Governor, chancellor unveil Parsons Center expansion

PARSONS – Jessica Deere and Jessica Brownyard share more in common than the same first name. Both are nursing students at the UT Martin Parsons Center, and both will stay close to home to earn Bachelor of Science in nursing degrees as the center offers a complete BSN degree program beginning in fall 2014.

Rain and storms moved a planned groundbreaking inside to a large classroom Monday as Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, businessman and philanthropist Jim Ayers and West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation representatives unveiled the rendering by TLM Associates for the 10,000-square-foot addition that will house the center’s expanded nursing program.

The addition will be named the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing in recognition of a $1 million gift by the foundation to fund scholarships and assist with the building expansion.

Deere, of Lexington, works as a licensed practical nurse and will pursue the university’s LPN to BSN program starting this fall. The new BSN program will allow her to pursue her next educational goal at one location. “The UT Martin Parsons Center not only gives me the best academics and support to be offered, but going to school here allows me to maintain my current job and further my degree at the same time,” she told the standing-room-only audience.

Brownyard, a junior nursing major from Parsons, wanted to attend college elsewhere, but her plans changed when her parents divorced while she was in high school. Brownyard decided to live with her mother, work two jobs and attend the UT Martin Parsons Center.

She planned to stay one year and then attend college elsewhere, until she “fell completely in love” with the Parsons Center after one semester. Until the announcement of the center’s new BSN program, she

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- Dr. Nathan Howard, associate professor of history, had an article published in the spring 2013 issue of the Journal of Late Antiquity. The title is “Gifts Bearing Greekness: Epistles as Cultural Capital in Fourth-Century Cappadocia.” Howard contends that the exchange of epistles among the provincial elites of the eastern Roman empire enabled these leaders to accentuate their status and to reinforce cultural norms rooted in the heritage of classical Greece. This social interaction was based on a trans-historical camaraderie with noble Greeks from the past. It cut across religious lines, thus facilitating dialogue between those Christians and non-Christians who were educated in the same rigorous curriculum of literary and historical study.


- Mary Hill is retiring after 31 years of service to UT Martin. She is retiring from her position as senior library assistant.

Hill came to UT Martin in 1982 as a clerk/typist for the Department of Biological Sciences. In 1984 she moved to the Office of Sports Information and University Relations as a secretary, then made a jump to the library in 1987.

Over the past 25 years she has worked in various positions in the library. In the process she completed a UT Martin degree in criminal justice, which was awarded in 2000. Since 2004, Hill has worked in a support position in the Reference Department in the library.
‘Creating learning experiences’ to be topic of fall faculty workshop

Dr. L. Dee Fink and his colleagues provide training nationally and internationally “for college teachers on Integrated Course Design, a special way of designing courses that leads to greater student engagement and better student learning at colleges and universities.”

Weissinger promotes assessment as an instructional design tool. Before her current position, she served as director of Instructional Design and Development at the Center for Teaching and Learning, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis.

She was a contributing author in T. O. Seng (Ed.) Problem-based learning (2004). Her book chapter was titled “Critical Thinking, Metacognition, and Problem-Based Learning.”


Seating for the workshop is limited. Refreshments will be served at 8:30 a.m., and the program will begin promptly at 9 a.m.

To register, email Dr. Bonnie Daniel at bdaniel@utm.edu, or contact the Office of Research, Grants, and Contracts at 7015.

In residence at the Kentucky Governor’s School

The Caixa Trio was in residence at the Kentucky Governor’s School for the Arts on June 30, 2013. The trio conducted several “hands on” sessions with all program participants including a drum circle and Ewe drumming, dancing and singing. The trio further worked with GSA percussionists on hand drumming techniques, accessories, a hands separate approach to practice and more. Caixa closed the residency with a concert for all KY GSA participants. Caixa’s residency was supported by KY GSA, Innovative Percussion, Evans, Zildjian, and Pearl/Adams.

UTM lands equipment grant for engineering

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners recently awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin an equipment grant to purchase equipment to enhance engineering laboratories.

The awards are limited to accredited programs in architecture, engineering, landscape architecture and interior design.

The equipment purchased ensures UT Martin engineering students have robust and updated lab experiences in their coursework.

Some of the equipment purchased in this 2012-13 award include: Buehler Simpliment Metallurgical Mounting press, BioLogi Potentiostat, Chicago Dreis & Krump Box and Pan Sheet Metal Brake and Logacre computer scales.

“With the constant advancements in technology, having current equipment in our engineering labs is a key element in providing our students a robust and updated lab instructional experience,” Dr. Ed Wheeler, chair of the Department of Engineering said.

Selected for Percussive Arts Society’s University Committee

Newest members
Joshua Spaulding (above) and Jennifer Hotz (left) have been selected as members of the Percussive Arts Society’s University Committee. They, along with 20 other university students from across the globe, will help serve their peers on an international scope with all things percussion.

New nursing addition
The UT Martin Parsons Center recently received a $100,000 pledge from Peggy Chumney, of Parsons, to support the construction of its new nursing addition. Construction on the addition is expected to begin this summer, with classes set to begin in fall 2014. Pictured are (l to r) Jason Sullivan, UT Martin associate director of development, Peggy Chumney and Dr. Kelli Deere, UT Martin Parsons Center director.

Local teachers participate in ‘Writing Project’

Eight teachers earned 52 renewal points at UT Martin by participating in the 20th Invitational Summer Institute of the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) May 11 and June 3-13.

Teachers shared demonstrations that focused on student writing and reading, learned how to incorporate more technology in their teaching and honed their writing skills in afternoon workshops. Doug Billings and David Carithers facilitated the Summer Institute.

For more information on WTWP visit www.utm.edu/wtp.

RENEWAL POINTS -- Local teachers (from left to right, front row) participated in the WTWP. The teachers included Threvia Williams, Madison Academic High School; Mary Perry, Martin Middle School; Lindsay Mathis, Madison Academic High School; Lee Adams, Union City Middle School; (back row, from left) David Carithers, UT Martin, WTWP director Teresa Taylor, Lauderdale Middle School; Ellen Nance, St. Dominic School, Memphis; Terri Tims, Bolivar Central High School; Shelia Caudle Rogers, Carroll County Adult Education; and Doug Billings, Lauderdale County Middle School.
The UT Martin Parsons Center held a faculty workshop on July 11. Jerry Garcia with the UT Martin Department of Public Safety presented Shots Fired On Campus. This is a program designed to instill knowledge and awareness in teachers and students in case of an emergency situation at the center. The UT Martin Parsons Center also teamed with Air Evac Lifeteam to provide training. Becky Davis presented the dangers of designer drugs and how to educate college students. The Air Evac helicopter made an appearance at the close of the workshop.

FACULTY WORKSHOP AT PARSONS CENTER -- (from left to right) Attending the workshop were Dr. Randy Cate, Jim Reed, Jerry Forsyth, Kathleen Przybeck, Air Evac pilot David Miller, Charlotte Cole, Phillip Jones, Amy McLean, Kelli Deere, Allen Shull, Judy Duke, Sandra Sharp, Dr. Arthur Hunt, Tammie Patterson, Joyce Smothers, Jeannie Walker, Charles Corley, Amy Lee, Lori Brasher, Dr. Alan Bell, Dr. Sam Faught, Air Evac medic Jamie Gean, Renee Swift, and Air Evac nurse Marlon Burks.

‘Shots fired on campus’ presented at Parsons Center

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Alumnus, Obion Countian uses IRT for training; Black applies for grant

Dr. Russell Kirk was just establishing his dental office in Lebanon when he received a letter informing him he was to report to active duty in the Navy.

The Obion County native and University of Tennessee at Martin graduate, who was in the United States Navy Reserve, closed his private practice after only three years to serve as the staff Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon at the United States Military Hospital Kuwait in conjunction with Expeditionary Medical Facility Dallas.

Each year since he has been in the Navy Reserves, Kirk has had to complete a two-week training obligation. He’s been to North Africa and now he has been to Martin.

Kirk was among 300 Navy, Air Force and Army personnel who have deployed to Martin. The primary mission of Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) is to conduct deployment, readiness and logistics training in an expeditionary, multi-service environment.

As of this past Tuesday afternoon, Kirk and other military personnel involved in dental exams provided more than $300,000 in services. Kirk said his group has seen more than 500 patients and performed more than 1,500 extractions and 200 restorations.

Ruby Black, professor of nursing at UT Martin and chairperson of the Board of Hope of Martin, applied for the IRT grant through Hope of Martin Community Development Corporation.

While there were no eligibility requirements and all health screenings were free, the IRT program is a part of the United States Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

ONE OF MANY -- Dr. Russell Kirk worked on Charles Fitzgerald, Jr. of Huntingdon this past week at the IRT. Fitzgerald was one of more than 500 patients Kirk and others saw at Martin Middle School.
MARTIN – Dr. Charles A. “Chuck” Julian accepted an appointment as director of the Paul Meek Library, effective Monday, at the University of Tennessee at Martin, announced Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Julian, whose most recent appointment was manager of knowledge-based services and intellectual property for the National Technology Transfer Center, earned his Ph.D in library science from Florida State. He has a master’s in library science from George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt as well as a master’s in information studies from the University of Sheffield in England. His A.B. in education is from Glenville (West Virginia) State College, and he is a past president of the West Virginia Library Association.

“When I visited the UT Martin campus, I observed the talented Paul Meek Library team at all levels valuing and nurturing a vital commitment to the core mission of positively impacting student teaching and learning,” Julian said. “This student-centric approach is derived from UTM’s central mission and accentuates a close collaboration among students, faculty and staff – a great formula for success.”

Dr. Julian succeeds Mary Carpenter, who accepted a position with the state late last summer.

“I must express my deepest appreciation to Ann Funkhouser, who chaired the search committee,” Ogg said. “Given the complexities of the modern academic library this was not an easy search, but Ann and her team were thorough in casting a wide net.”

Other members of the search committee included Dr. Beverly Hearn, Sam Richardson, May Ann Rea and Dr. Robert Nanney.

“I am delighted to be joining a diverse and talented academic community at UT Martin and look forward to active involvement with projects and activities throughout the university, in the local community, and as a part of library and information professional endeavors,” Julian said.

Unveiling, continued from page 1

was again faced with going to another school and finding a way to pay for it. “I can honestly not thank everyone enough for contributing and making the BSN program at UT Martin Parsons Center possible,” Brownyard said.

“We are proud to be offering a University of Tennessee degree right here in Parsons, Tennessee,” said Chancellor Rakes. “This is an example of where the community, the state and also a health-care partner leveraged this along with several donors who are here today to make a real difference for us.”

Haslam echoed Rakes’ comments that the expansion is about access, affordability and quality of higher education. “But it’s also about making certain we’re providing the right training for the jobs that exist out there,” the governor said. “And there’s no question that nursing is one of those professions where the demand is greater than the supply we have right now.”

Ayers addressed the crowd and thanked Haslam and members of the Tennessee General Assembly for making a $1 million grant from the state possible, funding that was approved before the conclusion of the 2013 legislative session. He acknowledged that funding such a project wasn’t easy in tough economic times.

“So Governor Haslam, I just want you to know, you won’t spend a penny this year that’s appreciated more than this,” Ayers said.

Ayers asked Parsons resident Peggy Chumney, a retired schoolteacher, to join him at the podium, where he thanked her for supporting the center from its beginnings.

“I want you to know, in addition to many people, including a lot that are here in this room, ‘Miss Peggy’ stepped up and helped us build this building with a significant donation way back when.”

More recently, Chumney made a six-figure gift to the center expansion project.

Ayers closed by thanking the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation, represented in the program by Harbert Alexander Jr., foundation board chair.

“This facility will enable increased access to higher educational opportunities that will not only benefit the residents of Parsons and Decatur County, but will have a significant impact for all of West Tennessee,” Alexander said.

“Increasing the number of nurses is crucial for the continued success of our health-care industry and will better the lives for all the residents in this area.”