

Alumni Agenda

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A Newsletter for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

Calm and Reason – In The Midst of Chaos

By Dr. Jim Byford

I've just completed my 40th year in higher education, and will retire at the end of 2009. As I reflect upon my career, I'm considering the relevance of higher education in today's culture. Are we teaching the right things? Our students frequently ask, "I came to college to study X – why am I having to take courses in humanities, fine arts, and social and behavioral sciences?" I remember as a student years ago having the same question. Basically my answer goes something like this. No matter what your profession, your success will depend on the ability to get along with others, to interact – not only with folks in your own profession – but folks in other professions, as well. And, your ability to do that will depend on a broad education. You need to understand something of the world's complexity. You also need to be



Jim Byford, Dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

able to think on your feet, communicate well, and respect diverse opinions from people in all walks of life. And, very importantly – because the world is changing at warp speed, you need to be able to gather data (sometimes quickly), analyze it with an open mind, and develop your own conclusions. Leaders do that. They don't automatically accept a piece of information as fact, then react. If we educators have done our job well, our graduates will be independent thinkers, and independent thinkers often become society's leaders.

Recently, I attended a seminar on "Conspiracy Rhetoric." I went, because I have been intrigued, if not saddened lately, with how this phenomenon has loomed over our society like a dark, dreary cloud. Basically, conspiracy rhetoric means: to develop a

conspiracy (plan to bring about a certain result), and then develop the rhetoric to make it happen. The rhetoric may be totally true, partially true, or have absolutely no validity. And, once an idea gets "out there," it's hard to reel it back in. At one time it took hours or days for a rumor to spread – now it only takes seconds. Conspiracy rhetoric is often ruthless, presented in cleverly disguised ways, so it looks real. For example, fictitious references are often given, that "sound like" well known, dependable references. Motives range from: wanting someone to win an election, or stroking a personal ego, to making money. And some media personalities are making lots

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Calm and Reason

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of money with conspiracy rhetoric. At one time we paid the most money to our leaders – ones with vision, a positive attitude, and creative, servant leadership. Now we most pad the pockets of negative thinking folks – ones who constantly put people and ideas down – but never have creative ideas of their own. Tuesday morning, arm-chair quarterbacks, who've never served on the field of battle.

There were many examples of conspiracy rhetoric in the last presidential election – on both sides. One involved questioning whether Obama was born a U.S. Citizen. Once the idea was “out there,” it was hard to make many people believe otherwise, even though the birth certificate was presented by Hawaiian officials. Another example was the bashing of ethanol by a coalition of competing industries. Even when accusations were proven false – by the U.S. Department of Energy, Argonne National Lab, and several Land Grant universities, it's been difficult to “undo” the damage. Health care reform and climate change are more recent examples.

We've had conspiracy rhetoric for decades – but only recently has it become mainstream. Instant, worldwide, interactive communications have allowed it to blossom in recent years. Blog sites, Twitter, Facebook, and web-enhanced cell phone packages all play a part. Perhaps the biggest problem is a declining civility in our culture – partially brought about by instantly and constantly being bombarded by the negative. Things like: ponzi schemes, unscrupulous CEO's and public officials, unfaithful public servants – on and on. The fact that a very small percentage operate that way – and that most don't – has little bearing on our collective cultural attitude. As Hembree Brandon, a writer for Penton Media, recently wrote: “It's been said that we Americans are a people with a short attention span: We're transfixed, sympathetic to, or outraged by whatever is most sensational at the moment. Tomorrow? Well, it's another disaster, scandal, whatever.”

So how do we turn this boat around – how do we wean our culture off the negativity, the crippling effect of conspiracy rhetoric? Bring about calm and reason, in the midst of chaos? The best way I can think of is through education. And even though reading, writing, and arithmetic are critical, we need to make sure we also teach our young people how to think for themselves. They need to be conditioned to question all data and claims – to be suspicious, especially of negative or glowingly positive ideas. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is – if it seems too absurd to be true, it probably is. They should be able to evaluate the source, before “buying into” a new idea. As I was speaking about conspiracy rhetoric recently, someone asked a good question, “So, how do you know if the source is dependable or not?” Tough question. First, finding and verifying the source of any one, among millions, of information bites is hard. Then, once you find the source how do you know if it's reputable? That's tough, too. But a good start is to ask three questions. First, does the source have anything to gain from the statement – financially, politically, personally, or otherwise? Second, has the source established credibility over the years, by being objective and unbiased? For example, Land Grant Universities, most government agencies, and several well-known older national science organizations usually are considered reputable by enlightened citizens. Not foolproof, but fairly dependable. And finally, has the information been verified by other sources?

No, the solution is not easy – but we must begin to counteract the gullibility of our culture. As our world continues to become more populated and our culture more complex, we will increasingly have to function amidst confusion and chaos. Our nation's success will depend on our citizens, especially our leaders, staying calm – and using reason as a basis for action. And the best tool we have to get that trend started, is a broad-based education.

Alumni Agenda is a publication of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, The University of Tennessee at Martin. It covers the activities and issues that concern the College's alumni.

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Soil-judging Team Wins Southeast Regional Competition

The University of Tennessee at Martin soil-judging team claimed first place in the Southeast Regional Soil Judging contest hosted by Virginia Tech and held in the Blue Ridge Mountains in October 2008.

Twelve teams (75 individuals) from throughout the Southeast participated in the contest, with the top six teams from the regional contest qualifying for the national contest in April.

UT Martin claimed 1,997 points and will be the first Tennessee team to appear on a traveling trophy in the last 12 years of competition. Individually, Lindsey Slaughter, of Lyles, won first place; Kelly Whitson, of Troy, was fourth; Hannah Davis, of Lewisburg, 11th; and Trey Browning, of Dresden, 23rd. Team alternates were Scott Bearden, of Cumberland Furnace, and Wes Rodgers, of Prospect.

As part of the competition, students evaluate soil based on color, texture, structure and horizons or layers and then interpret this information as it relates to agricultural soil qualities and possible limitations to urban development of the soils. Students spend three days looking at practice sites in the region and the contest, held on the fourth day, involves describing and evaluating four different soil pits. Students compete for both individual prizes (ranking) and a team score. The team score is the combined score of the students on each team.

The team was accompanied to Virginia Tech by Dr. Steve Monteith, USDA-National Resources Conservation Service soil scientist in Jackson, in the absence of Dr. Paula Gale, UT Martin professor of soil science, who was unable to attend.

ASABE Welcomes New Student Mechanization Branch at UT Martin

An American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers student mechanization branch has been founded at the University of Tennessee at Martin and was approved by the ASABE Membership Development Council.

The branch designation was spearheaded by Dr. Tim Burcham, chairholder, Gil Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources and professor of agricultural engineering, and Richard Shadden, professor of agricultural engineering.

“The UT Martin Agricultural Mechanization Branch of the ASABE will allow student members to gain valuable professional development skills, while enjoying the many sanctioned ASABE Student Club events,” said Burcham. “The 1/4-scale tractor pulling contest is just one of many fun and educational opportunities afforded to student branch clubs of the ASABE. Our students look forward to networking with young professionals from the United States and around the world.”

“Having this student chapter of the ASABE on our campus will provide a means for students at UT Martin to better connect with other

students with similar interests, not only on our campus but even with those throughout our nation and the world,” said Shadden. “Membership in a student branch of a professional society gives graduates a jump start in their profession. This chapter will give our students the same advantage to develop professionally as is provided at any major college campus which has a student branch. I look forward to working with our students in helping them promote and develop this new student chapter of ASABE.”

ASABE student branches promote professional relationships for engineering students. Activities that familiarize students with engineering interests and developments provide a basis for professional aspirations and for transition from academic to professional careers. This new branch joins over 50 universities across North America, Puerto Rico, Ghana, Mexico and Nigeria that have previously established student branches.

For more information, contact Burcham, at 731-881-7275, or Shadden, at 731-881-7264.

UTM Equestrian Team

The University of Tennessee Martin Equestrian Team concluded yet another successful season with a berth to the 2009 Varsity Equestrian National Championship. The hunter seat discipline earned a 9th ranked seed with a regular season record of 5-5. Wins throughout the season came against Delaware State, Southern Methodist, South Dakota State and Fresno State. The western squad earned a 12th seed with a 1-8 record beating Delaware State. Additionally, UT Martin had two athletes qualify for individual competition with Caroline Cramer, a freshman from Ponte Verda, FL competing in Equitation on the Flat and Lauren Eichstadt, a freshman from Greenville, PA competing in western reining. Cramer finished the season with an 80% winning record, an average margin of victory of 6 points and an outstanding 9 MVPS throughout the season. Eichstadt cumulated a 70% winning record and a remarkable average margin of victory of 14 points and an average score of 74.

In the first round of competition, both disciplines faced off against the Kansas State Wildcats; ranked 5th in the western and 8th in the hunter seat. The lady Skyhawks jumped out with a 3-1 victory in Equitation over fences. Unfortunately the lead slipped away as the team moved into equitation on the flat, losing 1-3. After a tie breaker, the Skyhawks lost to raw score 815-840. Western also failed to advance, being swept 0-8. Both Cramer and Eichstadt had strong performances but lost to what would become the National Champion in each of their respective events.

The team opens 2009-2010 competition Friday, October 3 against the University of Georgia Bulldogs at the McWherter Agricultural Complex. You can follow the Skyhawks at utmpsorts.com.



Caroline Cramer of the UTM Equestrian Team

Pre-Vet Club

The Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club participated in and hosted several events, both on and off campus, to prepare members for their future veterinary careers and increase student and community involvement in the club and on campus. For the first time this year, members assisted Hoofbeats of Hope therapeutic horseback riding with the care of their horses. Club members toured the facility, and with the assistance of Dr. Jason Roberts and Mrs. Tara Woods vaccinated, dewormed and pulled Coggins on the Hoofbeats' horses. This was a great opportunity for club members to provide community service for this great organization, and gain some hands on experience with preventive care in horses. Other club events included hosting a cookout to welcome all students with an interest in veterinary medicine, involvement in various student organization fairs, Senior days, CAAS Fall Fest and Farm Fest along with other campus activities. Members also participated in community events such as the

Soybean Festival parade and participated in bake sale fund raisers. The year ended with club members taking a trip to Knoxville to tour the vet school.



Members of the Pre-Vet Club at Hoofbeats of Hope

Intercollegiate Horse Judging Team

By Craig Darroch, Professor of Animal Science

In January, 2009, after students returned to start the spring semester, Dr. Craig Darroch held an informational meeting to start an Intercollegiate Horse Judging Team for 2009. About 15 students attended that initial meeting; and after learning about the contests and expectations, four students agreed to commit to the challenge of judging horses at the collegiate level. These students, pictured below in front of the American Paint Horse Association headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas included (from left to right): Amanda Allen, a junior animal science major; Jona-lee Payne, a senior animal science/pre-vet major; Jon Quinn, a sophomore animal science major; and Catherine Benson, a freshman animal science major.



The team began practicing on campus, January 26th. Weekly practices included several trips to area horse farms, and to the West Tennessee Quarter Horse Association sanctioned horse shows at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion. These practice opportunities gave the students exposure to halter, horsemanship, reining, trail, equitation, hunter hack and hunter under saddle classes. Students also practiced along with FFA and 4-H students at the UT Martin spring horse judging clinic. In addition to stock horse judging, the team spent time at Dr. Rodney Thomsen's Farm in Dresden, TN to gain some experience with walking and racking horses before their first collegiate competition at MTSU. On Friday, March 27th, the team competed at the Miller Coliseum in Murfreesboro, TN. Our team placed 12th out of 15 teams. MTSU,

Virginia Tech and Purdue were the top three teams at the competition. Jona-lee Payne put in the best total individual score for our team, but Amanda Allen placed in the top 10 in individual halter.

Our second contest of the spring semester was at the American Paint Horse Association Intercollegiate Horse Judging, Spring Sweepstakes on April 21, 2009. Teams competed in 12 classes. Halter classes included: yearling geldings, 2 year old mares, 3 year old and older mares and yearling fillies. The performance classes included: trail, hunter hack, western pleasure, western horsemanship, western riding, hunter under saddle, hunt seat equitation and reining. Our team earned a total score of 2724, 201 points from the 10th overall placed team. More than 25 teams competed in this contest with MTSU, Sam Houston State University, and Univ. of Florida placing in the top three.

The spring contests showed us how competitive intercollegiate horse judging is, and how important it is to give a good set of reasons. The team plans to practice over the summer and continue to compete in the fall at the AQHA Congress Intercollegiate Horse Judging Contest in Columbia, Ohio in October. We will also have three new members join the team in the fall. They include: Tahliah Cronk, Pamela Delgado and Kelsey Corbitt. Tahliah and Kelsey are both Tennessee natives, but Pamela is an exchange student majoring in animal science from Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Narro in Saltillo, Mexico. Pamela's family has horses, and competing in intercollegiate horse judging will be a novel way for her to strengthen her spoken English. In addition to competing at the Congress, we plan to spend three days practicing on horse farms in Ohio in early September. This practice trip is being arranged by Russell Gilliam, an animal science alumnus from UT Martin, who now works for Alltech as regional sales manager. One farm we will visit is Piper Performance Horses, home of AQHA trainer Hank Clason. He has trained several hunter under saddle AQHA World Champions. The other farm located near Dover, OH is owned by Randy Jacobs. He is also owner of DAC horse supplements; and he is an accomplished AQHA halter horse exhibitor, member of AQHA Team Wrangler, and is a member of the Sundowner Trailers Pro Staff.

If you would like to know more about the intercollegiate horse judging team, you can email cdarroch@utm.edu. If you have horses that we could judge, I would like to meet you and arrange a visit.

West TN Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab

The West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, a partnership between the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and UT Martin, is now in its second year of operation. The lab's staff will continue its work providing a list of services in support of animal disease diagnosis and regulatory activities. The laboratory, on the UTM campus, serves as a satellite facility of C.E. Kord Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Nashville. The partnership between the state and UT Martin was made possible by the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program. The 2,200 sq. ft. facility provides a variety of services in support of animal disease diagnosis and regulatory activities within the state of Tennessee including post-mortem tissue collection services. Samples are shipped overnight to C.E. Kord Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Nashville, where all definitive diagnoses will be made by state veterinary pathologists. Veterinarians, producers and West Tennessee residents can submit animals to the facility for necropsies. For more information about the West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, contact Dr. Jason Roberts, facilities manager, or Tara Woods at 731-881-1071.

Companion Animal Lab

The companion animal laboratory continues to teach students the importance of responsible pet ownership and wellness care for companion animals. The facility is located on the teaching farm at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The facility works in cooperation with local humane societies, and houses dogs and cats each semester. To enhance experiential learning, the students are responsible for daily care of the animals including, cleaning and checking the kennel to ensure there is fresh food and water twice a day, walking dogs, and administering any medications that the animals may need. The students also work to socialize the animals. All animals receive annual vaccinations, monthly flea and tick control and heartworm prevention while at the facility. Students report to Dr. Jason Roberts or Mrs. Tara Woods with any questions or concerns they may have regarding the health and care of the animals. All animals are also checked daily by Dr. Roberts or Mrs. Tara Woods, facility manager. After all animals have had a wellness check and received their vaccinations, the facility attempts to find homes for the animals following the policies used by the cooperating shelter. If the animals are not found homes at the end of the semester, they return to the humane society where they are more readily adopted due to their improved health status and socialization. Many animals have been adopted to local homes while at the facility. The companion animal laboratory is a great learning experience for students, and provides a benefit to the local humane societies and pets that enter the facility. To ensure the animals are handled with the utmost dignity and care, the facility follows the guidelines and policies set forth by the Animal Welfare Act, and the facility is inspected annually by the USDA and biannually by the IACUC.

Sigma Alpha

Sigma Alpha is a professional agricultural sorority that promotes scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship among its members.

This Past year, the Sigma Alpha Beta Theta Chapter has been very busy. The Beta Theta Chapter received its charter April, 2006 and celebrated its second anniversary in April, 2008 with a luncheon for members, alumni, as well as their families.

In the fall of 2008 the chapter initiated the Delta class, which consisted of Allison Zill, Michelle Kimbrell, Christina Putzbach, Callie Wagner, Beth Dellilo, Sarah McAlpin, Cameryn Gaines, Kelsey Corbit, Jodi Springer, and Rachel Carter. The Chapter hopes to increase its membership more in the fall of 2009.

The chapter had various professional development speakers this year, including Tara Woods, Jenny Canary, Vickie Reynolds, and Lisa Smartt. In addition, we toured the MTSU farm in Murfreesboro, TN. Some of our community service participation included Relay for Life, Santa's Village, Homecoming, Farm Fest, and many more.

For more information about this sorority please visit the National website at www.sigmaalphabetheta.org.



UT Martin NAMA Club

By Dr. Scott Parrott

The University of Tennessee at Martin NAMA Club (National Agricultural Marketing Association) participated in an exciting and challenging range of activities during the most recent school year. The club currently has approximately 30 members and membership growth is keeping pace with enrollment growth in the Agricultural Business and Farm and Ranch Management degree programs.

Coursework for the NAMA class during Fall 2008 included several rounds of discussion directed toward choosing a product to present in the national competition and then further developing the separate parts of the project including target market analysis, promotional strategies and financial analysis.

A few members from the NAMA club along with their advisors attended two conferences in Memphis, TN to meet with the Mid-South NAMA chapter representatives. Through networking and getting feedback on the initial product ideas the NAMA team was able to refine and strengthen their product and presentation strategies.

The NAMA class offered during Spring 2009 focused on finishing the product's financial and promotional details and developing a presentation strategy. The team practiced the presentation several times getting feedback from both the faculty advisors and the Mid-South NAMA chapter.

The NAMA team brought their ideas and energy to Atlanta, GA for the 2009 student chapter marketing competition this past April. There were sixteen teams competing for the top three spots in the competition. The UT-Martin NAMA team came up short in their quest for the championship but represented UT-Martin well

having earned strong praise from the judges in the competition. With several students with competition experience returning next year, expectations are high for the next NAMA marketing competition in 2010 in Kansas City, MO.

The faculty advisors for NAMA include Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Professor Agricultural Economics and Dr. Scott Parrott, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics.



Students who presented at the 2009 NAMA Marketing Competition: From left to right Adam McCall, Liz McCurdy, Elaine Haw and Katie Bruck.

Golf Course and Landscape Management / Turf Club

The golf course and landscape management option of the plant science concentration is in good status through fall semester 2009. The option graduated 3 students, Mr. Austin Hines, Mr. Carter Pace and Mr. Eric Gardner, this spring semester. Mr. Hines is an assistant superintendent on the Valley Course at TPC at Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, Mr. Pace is an assistant superintendent at TPC Southwind in Memphis, TN, and Mr. Gardner has returned home to Sante Fe, TN to help his family run a successful farm. Several students have participated in internships this summer 2009 and include: Mr. Christopher Burton, Mr. Matthew Perry, Mr.

Alex Decker, and Mr. Adam Todd.

The UTM Turf Club completed a successful fundraiser during spring semester 2009 and is now a registered student chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The club will be training this fall semester with hopes of sending a team to the 2010 GCSAA Turf Bowl Competition in San Diego, CA. The Turf Club has also been handling the mowing practices on the UTM Baseball Field since spring semester 2009, and will be taking part in the overseeding of the UTM Baseball Field and painting of the UTM Soccer Field this fall semester 2009.

Family and Consumer Sciences

A Message from the Chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

This year, the home economics/family and consumer sciences profession celebrates its 100th anniversary. From its beginning, the profession aimed at improving the quality of life for individuals and families. Today, society's needs are different, our families take multiple forms, and our communities face numerous challenges, but the mission of our profession remains that of serving others and working to improve everyday living.

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences continues to grow and change as the needs of the clients we serve change. Our undergraduates participate in real-life experiences both within and outside of the classroom. Our graduate students can enroll and take courses in our online master's program from the convenience of their own homes. The times have indeed changed and we must

continue to be flexible in order to meet those changes while maintaining quality in our programs.

As alumnae of our programs, you meet the challenges of change on a daily basis. You serve as mentors and role models for our students. Many of you have served as preceptors or supervisors for our students in multiple concentration areas. We appreciate all of you and your diligent work in keeping the family and consumer sciences profession alive and well. Together, we celebrate our heritage, embrace our challenges, and look forward to a bright future.

Best wishes,
Lisa LeBleu

“Project Runway” Comes to UTM

Students studying fashion merchandising and family and consumer sciences education got a chance to experience “Project Runway” up-close-and-personal. During Spring Semester 2009, ten students enrolled in Fashion Design learned the many aspects of designing garments. This included creating their own designs including sketching their design, creating the pattern through flat pattern methods and constructing their garments.



FCS Students in Designs they Created: From L to R: Lauren Montague, Alishia Glover, Emily Brown, Amanda Saladin, Katherine Swann, Ashley Niven, Sara Phifer, Emily Moon, Sammie Littles (not pictured: Emily Stooksberry)

FCS Hosts 4-H Line and Design Camp

Forty Three 4-Hers from West Tennessee enjoyed three days at UTM creating items to decorate their bedrooms while learning valuable skills at the first annual Line and Design Camp. The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences hosted the 4-Hers, Extension Agents, and volunteer leaders where 4-Hers gained sewing skills by making pillowcases and button bracelets. They also made expanding scrapbooks, bubble fabric wall hangings, learned about clothing styles that looked good on them, and traditional clothing worn by international cultures.



Extension Agents Eugenia Southall (UTM Alum) [left] and Sondra Ganus demonstrate making a bandana purse to 4-Hers attending the UT Extension Western Region Line and Design Camp held on UTM campus during the Summer of 2009.

Sue Byrd Named President-Elect American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

Sue Byrd, Ph.D., CFCS, professor, Family and Consumer Sciences Department, University of Tennessee at Martin, was named president-elect of the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) at the AAFCS 100th Annual Conference & Expo in Knoxville, Tennessee in June 2009. In a formal installation ceremony, Byrd and other AAFCS officers for the fiscal year 2009-2010 were officially sworn in by Past President Bonnie Braun, CFCS, during the AAFCS Senate.

"It is an honor to have been elected to this position by my colleagues and to have the opportunity to serve AAFCS and the profession. During these times when many families are struggling to make ends meet, it is important that family and consumer sciences (FCS) professionals use their expertise to provide information that can help individuals, families, and communities make informed decisions for an improved quality of life," said Byrd. "AAFCS plays a vital role in empowering these professionals with research-based information to carry out this important mission. It is exciting to be a part of the leadership of AAFCS to support FCS professionals and move AAFCS forward into its second century as a leader in addressing issues of importance to individuals, families, and communities."

An active and long-time AAFCS member, Byrd has served in numerous leadership positions at the national and affiliate

levels. At the national level, she has been an AAFCS Council for Certification member, Community of Colleges, Universities, and Research leader, Accreditation site visitor, Communities Coordinating Team member, Nominating Committee member, and Higher Education Unit secretary. At the affiliate level, Byrd's roles have included vice president for cooperative relations, vice president for internal affairs, board member, and president.

Byrd has published a variety of scholarly articles and presented at state, national, and international events. She recently presented "The Magnificent Textiles of China: Indigo Dyeing and Tie-Dyeing Examined" during the Community of Apparel, Textiles, and Design Juried Showcase and Exhibition at the Annual Conference in Knoxville. To support her research in apparel and textiles, she has also received a number of grants, including a faculty research grant to study minority cultures in China.

In honor of her many important contributions to family and consumer sciences, Byrd has received the AAFCS and Tennessee Affiliate Leaders Awards; University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Pat and Joe Johnson Faculty Development Award; Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award; and Tennessee Affiliate District A Award.

4-H Extension Agents Learn Skills in Clothing and Textiles

Approximately 21 4-H Extension Agents plus volunteer leaders from across the state are involved in Clothing and Textiles In-Service trainings to gain skills in construction techniques and knowledge of textile products. Dr. Sue Byrd, Professor, Textiles, Clothing and Fashion Merchandising at UT Martin and Carmen Burgos, Extension Specialist in 4-H Volunteer Development are providing instruction in the three extension regions in the state in order to give agents and volunteers the foundation they need to work with 4-Hers in the Clothing and Textiles Project. By being involved in this project, 4-Hers can learn to save money by making their own clothes and interior design products, know what to look for in quality clothing they purchase, learn about how science and math are important in many of the clothing/textiles related activities in which they are involved, and possibly even make a career in the field of fashion.



Sue Byrd (right), Professor Fashion Merchandising, teaches 4-H Extension Agents concepts in pattern layouts at one of the series of in-services in which she is serving as a consultant to Extension for the 4-H Clothing and Textiles Project. Participants include alumni Deborah Seward (4th from right) and Tiffany Shellabarger Thomas (2nd from right).

Family and Consumer Sciences Students Get International Experience on the UTM Campus

Each year FCS students at UTM learn about other cultures in a variety of ways.

- During Fall 2008, FCS Freshmen got to know Business Students from Takasaki City University of Economics, Takasaki, Japan who were visiting UTM studying business in intensive format. The freshmen and Japanese students shared many aspects of their cultures with each other.
- Students enrolled in TCFM 300 Clothing and Human Behavior participated in the Conversation Partners program coordinated by Tennessee's Intensive English Program at UTM.

- Through this program American students and international students are paired and meet for six weeks, learning about each others' cultures. During the semester they use what they have learned and further research the various cultures. International students involved in the Fall 2008 program came from India, Saudi Arabia, Japan, South Korea, China, and Mali.
- FCS students and international students experienced the many sites and sounds of Chicago during the Fall 2008 Travel Study Tour. Students learned about fashion, interior design, architecture, art and natural history as well as taking in concerts and plays.



FCS Freshmen learn about Japan and its culture from Japanese business students.



FCS students (from L to R) Lindsey Kennedy and Katy Smith learn about other cultures from International Students participating in the International Conversation Partners Program.



FCS and International Students and Faculty are shown here in front of the Art Institute of Chicago; one of many sites visited during the travel study tour.

Update on the UTM Dietetic Internship

The UTM Dietetic Internship (DI) program was initiated in 1995 and in April 2000, the program reached full accreditation, meeting all requirements from the American Dietetic Association. This internship consists of nine months of graduate study for students planning to become registered dietitians (RD). The intern class of 2008-2009 consisted of six individuals, five full-time interns and one part-time intern. With the majority of their rotation facilities in Memphis, Nashville and Union City, Tennessee, and Paducah and Mayfield, Kentucky. As part of the internship requirements, interns complete a research project and present it as a poster session at the Tennessee Dietetic Association in the spring. The interns attend dietetic association meetings across the state and they are encouraged to become involved at each level of the association. The dietetic internship program allows students to have hands on learning opportunities in the clinical and food management fields of healthcare organizations, public health, extension, renal dialysis units, developmental disability facilities, and with individual companies, just to mention a few. The 2008-2009 DI's attended a 3-day intensive review course for the examination for registered dietitians. The Joe and Pat Johnson Dietetics Differential Fund funded their attendance at this course. This class completed their internship in May 2009 and will be eligible to take the examination for registered dietitians during the summer.

The Joe and Pat Johnson Nutrition Symposium

The Joe and Pat Johnson Nutrition Symposium was held in March 2009 on the UT Martin campus. "Exploration: Various Nutrition Topics" was the title for the symposium. Up to date research findings and information on various nutrition topics as well as an overview of different nutrition related careers in West TN were presented during the one-day nutrition seminar. Speakers for the day included: Gloria Brien, MS, RD, CDE from VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Jackson, TN. Deb Simon, MS, RD, LDN, SNS from the Tennessee Department of Education. Kerri Carmack, MS, RD, LDN from the Lauderdale County Tennessee School System. Dawne Damron-Belote, M.S., CCC-SLP from Rehab America. Gay Walker, MS, RD, LDN from Apria Healthcare in Jackson, TN. Dietetic interns from the 2008-2009 class presenting were Ashley Moore, BS and Molly DePriest, BS. The day proved to be very informative and educational for all

Student Dietetic Association

By Lori H. Littleton, MS, RD

The University of Tennessee at Martin Student Dietetic Association is an organization for any student interested in the field of nutrition, food science, or food systems management. The UTM SDA membership includes 100% of the full time dietetics majors. The SDA members "adopted" two children during the holiday season and provided many nice Christmas gifts to them. The SDA members also took part in the fall Senior Day, in which high school students were welcomed to the campus, by offering body mass index measurements to visiting students and parents. The student members attended the annual UTM Nutrition Symposium in March and were responsible for several duties throughout the day. Co-advisors for The Student Dietetic Association are Lori Littleton, MS, RD. and Georgina Awipi, Ph.D., RD.



Student Dietetic Association members had a wrapping party for the two children 'adopted' by the SDA during the holiday season.

attendees. Registered dietitians and registered dietetic technicians received continuing professional education hours for attending. This nutrition symposium is held the first Friday of March each year and the Family and Consumer Sciences department encourages anyone that might be interested in attending next year's seminar to please call and get your name on the mailing list.

Military Science and Leadership

ROTC Program Update



It has been an eventful year for the Skyhawk ROTC program and next year promises more of the same. One highlight this past semester included joint field training exercises with Vanderbilt and Austin Peay Universities at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell KY in April. On the 24th of April, the battalion hosted a Military Ball during which many cadets were recognized and awarded for program and academic excellence by a number of generous local civic organizations. The event also was an opportunity to formally pass the baton of cadet leadership from the graduating seniors to the juniors.

The past semester also featured a considerable turnover amongst cadre and instructors. Professor of Military Science, Lieutenant Colonel Angela Odom and our senior non-commissioned officer, Master Sergeant James Harbin, were joined in January by retired Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Wright and Sergeant First Class Joshua Spaulding who instruct junior and sophomore cadets respectively. Captain William Crawford came on as the program's recruiting operations officer. Fortunately two mainstays of the program, Administrative Assistant Ms. Janice Simms and Supply Tech Ms. Rochelle Alexander continue their service and made the assimilation of new staff members relatively easy. We are grateful that Tennessee Army National Guard recruiter Sergeant First Class Timothy Hardy was able to continue to provide the "pro-bono" benefit of his experience in teaching and mentoring freshmen cadets. The programs of our affiliated universities in Jackson, TN were largely coordinated through the efforts of Sergeant First Class Forrest Jones. We wish SFC Jones good luck and a safe return from his scheduled deployment to Iraq with his Tennessee Army National Guard unit this fall.

Since the establishment of the UT Martin Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program in September 1952, over 621 cadets have been commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the Regular Army, the United States Army Reserve, and the Tennessee Army National Guard. The Military Science program and its affiliates, Union University, Lambuth University, Lane College, Freed Hardeman University, and Jackson State Community College, currently consists of approximately forty-one Basic Course Cadets and nineteen Advanced Course Cadets. This year we will commission ten Second Lieutenants; one of these Second Lieutenants will be the first ever to be commissioned at Union University.

We are proud of the challenges, opportunities and good times that the program offers to its current members and are always looking to invite incoming and current students into the program. The moti-

vation to join ROTC ranges from the intrinsic-an opportunity to better oneself to the extrinsic-to take advantage of a significant scholarship opportunity and a secure, yet challenging, career path. Whatever the motivations, one thing is clear; the ROTC program at UT Martin is growing. The UTM Skyhawk Battalion currently has twenty-nine contracted cadets with fifteen more to be enrolled on scholarship this fall. Our program's loss, and the Army's gain, is represented by the five new lieutenants commissioned and graduated May 10th, 2009.

A major attraction for the undecided UTM student is that *anyone* may take the basic courses (freshman and sophomore levels) with **NO** military service obligation. If you are entering Army ROTC in your junior or graduating year of college, the Army has the Leader's Training Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky that can replace the missing basic course requirement. This summer internship is a 28-day paid leadership course. If successfully passed, it academically aligns you with the advanced ROTC military science leadership classes and can lead to a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army (either full time or part time). The ROTC program at UTM provides the framework to develop the skills essential to success in *any* career.



The UTM ROTC Cadre (left to right): CPT Jeff Crawford, Mrs. Janice Sims, MSG James Harbin, LTC Angela Odom, SFC Joshua Spaulding, SFC Timothy Hardy, MS. Rochelle Alexander, and LTC Kevin Wright.

UTM Army ROTC Cadet Receives National-Level Award

Richard G. Casada, an Army ROTC cadet from the University of Tennessee at Martin, joined senior U.S. military leaders at a National Security Seminar on April 15th through 17th. Cadet Casada, from College Grove, TN, traveled to historic Lexington, Virginia to join senior Army officials to include Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey.

Cadet Richard G. Casada earned the opportunity to participate in the George C. Marshall ROTC Seminar by being selected as the top Army ROTC cadet at the University of Tennessee at Martin. While in Lexington, Cadet Casada had the opportunity to directly interact

with the key leaders in attendance and discuss a variety of issues directly bearing on national security.

Cadet Casada was commissioned on May 9, 2009 and will be attending law school at the University of Tennessee as part of the educational delay program before assuming duties in the Judge Advocate General (JAG) branch.

“Cadet Casada has really excelled during his time here. He represents the epitome of a Scholar, Athlete, and Leader amongst his peers. He earned a 3.97 GPA, he excels on the Army Physical Fitness test, participates on UT-Martin’s Ranger Challenge team, was the Cadet Battalion Commander, president of the College Republicans, as well as various other campus, community and ROTC events” said Lt Col Angela M. Odom, the Professor of Military Science at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Marshall ROTC Seminar is in its 32nd year of existence. It is named in honor of George C. Marshall – who served as Army Chief of Staff during World War II. Subsequent to concluding his military career, Marshall served as Secretary of State and later as Secretary of Defense during the Truman Administration. His vigorous efforts to help the economies of Europe recover from the ravages of World War II earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

Seminar attendees participated in roundtable discussions led by internationally recognized experts and cadets explored the implications of recent world events in the Middle East, the Far East, Africa and Israel. Methods of countering global terrorism and increasing Homeland Security were also addressed in detail.

The event comprises the largest annual gathering of those about to be commissioned through the Army ROTC program. Within weeks of participating in this event, most of these young men and women will commence duties as junior officer-leaders in America’s Army.



Cadet Richard G. Casada

One Cadet's Perspective on his ROTC Experience

By Cadet Jacob Crouch



Cadet Jacob Crouch

“**L**oyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage”. It was May 26, 2008 and head instructor Drill Sergeant McKinney was screaming these words as he paced back and forth above us in the front-leaning-rest position in our platoon bay as we were being punished for various rule infractions. Bunks weren’t made to regulation, foot lockers were left unlocked, and someone stepped on the “paint”, a four by four block painted at the front of our bay door depicting our platoon number and name (4th platoon Mad Dogs). We were not allowed to walk on this area; instead we had to tip toe around it every single day.

This was my first full day at the Leader’s Training Course at Fort Knox, KY and I was screaming these words at the top of my lungs in response, not because I understood them but because the louder I sounded off the better chance I had of not doing more push-ups. The Leaders Training Course (LTC) is a course that all new cadets who are about to enter the third year of the program have to complete before they will be accepted. LTC is meant to train the incoming cadets over materials and experiences they missed in the first two years of the program.

Continued on page 14

One Cadet's Experience

Continued from page 13

As I prepare to depart for the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) this summer, I can't help but to reflect back on my time spent in ROTC thus far. For me that day at Fort Knox was where it all began one year ago. For most cadets their cadet careers span back to their freshmen year as MS I cadets and they can draw on three years of memories and experience with the program. However, I come from a unique perspective to ROTC in that as an MS III preparing for LDAC, I have only just completed my first full year as a cadet at the UTM ROTC. It has been a tumultuous year for me because I have had to adapt to an environment and standard that was completely alien to me.

I will never forget the various responses I received when I told my friends and family that I was training to be an Army Officer: shock, terror, amazement, amusement, and uncertainty. Until I joined the ROTC program the typical time for me to wake up on a daily basis was about 11 a.m. and anytime before that was completely unacceptable. Suffice it to say, I was not a morning person. I also worked at a retail store as a manager. I was over seven departments and had about twelve people under me and I thought I knew a thing or two about leadership. Then I joined Army ROTC and I was challenged to completely re-evaluate everything I thought I knew. My personal renaissance has been painful and confusing over the past year and I find myself completing this Spring '09 semester a completely different person from the Jacob Crouch of Spring '08.

Looking back at that time in the Mad Dog bay pushing relentlessly above the cold hard floor, I reflect on a cadet who truly had no concept of what the Army Values represented. Mere words fail to adequately describe the meaning of these words and rob them of their value to the individual soldier, army officer and leader. I have learned throughout the past year that it is not enough to know what the Army values are, it is not even good enough to know what they mean. My ROTC experience has culminated to a point where I have begun to display these values in my actions, and whether I am a civilian or a soldier these values have made me a better person than I was one year ago. I am humbled in realizing that in less than a year I will be an Officer in the United States Army. I can only hope and pray that I continue to develop into a better and stronger individual throughout my career in the Army and I can say without reservation that I could not be happier doing anything else with my life.



The ROTC presented UTM Chancellor Tom Rakes with a flag in May 2009. Left to right: LTC Angela Odom, Chancellor Rakes, CPT Jeff Crawford, and SFC Joshua Spaulding.

A Sophomore's Perspective

By: Cadet Michael Bonville

This year of ROTC has been an exciting and an intense learning experience for me and my fellow basic course cadets. I first entered ROTC as a freshman last year. As a first year cadet you are not really expected to know everything but you are expected to participate and learn what you can from the experiences. This year, as a sophomore, I was required to know a little more as well as help to teach the incoming freshman some of what I learned my first year. I went to all the Saturday field training events that are held, on average, once a month. We also had the opportunity to train with Vanderbilt and Austin Peay University cadets during weekend field training at Fort Campbell and Fort Knox, KY. Combined with classroom instruction, the ability to apply newly acquired skills in the field has greatly enriched my ROTC experience and increased my ability and confidence. I did my best to pass on information to the new cadets that was passed onto me when I entered the program. I have learned a lot this year from our new cadre and honestly believe that all I have learned will help me to be a better leader. Now I am preparing to go to the Army's Air Assault School this summer to further extend my knowledge and competence in the military. The opportunity to attend exciting and challenging Army schools at no expense to myself was a great attraction of the program for me. Air Assault, Airborne, and Mountain Warfare

Training are just a couple of the opportunities that have been available to me. I look forward to next year and the increased leadership responsibilities I will have as an advanced course cadet. I hope to be a part of making the basic course experience as good, or better, for the new freshmen and returning sophomores as it was for me.



Cadet Michael Bonville

Department of Nursing

Departmental Update

The Department of Nursing has enjoyed another exciting and successful year. Dr. Nancy Warren continued to serve her last of ten years as departmental chair. We know Dr. Warren will enjoy a much needed break and look forward to working with her as a faculty member. Jo M. Aden, Associate Professor, retired this year after 36 years of wonderful service to UTM's nursing department. Faculty include: Diane Austin, Assistant Professor, Ruby Black, Professor; Gloria Browning, Assistant Professor; Dr. Esther Christian, Assistant Professor; Peggy Davis, Assistant Professor; Julie Floyd, Assistant Professor; Shirley Fry, Assistant Professor; Alissa Parrish, Assistant Professor; Neena Patterson, Assistant Professor; Linda Luther, Assistant Professor; Mary Radford, Assistant Professor; and Kristie Fullerton, Associate Faculty. Ethel Spivey, FNP is an Assistant Professor for the RN to BSN option in Ripley, Tennessee. Sue Trzynka, PhD is the coordinator for Parsons RN to BSN and LPN to BSN site in Parsons, Tennessee. Julie Floyd and Mary Radford assist in teaching RN to BSN at the Parsons site.

Ruby Black presented on AIDS Awareness and Diabetes: Detection and Prevention of Complications for the Diabetes Coalition during the Soybean Festival. Ruby also completed the Citizen Police Academy – Martin Police Department and continues to work with Hope of Martin Community Development Corporation to provide affordable housing in northwest Tennessee.

Nursing is an ever changing profession and requires continual education to keep informed of the latest evidence-based practices. Ruby Black and Linda Luther served as the District 10 delegates for the Tennessee Nurses' Association (TNA) Annual Convention in Franklin, TN. Julie Floyd attended the Psychiatric Nursing Conference in Nashville. Many of our faculty attend state and national conferences each year. Diane Austin, Gloria Browning, Peggy Davis, Julie Floyd, and Mary Radford are pursuing doctorate degrees at various universities. Gloria has finished her course work and is finishing up her dissertation, while Mary and Julie will complete their coursework in August! Yay!

Peggy Davis received the Smith Endowment grant from CAAS, which will aid with updating SIM Man Technology. Peggy also attended the Midwest Nursing Research Society Annual Conference this spring. Esther Christian, Julie Floyd, Mary Radford, Gloria Browning, Peggy Davis, and Diane Austin worked with Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City, and offered Crash Course, to area high school students. Crash Course is a program developed by James Caldwell, DON at BMH-Union City, to expose high school students to the health profession.

The *Center for Global Studies*, headed by Dr. Paul Crapo, organized a Nursing faculty exchange with the University of New

Brunswick Saint John, through the *International and Canadian Studies* program at UT-Martin. Rose McCloskey and Anne Redmond, Nursing faculty from UNBSJ, visited the Department of Nursing and the University of Tennessee Martin campus this spring. They spoke with nursing students to promote the student exchange with UNBSJ, and also visited Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City, a clinical site partner with the UTM Department of Nursing.

As part of the exchange a UTM nursing faculty member, Diane Austin, traveled to UNBSJ during spring break and spoke with faculty, staff and students there. She visited two clinical sites, including the *Telehealth Center*, a unique nursing service providing nursing care via telephone and video conferencing directly to patients' homes. Several nursing students expressed an interest in studying nursing through the exchange programs offered by UTM and UNBSJ.

The faculty strives to set an example for the students by actively participating in all aspects of the Tennessee Nurses Association. Faculty currently serving as officers for TNA District 10 are Ruby Black, President; Peggy Davis, Secretary; Diane Austin, Treasurer.

As of Spring 2009 we have 491 declared nursing majors on campus and 92 students at off-campus sites. We anticipate approximately 65 students for the sophomore clinical nursing class for Fall 2009.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

UT Martin's Department of Nursing has a proud and successful history in educating nurses. We offer West Tennessee's only baccalaureate program in nursing at a public institution outside of Memphis. Accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, our Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree is a four-year program, which combines general education and nursing. So, no matter what field of nursing you choose to pursue, you can feel confident you will be the best prepared to attain even the most competitive nursing positions.

UT Martin offers the RN to BSN option program at the UT Ripley Site in Ripley, Tennessee. The UT Site in Parsons, Tennessee is open to meet the needs of RNs seeking a BSN in the Parsons area as well as LPNs striving to obtain a BSN.

Faculty Support



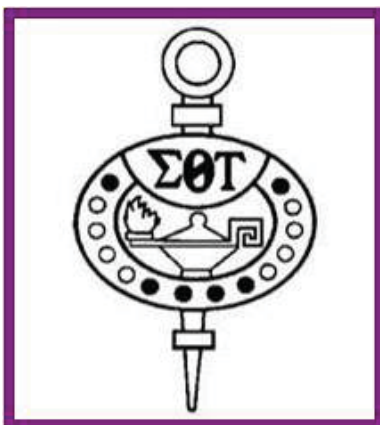
Pat Taylor and Brenda Campbell

The Department of Nursing could not function without the wonderful faculty support team. They help keep the faculty in line and on time!!!

Brenda Campbell, Administrative Support Assistant III states “I have accomplished another year at UTM, making my stay 28 years. I have seen and dealt with many changes in the nursing department and system wide. I strive to learn new procedures. One piece of excitement this past year was meeting Clay Jackson, The Maytag Man, when he presented the Department of Nursing with a French Door Refrigerator and a microwave in appreciation for planning a surprise visit to Diane Austin, Maytag Lifetime Award sweepstake winner. My husband and I still enjoy our time together ‘junkin’ as we hunt for great treasures and bargains.”

Pat Taylor, Administrative Support Assistant II, has completed her sixth year in the Department of Nursing. She enjoys working with the faculty and students. Each year she attends numerous training seminars to keep current with changes. Her spare time is spent with family and friends.

Our student assistants for 2008-2009 were Kandi, Corsica, and Sara. We appreciate all they do for the department.



Sigma Theta Tau Key

Student Awards and Honors

The Department of Nursing Spirit of Nursing Award went to Ashley Myatt (Level III). Outstanding Students were Stephanie Morris and Heather French (Level III). The Carol McElvain Award for Junior Students went to Kala Renfroe. The Triple C Award Winners were Brianna Higgs and Kala Renfroe (Level II), and Whitney Cates (Level III). Latimer Scholarship recipients for 2009-2010 were Timothy Bond (Level I), Laken Comer (Level I), Ashley Henry (Level II), Julianne Lawson (Level II), and Megan Petty (Level I). The research award went to Stephanie Morris and Micaela Tabarez-Sprags.

The Sigma Theta Tau/Pi Tau Chapter for Outstanding Student was awarded to Catherine Carlton and Samantha Broadway (Level III).



Kala Renfroe



Ashley Myatt, Stephanie Morris, and Heather French

Pi Tau



Sigma Theta Tau Crest

Pi Tau is a chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Linda Luther serves as President of the chapter for 2008-2009. Other nursing faculty members serving as officers include Dr. Nancy Warren, Faculty Counselor; and Shirley Fry, Leadership Succession.

Pi Tau provides an active voice for the profession of nursing in our area. Each year senior nursing students and community leaders in nursing are inducted into Sigma Theta Tau. This year the induction ceremony was held in the University Center with Diane Austin, MSN, RN serving as speaker for the special occasion. She discussed the differences and similarities between U.S. and Canadian Healthcare. The following new members were inducted: Samantha Broadway, Catherine Carlton, Whitney Coomer Cates, Dathia Jones, Kyeong-Suk Kim, Jennifer Mulherrin, Ashley Myatt, Hannah Regan, Kayela Sheppard, Jennifer Gately Tidwell, Ashley Thomas, William White. Transfer members inducted include: Susan Bowers, Debora Delones, Rebecca Mercer, Elizabeth Paschall, and Stacy Schrotberger.

Pi Tau is part of a prestigious organization which supports the learning and professional development of its members, who strive to improve nursing care worldwide. Pi Tau was chartered at UT Martin in April 2000. Each year the chapter provides and

supports programs promoting research, scholarship and practice. Sigma Theta Tau was founded by six members in 1922 at Indiana University. It now has over 300,000 members in over 85 countries. Upholding the truths of the profession of nursing and images of the healing arts is exemplified by the Honor Society. Ruby Black and Linda Luther served as delegates for Pi Tau chapter to the Biennial Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Convention in Baltimore, MD.

A Nurses Day Banquet was co-sponsored by Pi Tau with Tennessee Nurses Association District 10 on May 7th, 2009 with special guest speaker Susan Cooper, MSN, RN, Commissioner of Tennessee Department of Health. Awards were presented for the Nurse of the Year to Mica Rudd; and Friend of Nursing Award Dr. Grover Schliefer.

Excellence in Nursing Day

The Sixth Annual Nursing Excellence Day was held April 27th, 2009. The Pi Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International sponsored the program which was coordinated by the 2009 Senior Nursing Class. The program featured prominent Nurse Practitioner Carolyn Whitaker of East Tennessee as keynote speaker discussing "50 Years in Nursing." Other speakers included: Linda Luther, President Pi Tau Chapter and Peggy Davis, Former President Pi Tau Chapter. Also as a guest speaker LTC Angela Odom, UTM Professor of Military Science discussed Women Leaders in History; and Denise Miller and Jason Culbreath of Merck Pharmaceuticals provided a webcast discussing new technology in healthcare.

The Senior Nursing Class coordinated the program as part of their Leadership and Management class. The program was well attended and everyone gained new insights into nursing careers.

Why I Chose Nursing as a Profession

by Katilyn Rayburn

My decision on being a nurse was influenced a lot by my mom. She was diagnosed in 2005 with Wegener's Granulomatosis which is a rare autoimmune disorder that breaks down the blood vessels in her body. For three months, she was on bed rest and I had to take care of her plus get through my junior year of high school. This was a big responsibility since my dad was working two jobs. Since her illness, I have encountered many nurses during our journey to recovery. Each nurse had a passion about them that I wanted. They strived to help my family in any way that they could. I believe that choosing nursing school is a way that I can help people that are in the same situation as my mom.

Nursing school is not easy, but you have to have faith and compassion for what you are doing. You have to have the mindset that you can make it through each test. The compassion for the profession is what keeps you going. During the clinicals, you get to help your patients and form a relationship. The relationship that you form with your patient makes all the hard work in the classroom worth it.



Katilyn Rayburn

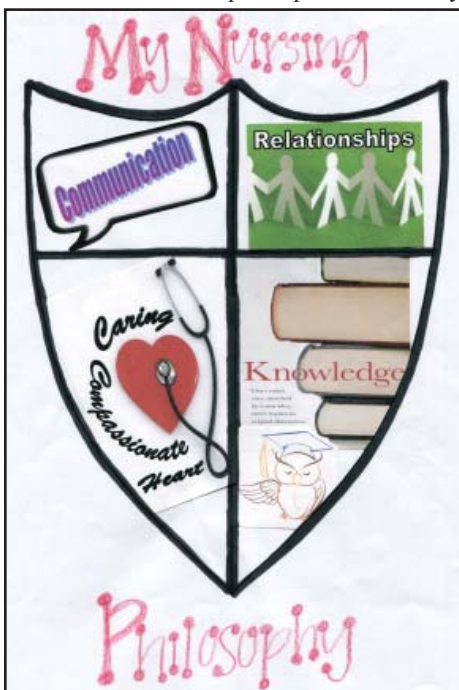
Future Nurses

Our department would not be a department without our students. We are very proud of our students and their accomplishments while at UTM and in their careers as nurses. Many of our graduates have outstanding achievements such as clinical managers, directors, and others have pursued higher degrees. We would like to hear from our graduates as to what they are doing and successes in their careers. If you are a UTM nursing alum, please take a few minutes to visit the web site listed and complete the alumni form. Updated information would be greatly appreciated. We want to celebrate with you in your accomplishments.

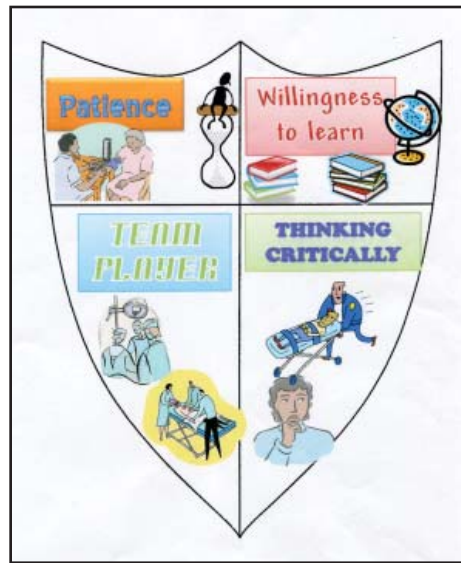
Each of the thirty 2009 Seniors wrote his/her personal Mission Statement. The combined Mission Statement for the graduating class of 2009 can be found at the end of the Nursing section.

The pinning ceremony is always a highlight for graduation. It represents an accumulation of four or more years of education, hard work, and sacrifices on the part of not only the graduate but also the family and significant others.

We are also a very close knit group in the nursing department and share activities with the students. Students participate with faculty



Nursing "Coat of Arms" by Megan Petty



Nursing "Coat of Arms" by Erinn Seiber

and instructors in various health screenings as part of their educational experiences.

Nursing is an extremely interactive profession, and students must learn to cope with clients with various disabilities. Students are exposed to the simulation manikin and enjoy learning various clinical skills at the hospital and laboratory setting on campus.

Students are often asked "Why do you want to become a nurse?" The sophomore class was asked to depict his/her philosophy of nursing utilizing a coat of arms format. The results were extremely creative and revealing. We would like to share some with you.



"Coat of Arms" by Brittany McDonald

Student Nurses Association

By Micaela Spraggs,
SNA President 2008

The Student Nurses Association (SNA) fosters the professional development of future nurses and prepares them for entrance into the nursing profession by providing educational resources, leadership opportunities, and career guidance.

SNA meetings provide nursing students with an opportunity to fellowship and discuss concerns of the students. Meeting formats vary throughout the semester and may include pizza lunches, potlucks, and Halloween or Christmas parties. SNA at Martin meets monthly.

I had the pleasure of being elected an officer of SNA at Martin. This is an excellent experience for a nursing student. It provides the student with an opportunity to enhance his/her leadership skills.

I encourage you to become a member of SNA. Nurses should be involved in professional organizations, and the sooner you get started the better!



Micaela Spraggs, Student Nurses Association President, 2008

Mission of the UT Martin Nursing Class 2009

I will live with integrity, honor and character ♦ My home will be filled with love, peace, joy, honesty and fun ♦

I will live a healthy life with a balanced diet and regular exercise ♦ I will treat my patients and their families with respect and dignity ♦ I will provide the utmost care to my clients on a day-to-day basis ♦ I will treat each of my patients as individuals, compassionately caring not only for their physical needs, but their emotional and spiritual needs as well

I will strive to demonstrate compassion, empathy, and caring to my patients ♦ I will protect and maintain the well-being of my patients ♦ I will provide the best care possible to my patients, using the abilities given to me by God along with the knowledge and skills I have learned ♦ I will advocate for and protect my patients along with their families

I will admit when I am wrong and seek change to correct it ♦ I will laugh at myself and learn from mistakes. I will always say, "I can"; never "I can't" ♦ I will love my family and friends and give them sincere encouragement ♦ I will be forever grateful to my parents, who have sacrificed so much for me ♦ I desire to love like Jesus loved and to serve wholeheartedly in all that I do

I will sweat, dig, push, pull and use "elbow grease" to get the job done ♦ I will get my master's degree ♦ I will provide the kind of care to my clients that I would provide to my mother, father, spouse or child ♦ I will instill the values of integrity, respect, and self-discipline in my children ♦ I will be a man that is respected and loved by his family and friends ♦



I will love the Lord, my God, with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength I will seek to balance my work and family ♦ I will maintain a positive attitude and a sense of humor ♦ I will never go to bed mad ♦ I will never gossip about others ♦ I can make a difference in the people in my life ♦

I will center my personal and professional life on the thing that is most important in my life --- God

I will explore this great world and its wonders ♦ I want to travel and experience the world ♦ I will remember to always live, laugh, and love throughout my life ♦ I will be thankful for those who have helped get me to the place I am today ♦ I will enjoy every moment of this journey and will learn and grow – along the way I will be thankful for each of my blessings everyday

*At the end of the day, I will not look back and say,
"I wish I would have..."*

What is Nurses' Christian Fellowship? by Amanda Hassell

My name is Amanda Hassell and I am a senior nursing major. I absolutely love the nursing program at UTM and encourage anyone who has interest in nursing to come to Martin. I am the current president of Nurses Christian Fellowship at UTM. We are an organization that fellowships together and prays for situations that our members feel need attention. NCF reminds us to care for our patient's spiritual health as well as their physical health. In the past we have participated in can food drives, Operation Christmas Child, and hosting a snack table for our nursing students during finals week. NCF is a wonderful organization to meet people that are dealing with the same stresses and praises that all nursing students deal with.



Amanda Hassell

We'd Like to Hear From You!

We want to hear from you and to share your news with other alumni, so send us your news on this form.

Enclose another sheet if you have additional information.

(Give maiden name if applicable.)

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