming freshmen, undergraduates, dual-enrollment students, total full-time equivalent and undergraduate full-time equivalent students. Public higher education funding is based on fall semester full-time equivalency.

"We are pleased to see this level of continued student interest in our programs," said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. "Such enrollment growth is one indicator of support and affirmation concerning the overall quality of the college experience UT Martin provides."

Based on final figures, this fall's enrollment at UT Martin is a 5.6 percent increase over fall 2007. Final figures are compiled by the university's Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

The record enrollment also reflects 1,342 freshmen, the largest freshman class on the UT Martin campus. Fall enrollment indicates that first-time freshmen have an average 3.38 high school grade-point average, up from 3.37 in 2007, and an average ACT score of 22.40, up from 22.07 in 2007.

"Although enrollment growth is exciting, more important is the fact that this entering class is the most academically capable group of new students we have admitted," said Rakes.

Compared to last year's totals, UT Martin will have 405 more undergraduates and graduates for a 5.6 percent increase, and 113 additional dual-enrollment students, a 15.4 percent increase.

The enrollment growth trend follows the recent notification from The Princeton Review that named UT Martin a "Best Southeastern College" for 2009.

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High school marching bands to compete

Twenty-five to 30 high school marching bands of all sizes from Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky will face off in competition before a panel of experts Saturday at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Graham Stadium.

The event is set to start at 1:30 p.m and to conclude at about 10 p.m.

A variety of music styles will be performed, including everything from classical music to rap and from Broadway musicals to classic rock.

There will also be exhibition performances by the UT Martin Skyhawk Marching Band and the UT Martin Steel Drum Band, according to organizers.

Admission will be $8 for audience members ages 12 and older (includes contest program). Admission is $4 for children ages 5-11, with children ages 4 and younger to be admitted free.

Concessions will be available throughout the event.

For more information, contact Dr. Bradley Coker, assistant professor of music, at (731) 581-7401.
Health-care professionals' programs offered in Martin, Paris, Jackson

Several health care professionals courses will be offered in the fall in Martin, Jackson and Paris by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education. To register, call 881-7081 or 881-7082.

• EKG Technician Certification Program will be offered from 6-9:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, Oct. 13-Dec. 3, at Henry County High School in Paris. The cost is $999 (textbooks included).

This comprehensive 50-hour EKG Technician Certification Program prepares students to function as EKG technicians and to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technician (ASPT), Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technician exam and other national certification exams. This course will include practice and background information on anatomy of the heart and physiology, medical disease processes, medical terminology, medical ethics, legal aspects of patient contact, laboratory assisting, electrocardiography and echocardiography. Additionally, students will practice with equipment and perform hands-on labs including introduction to the function and proper use of the EKG machine, the normal anatomy of the chest wall for proper lead placement, 12-lead placement and other clinical practices.

• Medical Billing and Coding Program is planned from 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Oct. 14-Dec. 18 and 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Nov. 8, at UT Martin. There is no class Nov. 27. The course fee is $1,499 (textbooks included).

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This comprehensive 50-hour course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's (PTCB) exam. Technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings - working under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will learn dosage calculations, intravenous flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

• Phlebotomy Technician Program is planned 6-9:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, Oct. 13-Dec. 17, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 18, Nov. 8, 22 and Dec. 6 (no class Nov. 26), at UT Martin and JSCC. The fee is $1,599 (textbooks included).

This 90-hour program prepares professionals to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Students will become familiar with all aspects related to blood collection and develop comprehensive skills to perform venipunctures completely and safely. Classroom and lab work includes terminology, anatomy and physiology; blood collection procedures; specimen hands-on practice; and training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods. There is no outside externship rotation included with this program.
UTM to host West Tennessee Youth Outdoor Jamboree Sept. 26

The 12th annual West Tennessee Youth Outdoor Jamboree will take place Sept. 26, at the Agriculture Pavilion at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event was founded by Kenton, Tenn. area outdoorsman, Rob Somerville and his friends in 1996, to promote youth in the alternative lifestyle of the outdoors.

Activities include expert speakers on all hunting and fishing subjects, demonstrations, B.A.S.S. sanctioned kids casting contest, displays, taxidermy, live animals, music, and thousands of dollars worth of door prizes for kids age 16 and under. The date for the event will be Sept. 26, with registration between 7-8 a.m.

For more information, call Dr. Carroll Slack at 731-514-1937, Chuck Byrd at 731-613-8901, Rob Somerville at 731-446-8052, or e-mail Rob Somerville at twoww@ocol.net.

Agricultural economy in focus

Farmers, lenders and agribusiness professionals received the most up-to-date information about the agricultural economy at the recent seventh annual Mid-South Ag Finance Conference. The conference, at the University of Tennessee at Martin, featured Dr. David Kohl. He is one of the world’s leading ag economists who serves on policy boards and manages his own farming operation. Kohl focused on sustaining profits and maintaining investment value in a turbulent economy. Also featured was Dr. Matthew Roberts, from Ohio State University, who discussed the opportunities and pitfalls of global competition, alternate uses and other factors affecting livestock, commodity prices and land values.

Pictured (from left) are: Roberts, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics at Ohio State; Bob Egerton, president, CoBank Eastern Region Division, representing one of the sponsors; Dr. Tom Payne, UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business interim chair; and Kohl, professor emeritus in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech.
Back-to-school recycling event held at UTM

A back-to-school community recycling event was sponsored, August 30, by UTM Recycles! at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Partners and sponsors of UTM Recycles! included the American Democracy Project, the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts, the UT Martin Physical Plant, Sodexo, and campus student organizations including the Agronomy Club, Tri-Beta and Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. Area residents can still recycle daily at the UT Martin Recycling Barn behind the motor pool on the north end of Moody Street. A new facility is planned across the street in the former National Guard Armory. For more information on recycling at UT Martin, contact Dennis Kosta at 881-7640 or email dkosta@utm.edu. Among those helping collect and sort materials were, from left, Dr. Sandra Murray, UT Martin assistant professor of education; Nicole Leonard, and Jacob Malugin.

Mason to teach percussion clinic

On September 19, Brian Mason, assistant professor of percussion at Morehead State University, will be instructing a percussion clinic in the band room. A “Hands on Clinic” will take place from 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. and a “Vibraphone Improvisation Master Class” will follow from 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Mason has traveled throughout the United States, Mexico, Japan, Canada and Korea while gaining worldwide recognition for his percussion writing and teaching. He is best known as a co-author of the 2000 Modern Drummer Reader’s Polls “No. 1 Drum Set Method Book, The Commandments of R&B Drumming.”

Mason is director of the award-winning marching percussion ensemble and a member of the faculty jazz ensemble, the faculty chamber ensemble, the faculty brass quintet and the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra. Mason received his master’s degree in music at the University of Kentucky, where he also received a bachelor of music degree.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of music, at 731-881-7418 or go to www.utm.edu/percussion.
Chanteuse Claudia Hommel and singer-pianist Moreen to perform in Paris-Inspired Cabaret Concert

Co-founders of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals, Claudia Hommel and her musical partner Bob Moreen will present "Women of Paris" at 7:30 p.m., September 17, in Harriet Fulton Theatre located in the Fine Arts Building. In "Women of Paris," Hommel celebrates female singers of Paris---among them, Paulette Dart, the creator of the 1905 song, "Fascination," Mistinguett, for whom was written "My Man"; African-American entertainers adopted by Paris as its own, Josephine Baker and Bricktop; the icon of post-war Left Bank "beat," Juliette Gréco, and the superstar of French chanson, Edith Piaf. They will give a pre-concert presentation at the theatre at 7 p.m.

Hommel is a national touring and recording artist. Born in Paris, raised in Detroit, seasoned in New York, and longtime resident of Chicago, she draws her repertoire from 20th century popular French chansons, the American songbook and international art songs. In addition to Parisian cabaret shows, her celebrated Jazz Fauré Project, "where French impressionism meets American jazz," toured in Paris in spring 2008 by invitation of the University of Chicago Paris Center.

Moreen has been featured in virtually every type of entertainment venue as soloist, accompanist and ensemble member. He has worked with name entertainers such as Gisele McKenzie,

Peter Palmer, Greta Keller, the incomparable Hildegarde and Shirley Jones, and is sought after as music director, accompanist and coach by Chicago's favorite cabaret singers. The Chicago Sun-Times calls him, "a special, eclectic piano player." In the Chicago Tribune, Howard Reich describes him as "an impressive singer in his own right--- the complete entertainer." Moreen's theatrical credits include work at Chicago's Goodman Theatre and the former Body Politic.

Come for the "ooh-la-la" and stay for sheer joy. You may not speak a word of French but you'll understand the nuance of every song. Hommel and Moreen have distilled the energy of Parisian music-hall with a dose of intimate Chicago-style cabaret to create a theater piece that will transport you to Paris.

The production is sponsored by the Department of Music, the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and the Center for Global Studies and International Education. For more information, contact Dr. Amy Yeung, associate professor of music, at 731-881-7408. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.

Composer Easley Blackwood to perform world premiere with UT Martin trumpet professor

Easley Blackwood, a modern American composer, will perform a recital beginning at 7:30 p.m., September 30, in Harriet Fulton Theatre at the University of Tennessee at Martin. It is free and open to the public.

Blackwood is a professor emeritus at the University of Chicago, where he has taught harmony and composition for more than 40 years. He has studied under Nadia Boulanger, Paul Hindemith and Olivier Messiaen. Blackwood's Fifth Symphony (1994) was premiered by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. His compositions have been recorded and released on the Cedille label.

The concert will include the world premiere of Blackwood's Sonata for Trumpet and Piano, Opus 45 (2008). UT Martin Associate Professor of Music, Dr. Kurt Gorman, the Tennessee Arts Commission, the UT Martin and the Chicago Classical Recording Foundation jointly commissioned this new composition. Also on the program, Gorman will perform the premiere with the composer to accompany on the piano. Blackwood will perform Alexander Scriabin's Sonatas No. 3 in F# minor, and his Sonata for Clarinet and Piano (1994) will be performed by Dr. Amy Parks Simmons, UT Martin assistant professor of music.

For more information, contact Gorman, at 731-881-7404.

Airee presents paper at 20th International Conference on Chemical Education

Dr. S.K. Airee, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of chemistry, participated in the 20th International Conference on Chemical Education in Mauritius in August. The theme of the meeting was "Chemistry in the ICT Age." He presented a paper, "Green Chemistry in the Context of Curricular, Extra-Curricular and Community Outreach Activities." Besides the presentation, he was also chair of a session "Chemistry at Secondary and Tertiary Level." The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) sponsored the meeting. Airee became an IUPAC Fellow in 2006. Mauritius is an island nation off the coast of the African continent east of Madagascar.
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Dunagan, Chesteen named to ‘Forum on Tennessee’s Future’ panel

Dr. Nick Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor emeritus, and Dr. Richard Chesteen, professor emeritus of political science, recently were named to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations’ “Forum on Tennessee’s Future” project panel.

TACIR was created to monitor federal, state and local government relations and to make recommendations for improvement to the legislature. The commission is comprised of representatives from the executive and legislative branches of state government, county and municipal governments and the public. The commission serves as a bipartisan forum for the discussion of intergovernmental issues and may initiate studies resulting in legislative proposals and constitutional amendments. The commission responds to requests for technical assistance from the General Assembly, state agencies and local governments.

The forum panel will develop a list of 10 issues or trends related to the “biggest challenges that Tennessee must deal with in order to improve its competitive edge and enhance the quality of life for all current and future residents.” As a result of the forum, there will be policy paper on 10 topics and a magazine-format document accessible to a board audience.
countries in the future. Participating students will earn an International Agriculture Certificate through 18 hours of coursework in agriculture topics, language and travel study. Students and faculty will spend four weeks in Mexico in an intensive, language immersion experience.

The following fall, students, faculty and agribusiness leaders will return to Mexico for one week and will present case studies. Back in the U.S., students will present their international case studies at regional professional conferences and at vocational agriculture programs at local schools. GALIP participants will increase their cross-cultural competence, and the revised curriculum will create new forums of dialogue about international agriculture issues.

"Mexico is one of the largest trading partners to the U.S. and is vitally important to U.S. consumers," said Mehnhorn. "There is a great deal we can learn from studying Mexican agriculture that can make our producers and agribusinesses more competitive in the global marketplace. By understanding Mexican consumers and producers, we can better target our products for their markets and increase the flow of goods between our two nations. This is truly a unique opportunity for students."

For more information, contact Mehnhorn at 731-881-7257 or mehnhorn@utm.edu.

Dr. Joseph Mehnhorn

UT Martin has state's largest percentage enrollment increase in preliminary fall reporting

The University of Tennessee at Martin continues to set all-time enrollment records, claiming the largest percentage increase among Tennessee four-year public universities in preliminary fall reporting. Along with that, UT Martin had record-high enrollments in six categories, based on fall 2008 enrollment figures.

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"We are pleased to see this level of continued student interest in our programs," said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. "Such enrollment growth is one indicator of support and affirmation concerning the overall quality of the college experience UT Martin provides."

Based on final figures, this fall's enrollment at UT Martin is a 5.6 percent increase over fall 2007. Final figures are compiled by the university's Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

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"Although enrollment growth is exciting, more important is the fact that this entering class is the most academically capable group of new students we have admitted," said Rakes.

Compared to last year's totals, UT Martin will have 405 more undergraduates and graduates for a 5.6 percent increase, and 113 additional dual-enrollment students, a 15.4 percent increase.

The enrollment growth trend follows the recent notification from The Princeton Review that named UT Martin a "Best Southeastern College" for 2009.
UTM Family Picnic held

University of Tennessee President Dr. John Petersen and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes were special guests on Squawk Talk, the University of Tennessee at Martin's football pregame radio show. Petersen attended the annual UT Martin Faculty and Staff Picnic held prior to kickoff against Concordia College (Selma, Ala.). The Skyhawks posted an 87-21 victory over Concordia. The Skyhawks are 2-1 on the year and will travel to Austin Peay, September 20, for the Ohio Valley Conference opener for both teams.

Art exhibition set at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host the second in a series of senior art exhibition offerings for the 2008-09 school year with an art exhibition representing the works of Ali Beilke, an art studio emphasis student from Wildersville, and Mallory Rogers, an art education emphasis student from Lynchburg.

The exhibition will begin with an opening reception 5-7 p.m. Tuesday in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

The exhibition will run through homecoming on Oct. 4. It is free and open to the public.

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

Two Obion County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

The recipients include:
- Daniel Hannaman, son of Leanne Marvin of Union City, a freshman who received the Dean's Scholarship; and
- Justin Preuett, son of Stanley and Shannon Preuett of Troy, a freshman who received the Chancellor's Award.

Co-founders of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals, Claudia Hommel and Bob Moreen will present 'Women of Paris' at 7:30 p.m. today at the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee Martin. Admission is free.
Three alumni to receive awards during homecoming festivities

Three University of Tennessee at Martin alumni will be honored during University of Tennessee at Martin homecoming activities Sept. 29-Oct. 5. The awards will be presented at the annual UT Martin Alumni Awards Banquet at 6 p.m. Oct. 3 in Duncan Ballroom of Boling University Center.

This year’s award recipients are:

- Dr. Jane Kao, Outstanding Alumnus Award, given to an alumnus or alumna in recognition of outstanding achievement in his/her chosen profession;
- Charlie Neese, Outstanding Young Alumni Award, given in recognition of outstanding achievement in his or her chosen profession (the recipient must not be more than 40 years of age); and
- J. Houston Gordon, Chancellors Award for University Service, given in recognition of outstanding service to UT Martin.

Dr. Kao, a 1985 graduate, is a pediatric cardiologist with the Heart Center for Children in Dallas. She has been practicing in the Dallas area since 1995.

She completed her residency training in pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital and her fellowship training in pediatric cardiology at UCLA College of Medicine. She is board certified in both pediatrics and pediatric cardiology. Her interest is in pediatric echocardiography with a special focus in fetal echocardiology.

In 2002 and 2003, she was voted by her peers as one of the best pediatric specialists in Dallas for D-Magazine. She was also voted in 2005 and 2006 as one of “Texas Super Doctors.”

Dr. Kao is a member of the American Heart Association (Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young), American Society of Echocardiography, Society of Pediatric Echocardiography and a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

She is the medical director of the pediatric echocardiography laboratory at the North Texas Hospital for Children at Medical City Dallas Hospital. She currently holds a position as clinical instructor in pediatrics at the University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine. Dr. Kao serves as a physician adviser in the pediatric ultrasound curriculum at El Centro College in Dallas. She is also a member of the Texas Pediatric Society, Dallas County Medical Society and the Texas Medical Association.

Neese is an on-air meteorologist at WTVF-News Channel 5 in Nashville. He received a bachelor of science degree in communications in 1992. He earned his certification in broadcast meteorology from Mississippi State University and began his career at WBBI-TV in Jackson.

After four years in Jackson, he moved to Tuscaloosa, Ala., where he reported during the week and did weather on weekends and, in 1995, he joined KFVS-TV in Cape Girardeau, Mo. While working in Cape Girardeau, he worked with charitable organizations, including the United Way, the Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity. In 1997, he was honored to receive the Outstanding Young Missourian Award from the Missouri Jaycees.

He is a member of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association. He holds the NWA Broadcast Seal of Approval.

Gordon, a 1968 graduate, is an attorney in Covington and has farming interests in Tipton County. He graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law and earned a master’s degree from George Washington University National Law Center.

His professional associations include American College of Trial Lawyers, American Board of Trial Advocacy, American Trial Lawyers Association and the American and Tennessee bar associations. He served as the Tennessee Democratic Party chair, Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation director and has been a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court Rules Advisory Committee, College of Trial Advocacy/UT College of Law, UT Board of Trustees, the UT National Alumni Association board of governors, UT Martin Development Council and Habitat for Humanity/Tipton board of directors.

Gordon supports St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis and various educational, youth, arts and other organizations.

He is an author and has served as an instructor at Dyersburg State Community College and as a visiting lecturer and guest speaker at university, civic and church-related programs.

He was in the military from 1970-74, including serving as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

Tickets for the UT Martin Alumni Awards Banquet may be reserved by sending a check for $20 per person made payable to UT Martin to the Office of Alumni Relations, Alumni Center, 1900 Alumni Way, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238.

For more homecoming information, visit the Web site www.utmforever.com.
**Composer Easley Blackwood to perform world premiere at UTM**

Easley Blackwood, a modern American composer, will perform a recital beginning at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 30, in Harriet Fulton Theatre at the University of Tennessee at Martin. It is free and open to the public.

Blackwood is a professor emeritus at the University of Chicago, where he has taught harmony and composition for more than 40 years. He has studied under Nadia Boulanger, Paul Hindemith and Olivier Messiaen. Blackwood’s Fifth Symphony (1994) was premiered by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. His compositions have been recorded and released on the Cedille label.

The concert will include the world premiere of Blackwood’s Sonata for Trumpet and Piano, Opus 45 (2008).

**Please see DSCC**

**WBBJ-TV West Tennessee's News Channel - Local News**

**08/22/08 - Weakley County**

**UT President Visits Martin**
By: Emily Jordan
6:00 pm

The President of The University of Tennessee System makes a stop in West Tennessee Monday.

As part of UT President John Petersen’s annual University of Tennessee Tour, he made visited UT Martin. Petersen spent most of his time at a luncheon, answering questions and listening to concerns. He received a warm welcome from the UT Martin family, but didn’t waste any time getting down to business.

Petersen is meeting face to face with faculty on Martin’s campus to discuss some tough issues. Issues that include the school’s budget and the State’s economy. Petersen said he is encouraging his staff to do more with less.

“Trying to maximize the revenue from the state, maximize donations, maximize our grants and contracts we bring in so we can minimize tuition,” said UT President John Petersen. As for the economy, the UT President said the Martin campus plays a key role in attracting and keeping industries in Tennessee and acts a supply network.

“Northwest Tennessee looks to Martin in terms of leadership, in terms of it’s lead academy, in terms of the students it produces,” said Petersen. Petersen also hopes the UT’s Biofuels initiative will eventually fund higher education in the state.” By producing a product that could have an impact on the state, but producing it in a place, which will give jobs and economic development into these counties,” said Petersen. Petersen said his goal is to share with staff how UT Martin contributes to the University and to the State.
Business marketing featured in program

A “Lunch and Learn Series” program is planned Oct. 2 by the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (REED) Center. “The Dynamics of Marketing Your Business” will be presented from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Snappy Tomato Pizza in Martin. Jamie Frakes, Tennessee Small Business Development Center director will be the instructor. There is no fee and lunch may be purchased. This program focuses on issues that will affect how a business is marketed. The program includes activities that can be integrated into a marketing plan immediately. Participants will establish a foundation to build a more comprehensive marketing plan for a business.

For more information or to register, contact Hollie Holt, REED Center coordinator, at (731) 587-7333 or visit www.utm.edu/reed.

Dunagan, Cheesten named to 'Forum on Tennessee's Future' panel

Dr. Nick Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor emeritus, and Dr. Richard Cheesten, professor emeritus of political science, recently were named to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations “Forum on Tennessee’s Future” project panel.

TACIR was created to monitor federal, state and local government relations and to make recommendations for improvement to the legislature. The commission is comprised of representatives from the executive and legislative branches of state government, county and municipal governments and the public. The commission serves as a bipartisan forum for the discussion of intergovernmental issues and may initiate studies resulting in legislative proposals and constitutional amendments.

The commission responds to requests for technical assistance from the General Assembly, state agencies and local governments.

The forum panel will develop a list of 10 issues or trends related to the “biggest challenges that Tennessee must deal with in order to improve its competitive edge and enhance the quality of life for all current and future residents.” As a result of the forum, policy papers on 10 topics and a magazine-format document will be accessible to a broad audience.

English department offers four-film series

On Sept. 29, the Department of English at the University of Tennessee at Martin will show the first movie of its four-film series. Taking advantage of a presidential election year where political discourse abounds, the series centers on the theme of “power and political intrigue in literature.”

“The Throne of Blood” will be shown at 7 p.m., in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center. The feature is a Japanese drama by famed filmmaker Akira Kurosawa and offers an Asian twist on Shakespeare’s Macbeth. The film, set in 1597, will be shown in black and white, to add to the dramatic effect of the political duplicity that took place during Japan’s feudal warrior period. Anna Clark, instructor of English, will introduce the movie.

For more information, contact Heidi Huse, assistant professor of English, at hhuse@utm.edu or 881-7280. This event is free and open to the public.

SOYBEAN FESTIVAL ART WINNERS – Several Soybean Festival Art Show winners recently were recognized for their work: (from left) Debbie Hooper, accepting the third-place award and $50 for her father, Dave Wilcher, of Jackson, for his ink drawing, “David and Goliath”; LuWan Spivey, Martin, first place and $100 for her painting, “Retired Boats”; Sherry Moore, McKenzie, second place and $75 for her painting, “M'maw's Kitchen.” They are pictured with Nicole Bell, Franklin, president of the Visual Art Society, cosponsor of the event for the second consecutive year. The Visual Arts Society generates funding for the show through art sales and other activities on the UT Martin campus and throughout the community. The Visual Arts Society is dedicated to the enhancement of the visual arts and arts education on the UT Martin campus and in the community. Thirty-six individual works of art were juried into this year’s Soybean Festival Show.
UT Martin 'ready' when disasters strike campus

Sarah Brunstead
Press Intern

September is National Disaster Preparedness Month and communities across the United States are looking for ways to make their cities safer. In Martin, the University of Tennessee has finished revising emergency plans and is fully prepared to keep students safe from any disaster.

Ted Council, the Safety Officer for UTM, stated that the University's emergency plans are "very efficient."

In each campus building, a building manager has a detailed emergency and evacuation plan specifying both safety procedures and designated safe areas. In the event of an emergency, the building manager follows a "hierarchy" of command and contacts selected persons to control a certain area of the building. That person is in control of specifically evacuating that area.

For example, the Emergency Procedures for the University Elam Center state that in the event of a tornado warning, the Recreation Check employee on duty uses radios to communicate to staff and direct patrons to safe zones away from windows and other safety hazards.

Occupants do not leave the safe zone until the warning is over and the Recreation Check employee receives authorization from the Department of Public Safety to dismiss the occupants.

In the event of a disaster, the Department of Public Safety, while working to keep occupants safe, would contact law enforcement, hospitals and other local services to receive additional assistance.

UT Martin also has an additional safety warning method for students using text messaging. Students can sign up to receive text message warnings.

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about any dangers on campus, from stormy weather to hostile situations.

The system is considered highly effective, as most students have their cell phones accessible at all times, and is used very often, even to warn about mild storms.

Although running drills in academic buildings is difficult, due to the constant flow of classes, cooperation and training of staff makes Council's job a little easier.

"I have total support from the administration on safety issues," said Council. In fact, each vice chancellor of the University plays a vital role in forming the University's disaster plans, according to Council.

"One of the unique things about our emergency plans is that in our plan we have each vice chancellor draw his own plan for the area," stated Council.

Disaster plans are updated every year and submitted to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, or TEMA. TEMA makes any necessary changes and approves the plans.

According to Council, TEMA has stated that UT Martin has an excellent Emergency Response Plan.

"TEMA also organizes the TEMA TenCat each year, involving all of West Tennessee in disaster prevention. TenCat '07 was hosted at UT Martin in the University Elam Center. Representatives from TEMA and from schools across the state visited to learn more about disaster prevention and to participate in training activities, testing each individual's ability to handle dangerous situations. "It is amazing to see how much emergency equipment is available if we need it," Council said.

Emergency Response Plans are available in every building on campus, and a master Emergency Response Plan is available in Crisp Hall, the Department of Public Safety building.

Public Safety seems dedicated every year to ensure protection for students and faculty during any type of disaster situation. Well organized and prepared, the campus staff says they are ready to handle Mother Nature's temper tantrums.

Final prawn sale slated for Friday

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources will have its final prawn (freshwater shrimp) sale 12:30-6 p.m., Sept. 26, at the aquaculture ponds. The ponds are located on the UT Martin farm on Derryberry Lane, off University Street or Gardner Hynds Road. The prawn will be sold at $6 per pound.

The department is researching more cost effective ways to produce prawn. Money raised from the sale of the prawn will go to offset the cost of labor and supplies.

For more information, contact Dr. Bradley Ray, assistant professor of fisheries, at 881-7255.

Book sale at UTM library scheduled

The Friends of the Paul Meek Library will hold a book sale 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Sept. 29-Oct. 2; 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Oct. 3, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 4, in the library atrium.

Anyone who has books, audiotapes, DVDs or videos would like to donate for the sale, may take them to the library's loading dock during library hours.

For more information, contact the library circulation desk at 881-7092.
Three University of Tennessee at Martin alumni will be honored during University of Tennessee at Martin homecoming activities, Sept. 29-Oct. 5. The awards will be presented at the annual UT Martin Alumni Awards Banquet, 6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 3, in Duncan Ballroom of Boling University Center.

This year’s award recipients are:

• Dr. Jane Kao, Outstanding Alumni Award, given to an alumna or alumnus in recognition of outstanding achievement in his/her chosen profession;

• Charlie Neese, Outstanding Young Alumni Award, given in recognition of outstanding achievement in his/her chosen profession (the recipient must not be more than 40 years of age);

• J. Houston Gordon, Chancellor’s Award for University Service, given in recognition of outstanding service to UT Martin.

Kao, a 1985 graduate, is a pediatric cardiologist with the Heart Center for Children in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Kao has been practicing in the Dallas area since 1995. She completed her residency training in pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital and her fellowship training in pediatric cardiology at UCLA College of Medicine. She is board certified in both pediatrics and pediatric cardiology. Her interest is in pediatric echocardiography with a special focus in fetal echocardiography. In 2002 and 2003, she was voted by her peers as one of the best pediatric specialists in Dallas by D Magazine. She was also voted in 2005 and 2006 as one of “Texas Super Doctors.” Dr. Kao is a member of the American Heart Association (Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young), American Society of Echocardiography, Society of Pediatric Echocardiography and a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is the medical director of the pediatric echocardiography laboratory at the North Texas Hospital for Children at Medical City Dallas Hospital. She currently holds a position as clinical instructor in pediatrics at the University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine. Dr. Kao serves as a physician adviser in the pediatric ultrasound curriculum at El Centro College in Dallas. She is also a member of the following local and regional medical affiliations: Texas Pediatric Society, Dallas County Medical Society and the Texas Medical Association.

Neese is an on-air meteorologist at WTVF-News Channel 5, Nashville. He received a bachelor of science degree in communications in 1992. He earned his certification in broadcast meteorology from Mississippi State University and began his career at WBBJ-TV in Jackson. After four years in Jackson, he moved to Tuscaloosa, Ala., where he reported during the week and did weather on weekends, and, in 1995, he joined KFVS-TV in Cape Girardeau, Mo. While working at Cape Girardeau, he worked with charitable organizations including the United Way, the Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity. In 1997, he was honored to receive the “Outstanding Young Missourian Award” from the Missouri Jaycees. He is a member of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association. He holds the NWA Broadcast Seal of Approval.

Gordon, a 1968 graduate, is an attorney in Covington and has farming interests in Tipton County. He graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law and earned a master’s degree from George Washington University National Law Center. His professional associations include American College of Trial Lawyers, American Board of Trial Advocacy, American Trial Lawyers Association and American and Tennessee bar associations. He served as the Tennessee Democratic Party chair, Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation director and has been a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court on Rules Advisory Committee.
John Petersen visits UT Martin, discusses difficulties, future goals

By TAJUANA CHERSHIER

MARTIN — University of Tennessee President John Petersen visited UT-Martin's campus on Monday, giving a message about the challenges and opportunities facing higher education in a struggling economy.

"The UT system has three deliverables," Petersen said during a luncheon with local legislators and higher education officials. "A strong workforce, economic development, and better quality of life through healthcare, arts and humanities."

Petersen is visiting University of Tennessee campuses this fall. He has been the president since 2004.

The University of Tennessee system recently had to make budgetary cuts totaling 4.1 percent, $22 million, in spending.

"Instead of doing the easy thing and cut everything across the board," Petersen told the group, "we're taking a strategic approach."

Part of that approach, Petersen said, has been phasing-out or elimination of three academic programs on the UT-Knoxville campus and cuts in travel, repair and maintenance and unfilled positions on UT-Chattanooga, UT-Martin and UT-Health Science Center campuses.

Despite the financial challenges, Petersen said University of Tennessee schools are experiencing growth in students because of the lottery scholarship.

"On UT-Martin's campus, they've experienced a rise in attendance, which is good," Petersen said.

Please see MARTIN, 2B

Martin

Continued from cover

their number of graduates," Petersen said.

The University of Tennessee system is also moving forward with its Biofuels initiative.

The UT Research Foundation through its Genera Energy LLC is partnering with DuPont Danisco Cellulosic Ethanol LLC to construct a pilot-scale biorefinery, research and development facility for cellulosic ethanol in Vonore.

"We will have our groundbreaking on Oct. 14 and we hope to have our first production by the end of 2009," Petersen said.

Following his speech, Petersen accepted questions from luncheon attendees.

State Rep. Steve McDaniel, R-Parkers Crossroads, asked Petersen if the system had lost any staff because of the budget issues.

Petersen said the system had not lost many employees and that he and his staff are working to minimize loss.

He also answered questions about how the lottery scholarship is helping to maintain students in college and campus energy savings.

"We're taking a multifaceted approach. We're not just investing in biofuels, but every new building on campus will be green and other buildings will be retrofitted," Petersen said.

The budget crunch is a concern of University of Tennessee students as well, said Brittany Mcgruder, a 21-year-old UT-Martin senior.

"Students are really concerned about their student fees and how they're being spent," said McGruder following the luncheon.

McGruder serves as a student trustee on the Board of Trustees and she is president of the UT-Martin student government association.

Visit jacksonsun.com and share your thoughts.

— Tajuana Cheshier

425-9643

What to know

University of Tennessee President John Petersen will visit the University of Tennessee Space Institute on Thursday, Northeast Tennessee community leaders in Kingsport on Monday, University of Tennessee Knoxville on Sept. 30, University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service on Oct. 1, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture on Oct. 2 and University of Tennessee faculty and staff in the Nashville area on Oct. 10.

Henry County Student Receives Scholarship to Attend UT Martin

MARTIN - A Henry County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Dustin McClure, son of Dennis and Susan McClure of Henry, is a sophomore. He received the Tosh Farms Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 295 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-839-UTMI; out-of-state residents should call (731) 981-7040.
Community Recycling Event

MARTIN - A back-to-school community recycling event was sponsored August 30 by UTM Recycles!, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Partners and sponsors of UTM Recycles! included the American Democracy Project, the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts, the UT Martin Physical Plant, Sodexo, and campus student organizations including the Agronomy Club, Tri-Beta and Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. Area residents can still recycle daily at the UT Martin Recycling Barn behind the motor pool on the north end of Moody Street. A new facility is planned across the street in the former National Guard Armory. For more information on recycling at UT Martin, contact Dennis Kosta at 881-7640 or email dkosta@utm.edu. Among those helping collect and sort materials were, from left, Robert Mitchell of Martin; and Christy Lowe of McKenzie.

Soybean Festival Art Winners

Several Soybean Festival Art Show winners recently were recognized for their work. From left to right are Debbie Hooper, accepting the third place award and $50 for her father, Dave Wilcher, Jackson, for his ink drawing, "David and Goliath"; LuWan Spivey, Martin, first place and $100 for her painting, "Retired Boats"; Sherry Moore, McKenzie, second place and $75 for her painting, "M'maw's Kitchen". They are pictured with Nicole Bell, Franklin, president of the Visual Art Society, cosponsor of the event for the second consecutive year. The Visual Arts Society generates funding for the show through art sales and other activities on the UT Martin campus and throughout the community. The Visual Arts Society is dedicated to the enhancement of the visual arts and arts education on the UT Martin campus and in the community. Thirty-six individual works of art were juried into this year's Soybean Festival Show.

First of Two Preview Days Set for October 18 at UT Martin

MARTIN - The first of two preview days is set for October 18 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Preview days are opportunities for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. Each event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life. A second day is planned November 15.

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

Registration for the preview day, October 18, will be from 9-9:30 a.m., in the Boling University Center, and November 15, from 9:30 a.m. in the Elam Center.

On each occasion, registration will be followed by a welcome and general information session, the university's academic fair, which will take place in the Duncan Ballroom in the university center October 18 and in the Elam Center November 15, academic department visits and campus tours.

For more information about Preview Day activities and events, call the UT Martin admissions office at 1-800-829-UTMI or 731-881-7020.
Three to receive UT Martin Homecoming Awards

Three University of Tennessee at Martin alumni will be honored during University of Tennessee at Martin homecoming activities, September 29-October 5. The awards will be presented at the annual UT Martin Alumni Awards Banquet, 6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 3, in Duncan Ballroom of Boling University Center.

This year’s award recipients are:

- Dr. Jane Kao, Outstanding Alumni Award, given to an alumnus or alumna in recognition of outstanding achievement in his/her chosen profession;
- Charles Neece, Outstanding Young Alumni Award, given in recognition of outstanding achievement in his/her chosen profession (the recipient must not be more than 40 years of age);
- J. Houston Gordon, Chancellor’s Award for University Service, given in recognition of outstanding service to UT Martin.

Kao, a 1985 graduate, is a pediatric cardiologist with the Heart Center for Children in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Kao has been practicing in the Dallas area since 1995. She completed her residency training in pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital and her fellowship training in pediatric cardiology at UCLA College of Medicine. She is board certified in both pediatrics and pediatric cardiology. Her interest is in pediatric echocardiography with a special focus in fetal echocardiography. In 2002 and 2003, she was voted by her peers as one of the best pediatric specialists in Dallas for D-Magazine. She was also voted in 2005 and 2006 as one of “Texas Super Doctors.” Dr. Kao is a member of the American Heart Association (Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young), American Society of Echocardiography, Society of Pediatric Echocardiography and a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is the medical director of the pediatric echocardiography laboratory at the North Texas Hospital for Children at Medical City Dallas Hospital. She currently holds a position as clinical instructor in pediatrics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Kao serves as a physician adviser in the pediatric ultrasound curriculum at El Centro College in Dallas. She is also a member of the following local and regional medical affiliations: Texas Pediatric Society, Dallas County Medical Society and the Texas Medical Association.

Neece is an on-air meteorologist at WTVF-News Channel 5, Nashville. He received a bachelor of science degree in communications in 1992. He earned his certification in broadcast meteorology from Mississippi State University and began his career at WBBJ-TV in Jackson. After four years in Jackson, he moved to Tuscaloosa, Ala., where he reported during the week and did weather on weekends, and in 1995, he joined KFVS-TV in Cape Girardeau, Mo. While working at Cape Girardeau, he worked with charitable organizations including the United Way, the Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity. In 1997, he was honored to receive the “Outstanding Young Missouri Award” from the Missouri Jaycees. He is a member of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association. He holds the NWA Broadcast Seal of Approval.

Gordon, a 1988 graduate, is an attorney in Covington and has farming interests in Tipton County. He graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law and earned a master’s degree from George Washington University National Law Center. His professional associations include American College of Trial Lawyers, American Board of Trial Advocacy, American Trial Lawyers Association and American and Tennessee bar associations. He served as the Tennessee Democratic Party chair, Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation director and has been a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court on Rules Advisory Committee, College of Trial Advocacy/UT College of Law, UT Board of Trustees, the UT National Alumni Association board of governors, UT Martin Development Council and Habitat for Humanity/Tipton board of directors. Gordon supports St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and a variety of educational, youth, arts and other organizations. He is an author and has served as an instructor at Dyersburg State Community College and as a visiting lecturer and guest speaker at a number of university, civic and church-related programs. He was in the military from 1970-74, including serving as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

Reserve tickets for the banquet by sending a check for $20 per person made payable to UT Martin to the Office of Alumni Relations, Alumni Center, 1900 Alumni Way, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238.

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

‘Dynamics of Marketing Your Business’ to be offered October 2

A “Lunch and Learn Series” program is planned October 2 by the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (REED) Center.

“The Dynamics of Marketing Your Business” will be presented from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at Snappy Tomato Pizza, in Martin. Jamie Frakes, Tennessee Small Business Development Center director will be the instructor. There is no fee, and lunch may be purchased.

This program focuses on issues that will affect how a business is marketed. The program includes activities that can be integrated into a marketing plan immediately. Participants will establish a foundation to build a more comprehensive marketing plan for a business.

For more information, or to register, contact Hollie Holt, REED Center coordinator, at 731-587-7333, or visit www.utm.edu/reed.
Difficult economy will not stop university from moving forward

The University of Tennessee will provide three major "deliverables" to move the state ahead despite difficult economic conditions, UT President John Petersen told an audience of elected officials and community leaders Monday in Martin.

Petersen addressed the group during a noon luncheon at UT Martin's Boling University Center, which marked the second in a series of daylong stops at each of the UT System's five campuses. The "deliverables" he pledged to continue, even as the university faces more budget cuts in the coming year, included educating a qualified workforce, supporting economic development and enhancing quality of life through health care and "intellectual content" that universities provide.

In making this commitment, Petersen reflected on this same time period last year, when he said Gov. Phil Bredesen and the state legislature were poised to move ahead with recommendations that further supported the university's goals. Then the economic downturn happened.

"Education and higher education were protected for a long time, and the hole got deep enough that they (the governor and legislature) couldn't do that, and we ended up with about a 4.1 percent cut across the state, which for us at the University of Tennessee is a little bit over $22 million," he said, adding the cut came on top of rises in fixed costs.

Instead of seeking a large tuition increase to address budget shortfalls, Petersen said the university made a decision "to keep tuition as low as we possibly could (6 percent for 2008-09)" and make budget decisions in line with campus strategic plans — not across-the-board cuts.

"And those decisions are tough decisions to make when you're a non-profit, because there isn't a profit motive for doing it, but I think there's a quality motive for doing it," he said.

As an example, he referenced UT's Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology, which was targeted for phase-out as part of UT Knoxville's $11 million budget cut for 2008-09.

Instead of seeking the audiology and speech pathology program will shift its administration to the College of Allied Health Sciences at UT Health Science Center in Memphis, while continuing operations in Knoxville. This new, more efficient business and operating model is subject to UT Board of Trustees approval in October.

Budget challenges aside, the year hasn't been entirely bad, he said, saying that the quality of students entering the university continues to rise. He credited the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship for keeping good students in the state.

"And if we can keep them in our state for education, hopefully we can keep them in our state to work in the workforce and really contribute to the economy," he said. "In fact, all three of our institutions (Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin) have gone up in terms of their average ACT scores of their students and also their success rates of their students."

He added that "the highest average ACT of the student body and the highest six-year graduation rate is here at UT Martin and not any other place in West Tennessee."

As for economic development, he talked about UT's biofuels initiative, saying that Tennessee is well positioned to become a leader in converting cellulosic-based crops into fuel.

"We've got enough land out there that's not being used for food crops, because it can't be, that can grow switchgrass, and that switchgrass can be turned into a fuel," he said.

He pointed to a new partnership announced in July with DuPont Danisco Cellulosic Ethanol LLC to produce ethanol at a demonstration-sized plant in Vonore. The business plan will be completed this week, a groundbreaking will follow Oct. 14 and the first ethanol will be produced before the end of 2009, he said.

He also pointed to UT's co-management of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a way that the university has become a technological leader in other areas, such as computation. UT received a $65 million grant from the National Science Foundation, the largest grant from the NSF.
As he closed his remarks, Petersen promised the audience that the university would continue to move ahead “because higher education, I think, does drive economic development, and it does drive the quality of life for a state such as Tennessee.”

Among those recognized by Petersen before his remarks was Crawford Gallimore of Martin, one of several newly-appointed members to the UT Board of Trustees. Gallimore, a UT Martin graduate, is chief financial officer for the Hamilton-Ryker Co.

Homecoming set at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Alumni Relations will evoke memories of 1969 with “Come Together,” a song by the Beatles, as the theme of this year’s homecoming.

Homecoming 2008 will be celebrated Monday through Oct. 5, with Quad City’s live music, a children’s carnival, reunion and college tents, a petting farm, carnival games, food and fellowship as a focal point from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Oct. 4 in the Quad.

The full schedule includes:

**Monday**
- Noon — Art Unveiled, Paul Meek Library.
- 4 p.m. — Rope pull, Pacer Pond.

**Tuesday**
- 11:30 a.m. — Times Talk on Banned Books, Room 125 of the cafeteria, Boling University Center.
- 4 p.m. — Rope pull, Pacer Pond.
- 7 p.m. — Lip sync show, Pacer Pond.
- 8:30 p.m. — Bonfire, Pacer Pond.
- 8:45 p.m. — Homecoming court announcement, Pacer Pond.

**Oct. 1**
- Noon — Women In Chemistry Exhibit, Room 118, Paul Meek Library.
- 4 p.m. — Rope pull, Pacer Pond.
- 7 p.m. — Campus Ministries, Boling University Center.

**Oct. 2**
- 10 a.m. — Book signing, John Peters; noon, Richard Saunders; Paul Meek Library.
- 4 p.m. — Rope pull, Pacer Pond.
- 6:30 p.m. — Public Relations Student Society of America’s womanless beauty revue, Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.
- 9:09 p.m. — SAC 909 Comedy Series, Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

**Oct. 3**
- 9 a.m. — Golf tournament, Sharon.
- 3 p.m. — Rope pull treats, Pacer Pond.
- 3:15 p.m. — Rope pull championship, Pacer Pond.
- 3:30 p.m. — Student Recreational Complex groundbreaking, Pacer Pond.
- 4:45 p.m. — Museum naming, Paul Meek Library.
- 6 p.m. — Alumni Dinner and Awards Program, University Center Ballroom, Boling University Center Ballroom.
- 8:30 p.m. — Pyramid pep rally, Elam Center.

**Oct. 4**
- 7:30 a.m. — Letterwinner’s Breakfast, Student Life Center, Alumni Gym.
- 9:30 a.m. — Chancellor’s Brunch, Alumni Center, Chancellor’s Suite.
- 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. — Quad City.
- 11 a.m. — Football team’s Hawk Walk, Quad near Paul Meek Library.
- 2 p.m. — Skyhawks vs. Tennessee State University, Hardy M. Graham Stadium.
- 5:30 p.m. — 40th Anniversary Department of Psychology, Alumni Center, Chancellor’s Suite.
- 7:30 p.m. — NPHC Greek Step Show, Elam Center.

**Oct. 5**
- 10 a.m. — Walk in the Quad.
- 10:30 a.m. — Homecoming Brunch, Skyhawk Dining Room, Boling University Center.
First of two preview days scheduled

The first of two preview days is set for Oct. 18 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Preview days are opportunities for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. Each event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life.
A second day is planned Nov. 15.

Representatives of UT Martin will provide information and answers to students’ questions on a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs and the various university academic programs.
Registration for the preview day Oct. 18 will be from 9:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center and for Nov. 15 from 9:30 a.m. in the Elam Center.
On each occasion, registration will be followed by a welcome and general information session; the university’s academic fair, which will take place in the Duncan Ballroom in the University Center Oct. 18 and in the Elam Center Nov. 15; academic department visits; and campus tours.
For more information about the activities and events, call the UT Martin admissions office at 1-800-829-UTM1 or (731) 881-7020.

Composer to perform Tuesday night

Easley Blackwood, a modern American composer, will perform a recital beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Harriet Fulton Theatre at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
The event is free and is open to the public.
Blackwood is a professor emeritus at the University of Chicago, where he has taught harmony and composition for more than 40 years. He has studied under Nadia Boulanger, Paul Hindemith and Olivier Messiaen.
Blackwood’s Fifth Symphony (1994) was premiered by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. His compositions have been recorded and released on the Cedille label.
The concert will include the world premiere of Blackwood’s Sonata for Trumpet and Piano, Opus 45 (2008).
UT Martin associate professor of music Dr. Kurt Gorman, the Tennessee Arts Commission, UT Martin and the Chicago Classical Recording Foundation jointly commissioned this new composition.
Also on the program, Gorman will perform the premier with the composer to accompany on the piano. Blackwood will perform Alexander Scriabin’s Sonata No. 3 in F# minor, and his Sonata for Clarinet and Piano (1994) will be performed by Dr. Amy Parks Simmons, UT Martin assistant professor of music.
For more information about Tuesday’s recital, contact Gorman at (731) 881-7404.

Tracy named friend of state superintendents

Sen. Jim Tracy was named 2008 Friend of the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents during its 59th annual conference in Sept. 14-17. "I am honored to receive this award," Sen. Tracy said in a press release. "As a former teacher and school board member, I understand the demands placed upon our education system. Teachers and administrators are on the front lines everyday and they are to be commended for their hard work. I look forward to working with them as we continue to improve education in Tennessee." For the past 17 years, Tracy has owned and operated Jim Tracy Insurance in Shelbyville with an office in Murfreesboro, for three years. Tracy was a school teacher and coach before owning a business.

He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club.

Tracy was elected in 2004 to serve Rutherford, Bedford and Moore counties. In 2007, he was appointed chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee. Tracy is on the Senate Education and State and Local Government Committees and on joint committees including TACIR, Corrections Oversight, Select Committee of Worker’s Compensation and Intra-Governmental Relations.

Sen. Jim Tracy is a 1979 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin with a degree in Agriculture Education.
Difficult economy won't stop university from moving forward

The University of Tennessee will provide three major “deliv-
erables” to move the state ahead despite difficult economic con-
ditions, UT President John Petersen told an audience of
elected officials and community leaders Monday in Martin.

Petersen addressed the group during a noon lunch at UT
Martin’s Boling University Center, which marked the sec-
ond in a series of daylong stops at each of the UT System’s five
campuses.

The “deliverables” he pledged to continue, even as the uni-
versity faces more budget cuts in the coming year, included
educating a qualified workforce, supporting economic develop-
ment and enhancing quality of life through health care and
“intellectual content” that universities provide.

In making this commitment, Petersen reflected on this same
time period last year, when he said that Gov. Phil Bredesen and
the state legislature were poised to move ahead with recommend-
ations that further supported the university’s goals.

Then the economic downturn happened.

“Education and higher education were protected for a long
time, and the hole got deep

enough that they (the governor and legislature) couldn’t do that,
and we ended up with about a 4.1 percent cut across the state,
which for us at the University of Tennessee is a little bit over
$22 million,” he said, adding the cut came on top of rises in
fixed costs.

Instead of seeking a large tuition increase to address bud-
get shortfalls, Petersen said the university made a decision “to
keep tuition as low as we possibly could (6 percent for 2008-09)”
and make budget decisions in line with campus strategic plans
— not across-the-board cuts.

“And those decisions are tough decisions to make when you’re
non-profit, because there isn’t a profit motive for doing it, but I
think there’s a quality motive for doing it....” he said.

As an example, he referenced UT’s Department of Audiology
and Speech Pathology, which was targeted for phase-out as
part of UT Knoxville’s $11 million budget cut for 2008-09.

Instead, the audiology and speech pathology program will shift
its administration to the College of Allied Health Sciences
at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, while continuing
operations in Knoxville.

This new, more efficient business and operating model is sub-
ject to UT Board of Trustees approval in October.

Budget challenges aside, the year hasn’t been entirely bad, he
said, saying that the quality of students entering the university
continues to rise.

He credited the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship
for keeping good students in the state.

“And if we can keep them in our state for education, hopefully
we can keep them in our state to work in the workforce and
really contribute to the economy.

See UT Martin, Page 4
Senior art exhibition opens Oct. 7 at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host the third in a series of senior art exhibition offerings for the 2008-09 school year, on Oct. 7, in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus. Amanda Morrow, an art studio emphasis student from Troy, and Darius Moore, a graphic design emphasis student from Bartlett, will be featured. The exhibition will begin with an opening reception, slated from 5-7 p.m. It will run through Oct. 5 and will be free and open to the public.

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

UTM Homecoming Schedule of Events

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Alumni Relations will evoke memories of 1969 with “Come Together,” a song by the Beatles, as the theme of this year’s homecoming.

Homecoming 2008 will be celebrated Sept. 29-Oct. 5, with Quad City’s live music, kid’s carnival, reunion and college tents, a petting farm, carnival games, food and fellowship as a focal point from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Oct. 4, in the Quad. Adding to the festivities for current UT Martin students, alumni and friends are the UT Martin alumni dinner and awards program, pyramid building competition, pep rally and Greek Step Show. At 2 p.m., Oct. 4, the Skyhawks will face Tennessee State University at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

The following is a complete schedule of events for homecoming weekend:

**Monday, Sept. 29**
- Noon – Art Unveiled, Paul Meek Library
- 4 p.m. – Rope Pull, Pacer Pond

**Tuesday, Sept. 30**
- 11:30 a.m. – Times Talk on Banned Books, Room 125 of cafeteria, Boling University Center
- 4 p.m. – Rope Pull, Pacer Pond
- 7 p.m. – Lip Sync Show, Pacer Pond
- 8:30 p.m. – Bonfire, Pacer Pond
- 8:45 p.m. – Homecoming Court Announcement, Pacer Pond

**Wednesday, Oct. 1**
- Noon – Women In Chemistry Exhibit, Room 118, Paul Meek Library
- 4 p.m. – Rope Pull, Pacer Pond
- 7 p.m. – Campus Ministries, Boling University Center

**Thursday, Oct. 2**
- 10 a.m. – Book signing, John Peters; noon, Richard Saunders; Paul Meek Library
- 4 p.m. – Rope Pull, Pacer Pond
- 7 p.m. – Campus Ministries, Boling University Center

- 6:30 p.m. – Public Relations Student Society of America’s “Womanless Beauty Revue,” Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center
- 9:09 p.m. – SAC 909 Comedy Series, Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center

**Friday, Oct. 3**
- 9 a.m. – Golf Tournament, Sharon
- 3 p.m. – Rope Pull Treats, Pacer Pond
- 3:15 p.m. – Rope Pull Championship, Pacer Pond
- 3:30 p.m. – Student Recreational Complex Groundbreaking, Pacer Pond
- 4:45 p.m. – Museum Naming, Paul Meek Library
- 6 p.m. – Alumni Dinner and Awards Program, University Center Ballroom, Boling University Center
- 8:00 p.m. – Pyramids and Pep Rally, Elam Center

**Saturday, Oct. 4**
- 7:30 a.m. – Letterwinner’s Breakfast, Student Life Center, Alumni Gym
- 9:30 a.m. – Chancellor’s Brunch, Alumni Center, Chancellor’s Suite
- 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – Quad City
- 11 a.m. – Football Team’s Hawk Walk, Quad near Paul Meek Library
- 2 p.m. – Skyhawks vs. Tennessee State University, Hardy M. Graham Stadium
- 5:30 p.m. – 40th Anniversary Reception-Dept. of Psychology, Alumni Center, Chancellor’s Suite
- 7:30 p.m. – NPHC Greek Step Show, Elam Center
- 10 a.m. – Walk in the Quad
- 10:30 a.m. – Homecoming Brunch, Skyhawk Dining Room, Boling University Center

For more homecoming information, visit www.utmforever.com.
Difficult Economy Will Not Stop University From Moving Forward

The University of Tennessee will provide three major 'deliverables' to move the state ahead despite difficult economic conditions. UT President John Petersen told an audience of elected officials and community leaders Monday in Martin. Petersen addressed the group during a noon lunch at UT Martin's Boling University Center, which marked the second in a series of daylong stops at each of the UT System's five campuses. The 'deliverables' he pledged to continue, even as the university faces more budget cuts in the coming year, included educating a qualified workforce, supporting economic development and enhancing quality of life through healthcare and 'intellectual content that universities provide.'

Business consultant available to help

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center assists an average of 100 small business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs each year with one-on-one consulting.

The next opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues from Ron Acree, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant, will be 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Oct. 9.

The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

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

The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell St. in Martin.

UT Martin ready for homecoming

The Jackson Sun

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Alumni Relations will evoke memories of 1969 with "Come Together," a song by the Beatles, as the theme of this year's homecoming. Homecoming 2008 will be celebrated beginning today and continuing through Sunday, according to a news release.

Highlights will include Quad City's live music, a kids' carnival, reunion and college tents, a petting farm, carnival games, food and fellowship as a focal point from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in the Quad.

Adding to the festivities for current UT Martin students, alumni and friends are the UT Martin alumni dinner and awards program, pyramid building competition, pep rally and Greek Step Show. At 2 p.m. the Skyhawks will face Tennessee State University at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

The following is a complete schedule of events for homecoming week:

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- Noon - Art Unveiled, Paul Meek Library
- 4 p.m. - Rope Pull, Pacer Pond

**Tuesday:**
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- 4 p.m. - Rope Pull, Pacer Pond
- 7 p.m. - Lip Sync Show, Pacer Pond
- 8:30 p.m. - Bonfire, Pacer Pond
- 8:45 p.m. - Homecoming Court Announcement, Pacer Pond

**Wednesday:**
- Noon - Women In Chemistry Exhibit, Room 118, Paul Meek Library
- 4 p.m. - Rope Pull, Pacer Pond
- 7 p.m. - Campus Ministry, Boling University Center

**Thursday:**
- 10 a.m. - Book signing, John Petersen; noon, Richard Saunders, Paul Meek Library
- 4 p.m. - Rope Pull, Pacer Pond
- 6:30 p.m. - Public Relations Student Society of America's "Womanless Beauty Revue," Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center
- 9:09 p.m. - SAC 909 Comedy Series, Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center
- Friday:
- 9 a.m. - Golf Tournament, Sharon
- 3 p.m. - Rope Pull, Treats, Pacer Pond
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- 8:30 p.m. - Pyramid and Pep Rally, Elam Center

**Saturday:**
- 7:30 a.m. - Letterwinner's Breakfast, Student Life Center, Alumni Gym
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- 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Quad City
- 11 a.m. - Football Team's Hawk Walk, Quad near Paul Meek Library
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- 5:30 p.m. - 40th Anniversary Reception-Dept. of Psychology, Alumni Center, Chancellor's Suite
- 7:30 p.m. - NPHC Greek Step Show, Elam Center

**Sunday:**
- 10 a.m. - "Walk in the Quad"
- 10:30 a.m. - Homecoming Brunch, Skyhawk Dining Room, Boling University Center

For more homecoming information, visit www.utmforever.com.
UTM CROP Hunger Walk set for Oct. 18

The Interfaith Student Center and the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice at The University of Tennessee Martin plan a CROP Hunger Walk from 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 18. Local churches, civic groups and campus organizations are invited to take part by encouraging individuals to obtain sponsors and join the walk around the UTM campus.

Donations from the Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty/CROP Hunger Walk will go to Church World Service and to Hunters for the Hungry. Church World Service is a cooperative ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican denominations. It provides sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief and refugee assistance in 80 countries. Seventy-five percent of the money raised at the UTM CROP Hunger Walk will go to CWS.

The remaining 25 percent will be given to Tennessee’s Hunters for the Hungry, which provides fresh game meat for local food pantries.

Register for the UTM CROP Hunger Walk on Oct. 18 at the Interfaith Student Center. Donations may be turned in at registration. The Interfaith Center is located on the east side of the UTM campus at 312 Lovelace Ave.

Call the Rev. Jolinne Balentine-Downey at (731) 857-2603, or Dr. Nancy Sonleitner at (731) 881-7523.

AGR HELPS WITH BOOK FAIR — Members of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at UT Martin helped set up the used book fair held during the Soybean Festival. Helping set up are (front, from left) Wes Rodgers, John Austin Wilkerson, Johnny Richwine; (back, from left) Josh Bates, Ethan Vasquez, Maylon Price, Mitch Holmberg and Mikel Woodall. The C. E. Weldon Public Library and the Friends of the Library appreciate these young men for their hard work and willingness to help.

Retiring Faculty — Retiring University of Tennessee at Martin faculty recently were honored at a dinner. With the honorees is Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, standing at right. Those recognized for their service include, from left, standing, Dr. Frank Black, Martin; Dr. Bob Putman, McKenzie; Helmut Wenz, Martin; seated, Dr. Dwight Gatwood, Martin; Dr. Laura Jarmon, Stanton; and Dr. Richard Cheesteen, Union City.
HELPING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY — UT Martin Habitat for Humanity chapter members Elizabeth Williams, Amber Morgan, Allison Hagin, Elyse Murrell and UTM HFH chapter President Ashley Strader worked Sept. 20 at the newest Habitat for Humanity construction site at D & C Subdivision in Dresden. The home is being built for a family with special needs and will include wheelchair accessibility. Others from the campus and community are invited to volunteer to help build or to help provide lunch for other volunteers. To make a monetary donation, send a check to WCHFH, P.O. Box 124, Sharon, TN 38255.

University of Tennessee at Martin's Habitat for Humanity Chapter worked to build a new 'Habitat' house in the D and C Subdivision in Dresden Sept. 20. For details, see Page 9.

RETIRING FACULTY — Retiring University of Tennessee at Martin faculty members recently were honored at a dinner. With the honorees is Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, standing at right. Those recognized for their service include (standing, from left) Dr. Frank Black, Martin; Dr. Bob Putman, McKenzie; Helmut Wenz, Martin; (seated, from left) Dr. Dwight Gatwood, Martin; Dr. Laura Jarmon, Stanton; and Dr. Richard Cheesteen, Union City.
Homecoming book signings
On Oct. 2, there will be two book signings at the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin as part of the week’s homecoming celebration. At 10 a.m., John Peters, co-author of “On The Ground, the secret war in Vietnam,” will be signing copies of his book. Later, at noon, Richard Saunders, UT Martin special collections librarian and archivist, will be signing copies of “Their Ancient Grudge.”

Peters graduated with a degree in philosophy from Saint Mary’s College of California in 1966. He spent a year of study at the University of Paris before volunteering for the army in 1967. His book chronicles highly classified reconnaissance missions conducted by Peters, John Meyer, his former Special Forces comrade in arms and other members of the military assistance command’s studies and observations group into Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam. Peters will give a talk about Vietnamese and MACV-SOG history, answer questions and bring books to

Octubafest planned
An Octubafest recital will be held at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 2, in Harriet Fulton Theatre at the University of Tennessee at Martin. It will feature the members of the UT Martin Low Brass Studio, Dr. Bradley Coker, assistant professor of music; Delana Easley, lecturer of music; and Dr. Dwight Gatwood, recently retired UT Martin music professor. The performance will consist of a variety of works by several composers. Musical selections will include pieces for low brass choir, tuba/euphonium duet, tuba duet, trombone quartet and solo works for trombone, euphonium and tuba with piano.

Similar in function to the Tubachristmas performances that take place in cities all over the United States, Octubafest concerts seek to inform audiences about the family of low brass instruments, while providing enjoyable music for listeners of all ages. This event will be free and open to the public.

For additional information, contact Coker at 881-7401.

J. Houston Gordon Museum dedication slated for Oct. 3
The University Museum in the Corbett Special Collections area of the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be named the “J. Houston Gordon Museum” in honor of J. Houston Gordon, alumnum, benefactor and volunteer leader of the University.

The dedication ceremony will be at 4:45 p.m., Oct. 3, at the museum during UT Martin homecoming week. Gordon also is one of three alumni receiving awards, during the UT Martin Alumni Awards Banquet later that evening. He will receive the Chancellor’s Award for University Service, given in recognition of outstanding service to UT Martin.

J. Houston Gordon Jr., Covington attorney, graduated from UT Martin with honors in 1968. Houston and Debbie Gordon have supported UT Martin through the UT Martin Gordon Family Scholarship Endowment, the Paul Meek Library and the American Democracy Project with gifts and pledges and are members of the UT Charles Dabney Society. Debbie currently serves on the UT National Alumni Association Women’s Council and on the Alliance of Women Philanthropists board. Houston has served on the Dean’s Alumni Advisory Council, UT College of Law; UT National Alumni Association Board of Governors; the UT Board of Trustees, the UT Martin Development Committee and the UT Development Council.

Four generations of the Gordon family are alumni of UT Martin: Ava Darnall Gordon, his grandmother; H.D. Gordon, his father; Houston and his siblings, Chester, Sarah and David; and Chip and John Gordon, his nephews. Jane Gordon, his niece, is a current student.

“The University of Tennessee at Martin believes the naming of University Museum, which is housed in the Special Collections area featuring Gov. Ned R. McWherter’s office and the papers of Congressman Ed Jones, is an appropriate recognition of Gordon’s distinguished service advancing the educational opportunities in perpetuity for Tennesseans,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

Preview Day set at UTM
The first of two preview days is set for Oct. 18 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Preview days are opportunities for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. Each event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life. A second day is planned Nov. 15.

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

Registration for the preview day, Oct. 18, will be from 9-9:30 a.m., in the Boling University Center, and Nov. 15, from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Elam Center.

On each occasion, registration will be followed by a welcome and general information session, the university’s academic fair, which will take place in the Duncan Ballroom in the university center Oct. 18 and in the Elam Center Nov. 15, academic department visits and campus tours. For more information about Preview Day activities and events, call the UT Martin admissions office at 1-800-829-UTM1 or 731-881-7020.
Museum at UT Martin library to be named in honor of alumnus

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Dunagan and Chesteen selected to panel for advisory commission

Dr. Nick Dunagan, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor emeritus, and Dr. Richard Chesteen, professor emeritus of political science, were recently named to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations’ “Forum on Tennessee’s Future” project panel.

TACIR was created to monitor federal, state and local government relations and to make recommendations for improvement to the legislature. The commission is comprised of representatives from the executive and legislative branches of state government, county and municipal governments and the public. It serves as a bipartisan forum for the discussion of intergovernmental issues and may initiate studies resulting in legislative proposals and constitutional amendments. The commission responds to requests for technical assistance from the General Assembly, state agencies and local governments.

The forum panel will develop a list of 10 issues or trends related to the “biggest challenges that Tennessee must deal with in order to improve its competitive edge and enhance the quality of life for all current and future residents.” As a result of the forum, there will be policy papers on 10 topics and a magazine-format document accessible to a broad audience.