UTM unveils new, improved website

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin launched a new website Wednesday.

There’s much more to the site than meets the eye. The website update went live at 7 a.m., complete with a new layout, less clutter and a responsive design for mobile and tablet devices. The website can be viewed at www.utm.edu.

The university’s Instructional Technology Center and Web Services staff completed the redesign in-house, with the exception of a new Campus Bird virtual tour designed by concept3D.com.

Other changes include an improved search feature, offering both website and directory returns side by side.

Trending search topics are also listed so that visitors can quickly see the most popular current searches. The UT Martin website averages more than 600,000 visits each month.

The new website design follows the university’s release of a new mobile application last fall, also developed by the ITC staff.

The mobile app allows users access to many campus services.

It also includes a complete campus telephone directory, athletics schedules and news updates, and the Paul Meek Library catalog.

The free app is available for all iOS and Android platform devices (version 2.2 and up).
size of the device used to access the site, visitors will see the same information but oriented differently, making it easier to navigate.

“Our underlying focus for this redesign was to provide an optimal viewing experience across a wide range of devices,” said Craig Ingram, interim director of the Instructional Technology Center and Web Services, in the release. “We want the navigation of our site to be easy and the access of information to be convenient for all users.”

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**UT Martin launches new website**

The University of Tennessee at Martin has launched a new website, and there’s much more to the site than meets the eye. The website update has a new layout, less clutter and a responsive design for mobile and tablet devices, according to a news release. The website can be viewed at www.utm.edu.

The new site is coded to behave “responsively,” making it friendly for desktop browsing and mobile devices alike. Depending on the screen
Following the Money
By SAMANTHA STAINBURN

FOR 18-year-old consumers, financial decisions escalate exponentially. Tall latte or a grande splurge? Lucky Brand or True Religion? State U. or N.Y.U.? Statistics or psych or maybe social work?

It’s not hard for a student today, facing an average single-year college bill of $21,657, to unwittingly take on a life-altering amount of debt. Pick a college or field that doesn’t set you up for a job that’s lucrative enough to pay back loans and you could spend years just scraping by.

To help students make informed decisions about whether it’s worth paying a premium for a certain college or degree, advocates and entrepreneurs have created online tools to compare graduates’ income.

“In the last few years, there’s been a fairly strong push to have colleges report to students when they pick a major what the labor market performance has been,” said Anthony P. Carnevale, director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. “Do graduates get a job in their field, earn enough money to pay their loans?”

Most colleges don’t have the research staff, or desire, to chase down graduates and find out what they’re making. But states have been collecting income data for years, and some — Virginia, Maryland, Nevada and Florida — have passed laws requiring their education departments to compile and release it, or post it voluntarily. Other free sites help students calculate R.O.I., or return on investment: the cost of attending set against future earnings.

Unfortunately, not one of these tools is based on complete or particularly good data. And no site allows students to do what most probably want to do: pick a handful of colleges across the country and compare earnings achieved by graduates in various majors.

The institution most obviously suited to reporting what students earn after college is the federal government. The United States Department of Education already collects graduation data from all states, and the Internal Revenue Service tracks earnings. But the law prevents matching individuals’ transcript information to employment data. A bill introduced in the Senate, the Student Right to Know Before You Go Act, is seeking to overturn that ban. It
wants the government to publish earnings and employment metrics sorted by major, degree, college and state up to 15 years after graduation.

While the predictive value of currently available salary tools is limited, they can reveal patterns that might inspire students to consider different choices. Earnings data show that “two-year technical degrees from community colleges can be incredibly valuable,” said Mark Schneider, president of College Measures, which developed a tool, with funds from the Lumina Foundation, that some states are using to compare incomes. For example, Texas students with two-year technical degrees have average first-year median earnings of about $50,000 — $11,000 more than graduates with bachelor’s degrees. In Colorado, students with associate degrees in applied science earn a starting salary almost $7,000 more, on average, than that of graduates with B.A.’s. “So if you’re on the fence about getting a bachelor’s degree,” Mr. Schneider said, “these technical degrees are something you should explore.”

Another takeaway: “You want to go to the flagship public college because it has a better football team,” Mr. Schneider said. “But in every state we’ve worked in, many students graduating from the regional campuses end up just as well off. Sometimes they even beat them.” Health profession majors at the University of Tennessee’s flagship in Knoxville, for example, fall behind those at the Martin campus, $46,770 to $58,592.

Of course, there are factors to consider besides earnings when picking a career or college. But middle- and low-income students who can’t afford to make mistakes, and students considering low-paying professions like social work or art, may want to figure in R.O.I. “The qualitative benefits of college, such as how fun the dorm life is, are temporary,” said Katie Bardaro, lead economist for PayScale, a Web site that reports compensation. “Your after-graduation earnings are permanent.”

**PAYSCALE**

At PayScale.com, students can compare earnings for graduates of 1,058 colleges and universities as well as national median starting and midcareer salaries for 130 majors. Who knew: The starting salary in nursing beats business $54,100 to $41,400. More useful, the gap narrows midcareer: $70,200 to $70,000. Data can be sorted by region or type of school, including public, private or, as defined by the Princeton Review, party school. (Lowest-paid partiers come from the University of Mississippi; highest from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.) And using its own algorithm, PayScale calculates return on investment for colleges and popular majors. It may surprise that in-state engineering majors from George Mason University enjoy a higher R.O.I. over 30 years ($1,937,000) than engineers do
from M.I.T. ($1,794,000). PayScale also publishes an attention-grabbing list of schools offering the worst returns.

**Strengths:** PayScale provides median midcareer salaries (10 years plus), which is a more realistic measure of how much liberal arts degrees pay off, since degree holders often work at coffee shops in the early years.

**Weaknesses:** Earnings are self-reported. Because the compensation survey is completed by PayScale.com visitors (1.5 million did so last year), results are biased toward workers who are researching salaries online — younger, white collar and not yet running Fortune 500 companies. The reports also exclude graduates who went on for an advanced degree and who attended college part time.

**STATE BY STATE**

Arkansas, Tennessee, Virginia, Colorado and Texas post first-year earnings for graduates of all their two- and four-year public institutions on CollegeMeasures.org. Virginia and Colorado also track private colleges. A math geek who wants to study and work in Virginia can home in on average earnings for computer science majors at the University of Virginia ($59,739), William & Mary ($56,809) and Virginia Polytechnic Institute ($54,917), or compare U.Va.’s computer science majors to its math majors ($45,777) and mechanical engineers ($50,917). Or zoom out to see which schools graduate the highest earners in general; in Virginia, it’s Jefferson College of Health Sciences followed by University of Richmond.

**Strengths:** Statistics are based on state education and employment records, so the experience of every single public-school graduate who works in the state is factored in. Earnings are available for just about every degree and certificate program in each state.

**Weaknesses:** Nothing from outside the state, including graduates who take jobs elsewhere, is calculated in. Neither are the self-employed.

**COLLEGE REALITY CHECK**

Produced by The Chronicle of Higher Education with money from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CollegeRealityCheck.com allows students to compare earnings, monthly payments on student loans, graduation rates and average net price for up to five colleges at a time.

**Strengths:** There’s a lot of guidance on what terms like net price actually mean and how to interpret different types of data, along with links to relevant sites and articles. A stylish
interface generates graphics like what a graduate's monthly debt payments might look like over 10 years compared with monthly pay depending on the school attended.

**Weaknesses:** Earnings figures come from PayScale (see above). There's no information at all on specific programs.

**HOW TO LOOK AT ALL THE DATA**

- Focus on figures for different majors rather than different colleges, said Anthony P. Carnevale, director of Georgetown's Center on Education and the Workforce. “What really matters in your career is much less the college and much more the major. If you go to Harvard and become a schoolteacher, you won’t make more than other schoolteachers.”

- Look at the sample size on which an average or median salary is based, said James Leipold, executive director of the National Association for Law Placement, which has reported on lawyers’ salaries for decades. “The bigger the number, the better the data.”

- Don’t assume you’ll end up in the top half of the earnings median; half the population is below it. Students “always sort themselves to the high side,” Mr. Leipold said. “That’s why they borrow more than they can afford. There’s such optimism about success.”
New principal starting work at Northeast

Saulsberry has experience with school ‘turnaround’

By Tajuana Cheshier
tcheshier@jacksonsun.com

Superintendent Verna Ruffin announced Thursday that Clennon Saulsberry Jr. has been named the principal for Northeast Middle School. Saulsberry’s background includes experience as a classroom teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal.

Saulsberry had his first day of work Thursday at Northeast, preparing for the first half day of classes today. He told The Jackson Sun during a telephone interview from the school’s office that he’s worked in schools covering every grade level.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and his master’s and education specialist degrees from No-

Principal

Continued from Page A3

va Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Saulsberry taught in the Memphis City School System for 13 years and, most recently, served as an elementary and high school principal in the Hughes School District in Hughes, Ark.

“The Jackson-Madison County School System welcomes the addition of Mr. Saulsberry to our team,” Ruffin said in a news release. “Even with the added challenge of beginning one day before classes begin, I am confident his leadership will make a difference for our students and for our district.”

Saulsberry wrote on his LinkedIn page that he has experience in serving at-risk students and leading failing schools to show gains in student achievement.

“My work as a turnaround principal has brought forth tremendous academic gains,” he said.

Part of Jackson-Madison County’s five-year strategic plan focuses on improving its middle schools. Northeast Middle was selected as the site of the district’s first middle-school turnaround project last year because its test scores were the lowest of the district’s middle schools.

The school received a $200,000 grant, along with federal Title I money, to pay for salaries, teacher training and a student behavior intervention program as part of a three-year turnaround plan.

Jimmy Bailey, who oversaw the turnaround initiative in his second year as principal at Northeast last year, submitted his resignation last week, Ruffin has said.

Eight people applied for the job after it was posted last Friday.

“I have extensive experience in successfully leading my students and schools to show gains in student achievement,” Saulsberry said. “I am certain that I will help to develop Northeast Middle School students into successful scholars by involving all stakeholders in the success of the school.”

Tajuana Cheshier, 425-9643

See PRINCIPAL, Page A6
$1K SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

DELTA FAUCET SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:
Khadijha Angol, University of Memphis
Daniel Adam Bethel, Dyersburg State Community College
Chelsea Bond, University of Tennessee Knoxville
Zakkeus Bonds, Bethel University
Marvel Brooks, UT Chattanooga
John Trevor Burlison, Jackson State Community College
Talladega Champion, UT Martin
Keon Cox, Austin Peay State University
Jessica Doyle, Mississippi State University
Tyler Scott Doyle, UT Martin
Tangquia Gardner, Jackson State
Justice Kaylynn Goodwin, Jackson State
Eric Grimes II, UT Chattanooga
Andy Hall, UT Chattanooga
Kody Hamilton, UT Knoxville
Jontavious Harris, Austin Peay
Tiana Holloway, Middle Tennessee State University
Tiffany Hyatt, UT Martin
Jasmine Jarmon, Jackson State
Devon Lamar Johnson, Union University
Jody Lanier Kinnes Jr, UT Knoxville
Slater Keith Lomax, UT Martin
Mallory Luther, Chattanooga State Community College
Gabrielle March, Murray State University
Heather McCormick, University of Memphis at Lambuth
MarKeyah McDonald, UT Chattanooga
Jordan McKinney, Austin Peay
Keondra Mosley, MTSU
Hunter Ray, Jackson State
Diedre Roberson, UT Chattanooga
Johnathan Sison, UT Martin
Hunter Thomas Stanfield, Dyersburg State
April Stepp, UT Martin
Christopher Scott Thornton, UT Chattanooga
Maya Thornton, UT Martin
Morgan Elizabeth Tyler, UT Knoxville
Aimee Ward, Jackson State
Morgan Chelsea Woods, UT Knoxville

Jontavious Harris shakes hands with Mike Rohlwing, Delta Faucet's Jackson plant manager, during an award ceremony Thursday. Harris and 38 other students were awarded $1,000 academic scholarships. KENNETH CUMMINGS/THE JACKSON SUN

WEB EXTRA
View a photo gallery from the scholarship award ceremony at jacksonsun.com.

Delta Faucet awarded 39 academic scholarships, each worth $1,000, to dependents of employees at the company's plant in Jackson on Thursday. KENNETH CUMMINGS/THE JACKSON SUN
Following the Money
Calculating the Net Worth of a College Degree

By SOUTHEAST STATES
Published August 1, 2010

FOR 18-year-old consumers, financial decisions escalate exponentially. Tall latte or a grande splurge? Lucky Brand or True Religion? State U. or N.Y.U.? Statistics or psych or maybe social work?

It's not hard for a student today, facing an average single-year college bill of $21,657, to unwittingly take on a life-altering amount of debt. Pick a college or field that doesn't set you up for a job that's lucrative enough to pay back loans and you could spend years just scraping by.

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ATA’s Humphrey earns CPA license, promoted to manager

Chloe Doyle Humphrey with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs recently passed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Examination, earned her Certified Public Accountant license, and was promoted to manager.

“Chloe has been a tremendous asset to the ATA Team,” said ATA Chief Manager Al Creswell. “She works hard to understand the rules and regulations that affect her clients and provides exemplary customer service. Plus, she understands how important it is to be involved in her community. We are proud of her determination and leadership within our firm.”

Humphrey joined Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs in May 2007 and became a licensed Certified Public Accountant on June 14, 2013. She is a member of ATA’s Financial Institutions Team and is a recent graduate of Leadership Gibson County. A graduate of Greenfield High School, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in accounting from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Her practice focuses on external audits, loan review, regulatory reporting, HUD audits, consolidated reports, financial statement audits and taxation for financial institutions.

Humphrey and her husband Matt live in Greenfield, Tenn. with their daughter, Layla.

Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC (ATA) is a regional accounting firm that offers a comprehensive array of tax, audit, accounting, and consulting services to businesses and individuals. Founded in 1946, the firm was named the eighth largest accounting firm in the State of Tennessee by American City Business Journals in 2013. ATA has 16 partners, approximately 140 team members, and 10 offices located in Dyersburg, Henderson, Jackson, Martin, McKenzie, Milan, Paris, Trenton and Union City, Tennessee and Murray, Ky.

ATA CPA named manager

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The Uniform CPA Examination is one of the nation’s most comprehensive examinations, covering auditing and attestation, financial accounting and reporting, regulation and business environment and concepts.

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EKG technician certification course offered in Jackson

An electrocardiogram technician certification program will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays from Aug. 17 through Dec. 14 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center.

The comprehensive course will prepare students to function as EKG technicians and to take the American Society of Electrocardiograph Technician exam, according to a news release. The class will include information on the anatomy and physiology of the heart, medical disease processes, medical terminology, medical ethics, legal aspects of patient contact and more.

Students will have the opportunity to practice with equipment and receive hands-on laboratory training on the function and proper use of the EKG machine, proper lead placement and other clinical practices.

The registration fee for the course is $999, and textbooks and supplies are included.

There will be no class Aug. 31, Oct. 12 and Nov. 30.

The course is sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies and will be held at the UT Martin Jackson Center, at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass in Jackson.

See BRIEFLY, Page A7

Pharmacy technicians work under the supervision of a registered pharmacist in hospitals, community pharmacies, home infusion pharmacies and many other health care settings.

The course fee is $999, which includes textbooks and supplies.

To register for the course, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nonegree/home.php.

Pharmacy technician training offered at UTM Jackson Center

The University of Tennessee Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer a comprehensive, 50-hour training course for those interested in becoming pharmacy technicians.

The course will meet from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Mondays from Aug. 19 through Dec. 9 at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

The course will prepare students to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's (PTCB) exam and obtain a position in the pharmacy field, according to a news release. 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 and conversions, IV flow rates, dispensing of prescriptions, drug compounding, inventory control and billing and reimbursement, the release said.
About Jim Tracy

Tennessee state Sen. Jim Tracy, a former science teacher and coach and former TSSAA & NCAA basketball referee, has been a small business owner and leader in the community for over 25 years. Jim has been married to his wife Trena for 36 years and they have raised three sons Chad, Craig, and Connor. Jim and his wife attend North Boulevard Church of Christ in Murfreesboro where Jim is an active member. Senator Tracy has served in the State Senate since 2004 and is the Chairman of the Senate Transportation and Safety Committee. Jim is a 1978 graduate of The University of Tennessee at Martin, where he played baseball and earned a degree in Agriculture Education. Education has been the foundation of the Tracy family. Jim's mother is a retired teacher from Hardin County and his father is also a former teacher who retired from the UT Extension office. In 1985, Jim became a small business owner and in 1989 he started Jim Tracy Insurance Agency in Shelbyville, TN. As a small business owner, Jim knows how to meet a payroll and balance a budget. He realizes the issues that make it difficult for a small business owner to succeed. That is why Jim decided to give back to the community again. He joined the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce and also served as President while helping to bring new businesses to the community. In addition, Jim is a member of the Shelbyville Breakfast Rotary Club, as well as the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce. Jim has also served on the Board of Directors for the Rutherford YMCA and was the former Chairman of the NFIB Leadership Council. Jim is currently a Board Member of the MTSU Honors College and the State Board for Habitat for Humanity.

NASHVILLE — State Sen. Jim Tracy, a Shelbyville Republican running for Congress in the 4th District, will throw out the first ceremonial pitch for this Sunday's vintage base ball game at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, his campaign announced.

Tracy will be attending the event with the Nashville Maroons hosting the Franklin Farriers in the 8th match of the Tennessee Association of Vintage Base Ball's inaugural season, according to the campaign press release.

Gates open at 11 a.m. with fist pitch scheduled for noon. All matches are free and open to the public.

2013 marks the first time since the Civil War that organized vintage-style base ball (two words, as it was called in the 1800s) is being played in the great state of Tennessee. In the spirit of part living-history, part sporting event; TaoVBB emphasizes honor, team play, and respectful conduct both on and off the field.

Pre-match ceremony will include club introductions, an overview of rules and customs, a brief welcome and ceremonial first pitch from Senator Jim Tracy.

"I'm excited to throw out the first pitch on Sunday," said Tracy. "Baseball has always been a huge part of our family. I played ball in college and my son Connor played baseball for MTSU."
Although still competitive, it's the combination of sportsmanship, athleticism and a passion for history that has the state of Tennessee talking about vintage base ball. Over 300 fans venture out every other Sunday to witness this old, yet newly refreshed game.

"Our goal is to recreate our country's national pastime as it was played in the 19th century," said Michael Thurmon, TaoVBB President and Commissioner of Base Ball. "1860's base ball is noticeably different than today's game, most notably the period-appropriate uniforms and absence of gloves, but it's still easily recognizable as the game we all grew up with and still enjoy to this day. We are always excited to share the experience of the vintage game and are honored to have Senator Tracy as our guest this weekend."

To learn more about Jim Tracy visit www.tracyfortn.com <http://www.tracyfortn.com/>

All TaoVBB events are weather permitting. In instances of inclement weather, all official cancellations will be announced via the league's website by 10am on game days. www.TennesseeVintageBaseBall.com <http://www.tennesseevintagebaseball.com/>

For more information about the league or any of its teams, events, rules, customs or any other general inquiries; please contact Justin T. Brown at CCO@TennesseeVintageBaseBall.com <mailto:CCO@TennesseeVintageBaseBall.com>
Basketball Hall has spot for UTM alum Dunn

Dresden native and Indiana Fever head coach Lin Dunn has been named to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

The announcement came while she was coaching the East stars in the WNBA All-Star Game.

Dunn heads a class of six inductees who will be formally inducted June 14, 2014, in Knoxville.

Her career spans 43 years since she assumed head coaching duties at Austin Peay State University in 1970. He had pitted for a women's basketball program during her undergraduate years at UT Martin, from where she graduated in 1969. She earned a master's degree from UT Knoxville a year later and by the following fall, she was coaching at Austin Peay.

Since that time, Dunn has been a trailblazer in the sport — winning games, earning championships and growing the sport from its infancy even before the national passing of Title IX legislation in 1972.

Her induction follows her championship season with the Fever in 2012 and a slew of related hall of fame inductions. She has earned induction into athletics halls of fame at her alma mater (2010) and three universities at which she has coached — Purdue (2012), Miami (2003) and Austin Peay (1982).

Dunn was an inductee into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, both in 2010.

"I'm thrilled and honored," said Dunn, who also has twice been the runner-up for WNBA Coach of the Year accolades. "I am looking forward to sharing this moment with my current and former players, assistants, family and friends."

"It's overwhelming, it's humbling, it's a tremendous honor," she added.

Dunn, 66, is currently in her sixth year with the Fever and her ninth year as a WNBA head coach, counting three years as head coach and GM with an expansion Seattle franchise in its first seasons from 2000-02.

She is the winningest coach in Fever history (111-76) and ranks seventh in all-time WNBA coaching wins (144).

Among women, Dunn's sixth straight season as head coach in the league makes her the longest-tenured female coach in the WNBA.

Her 144 regular season coaching wins are second among women to Anne Donovan and her 18 playoff victories are more than any female coach. Dunn, Donovan and Cheryl Reeve are the only female head coaches ever to win a WNBA title.

In her past six seasons as a WNBA head coach, Dunn boasts the WNBA's longest active streak without a losing record, just one year shy of coaching streaks by Van Chancellor (1997-03) and Donovan (1991-97).
Hall of Fame honor another ‘Dunn’ deal

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With Indiana, she has guided the Fever to three trips to the conference finals and a pair of appearances in the WNBA Finals, reaching the playoffs in each of five seasons at the helm.

Overall, her coaching resume includes 37 years as a head coach, nearly 1,100 games coached and currently 654 total college and pro victories through five different decades. She spent 25 seasons on the college sidelines before embarking on a pro career during the 1996-97 season with the now-defunct American Basketball League (ABL). She has spent the past 18 years as a scout, assistant coach or head coach in the pros.

Prior to her six-year stint with the Fever, she was perhaps best known as the architect of the Purdue University women's basketball program, guiding the Boilermakers for nine seasons and collecting three Big Ten conference titles. She led the Old Gold-and-Black to seven NCAA Tournaments, four Sweet Sixteen appearances and a trip to the Final Four in 1994. She earned a 206-68 record and catapulted the school among the elite women’s programs in the country.

She boasts a .635 winning percentage (447-257) at four different schools. She left three of those — Austin Peay, Miami and Purdue — as the winningest coach in program history. She also led Mississippi to a 25-15 mark in 1977-78 while being named the Mississippi Coach of the Year.

Within the quarter of a century that she coached at the college level, she was a longtime chair of the Kodak All-America Selection Committee (1982-89) and the president of the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association in 1984-85. She was an assistant coach with USA Basketball teams from 1990 to 1995, including a gold-medal USA team in the 1990 World Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and a bronze-medal USA team in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.
The Uniform CPA Examination is one of the nation's most comprehensive examinations. Sections covered in the test include auditing and attestation, financial accounting and reporting, regulation and business environment and concepts. To be eligible to sit for the exam, candidates must have completed a minimum of 150 semester hours, which include a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited institution recognized by the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy, with a minimum of 30 semester hours in accounting and 24 semester hours in general business subjects.

Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC (ATA) is a regional accounting firm that offers a comprehensive array of tax, audit, accounting, and consulting services to businesses and individuals. Founded in 1946, the firm was named the eighth largest accounting firm in the State of Tennessee by American City Business Journals in 2013.

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Three local institutions make Princeton Review ranking

By News Sentinel Staff
Posted August 7, 2013 at 9:21 p.m.

KNOXVILLE — Sixteen Tennessee colleges — including Maryville College, Carson-Newman University and University of Tennessee-Knoxville — made Princeton Reviews’ list of the top schools in the Southeast.

The educational services company released its annual list of the nation’s best undergraduate colleges this year, including 138 schools in the southeast region and 378 across the country.

The publication noted Carson-Newman’s 12:1 student-faculty ratio, tight-knit community and top nursing and pre-med programs. Maryville College stood out for its academic rigour, engaging professors and picturesque setting near the Smoky Mountains.

UT-Knoxville was one of five public Tennessee schools on the list, along with East Tennessee State, Middle Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech and UT-Martin.

The publication commended UT-Knoxville’s school spirit, family-like atmosphere, diversity and good value.

Other Tennessee schools on the list include Belmont University, Fisk University, Christian Brothers University, King College, Lee University, Sewanee — The University of The South, Southern Adventist University, Union University and Vanderbilt University.

According to The Princeton Review website, the list was determined by student answers to surveys asking them to rate their schools in academic and student life areas.

More details as they become available online and in Thursday’s News Sentinel.

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Western Region Junior Livestock Show Results

Ten Weakley County students joined over 100 exhibitors competing in the Western Region 4-H/FFA Livestock Exposition held at the UTM Ned McWherter Ag Pavilion on June 25. Students competed in showmanship, market and breeding animal classes and a market animal carcass evaluation competition. Students were also involved in a skillathon, which tested their general knowledge of their project species. An overall Premier Exhibitor competition was held, which was a composite of each student’s achievements in showmanship, show ring placing and skillathon scores. This event was open to exhibitors showing beef cattle, sheep and goats.

In the beef cattle show, Ethan Rowlett received the Grand Champion award for his market steer and placed first in the Senior High market steer showmanship division. He also placed second in the Beef Premier Exhibitor competition and second in the beef skillathon. His steer also placed second in the carcass evaluation. Ethan also exhibited two registered Angus heifers, receiving a first and fifth place award for those. Shelley Rowlett received the Reserve Champion award for her Angus heifer and also placed third in her class with her Polled Hereford calf. She also placed second in the Junior High Beef Premier Exhibitor contest, 5th in the skillathon and 7th in showmanship.

In the sheep division, Kari Beth Woods was the overall Premier Exhibitor in the Junior High age group. She also was first in the skillathon, 1st in market lamb showmanship, and 2nd in commercial ewe showmanship. Kari Beth also placed 2nd in her commercial ewe and 4th place for her market lamb. Hayley Shumaker placed 2nd in the Junior High Premier Exhibitor contest, 3rd in commercial ewe showmanship and was 3rd in skillathon. She also placed 4th in market lamb showmanship and received two 3rd place and an 8th place for her lamb class entries. Jordan Bell placed 2nd in the Junior High skillathon and 3rd in the Premier Exhibitor competition. Jordan was 5th in market lamb showmanship and was 6th in his market class.

Isaac Lofton placed 2nd in the Senior High ewe showmanship division. He also received 1st and 3rd for his commercial ewe entries and 2nd and 6th places for his market lambs. Isaac was also 5th in market lamb showmanship.

Weakley County exhibitors competed in the "County Group" class in both commercial ewes and market lambs, receiving 2nd place in each competition.

In the market goat competition, Erica Balkman placed 1st in the junior high skillathon division and placed 2nd in the premier exhibitor event. Erica also placed 4th in the carcass evaluation. One of Shelley Rowlett’s goats placed 1st in the carcass evaluation. Shelley also placed 2nd in Junior High showmanship.

Students involved in 4-H livestock activities learn key life skills related to responsibility, sportsmanship and goal setting.
Whelchel prepares for the EDGE

'1 think women need to give themselves permission to just do something for fun'""
UTM chancellor named to panel

Dr. Tom Rakes, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, is one of three college presidents chosen nationally to select one or more outstanding teacher education programs for the Christa McAuliffe Excellence in Teacher Education Award.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities sponsors the award. Rakes has served since 2010 on the AASCU Teacher Education Committee.

Joining Rakes are Dr. John Miller, president of Central Connecticut State University, and Dr. Dene Kay Thomas, president of Ft. Lewis College.

"I'm pleased to be a part of the McAuliffe Award process that honors Christa McAuliffe, as well as recognizes stellar teacher education programs," Rakes said. "There are many excellent teacher education programs, and it is a joy to review information about some of the top programs in the nation."

Award announcements will come in December, following the presidential selection committee's review and final decisions.

UT Martin's own teacher education program has earned national recognition. The graduate secondary licensure program made the National Council on Teacher Quality Prep Review honor roll released in June by U.S. News & World Report. The program received three out of a possible four stars and was one of 104 programs or 9 percent of all schools listed on the honor roll.

"We have a long tradition in teacher training at UT Martin, including a nationally recognized Teacher Warranty Program," Rakes said.

The warranty provides a three-year performance guarantee for a UT Martin graduate who has completed an approved program. More than two-dozen Tennessee school districts have signed an agreement with UT Martin.

UT Martin unveils user-friendly site

The University of Tennessee at Martin launched a new website, and there's much more to the site than meets the eye.

The website update went live complete with a new layout, less clutter and a responsive design for mobile and tablet devices.

The website can be viewed at www.utm.edu.

The new site is coded to behave "responsively," making it friendly for desktop browsing and mobile devices alike. Depending on the screen size of the device used to access the site, visitors will see the same information but oriented differently, making it easier to navigate.

"Our underlying focus for this redesign was to provide an optimal viewing experience across a wide range of devices," said Craig Ingram, interim director of the Instructional Technology Center and Web Services. "We want the navigation of our site to be easy and the access of information to be convenient for all users."

UTM's Instructional Technology Center and Web Services staff completed the redesign in-house, with the exception of a new Campus Bird virtual tour designed by concept3D.com.

Other changes include an improved search feature, offering both website and directory returns side by side. Trending search topics are also listed so that visitors can quickly see the most popular current searches. The UT Martin website averages more than 600,000 visits each month.

The new web design follows the university's release of a new mobile application last fall, also developed by the ITC staff. The mobile app allows users access to many campus services and also includes a complete campus telephone directory, athletics schedules and news updates and the Paul Meek Library catalog.

The free app is available for all iOS and Android platform devices (version 2.2 and up).

AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS — Junior Auxiliary of Obion County recently awarded scholarships to three local students. On hand for the presentation were (from left) JA member Sara Burnett, South Fulton High School graduate Grace Bruner, JA vice president Tina Adams, Union City High School graduate Alexis Coleman, JA treasurer Christy Johnson and Obion County Central High School graduate Rebecca Bloodworth. All three graduates will be attending the University of Tennessee at Martin. Miss Bruner plans to major in education, while Miss Coleman and Miss Bloodworth both plan to major in biology.
UT-Martin Chancellor Selected for Program

August 7th, 2013 - By Charles Choate

UTM Chancellor, Dr. Tom Rakes

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Simpson continues to uplift UTM football

By Justin Walters
By jwalters@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Aug 8, 2013 at 11:07 PM CDT
(Sorry Updated: Aug 8, 2013 at 11:07 PM CDT)

MARTIN, Tenn. - Before head coach Jason Simpson stepped on the University of Tennessee at Martin sidelines, the Skyhawk football program struggled. The school had only managed to win 20 Ohio Valley Conference games in its first 14 seasons in the league.

In only seven seasons at UTM, Simpson has already collected 35 conference victories.

"We try to sell a standard and certain edge about our program," said head coach Simpson. "Every year is about rising above and continuing to move forward."

Progression certainly has been the motto UTM has echoed since Simpson’s emergence. The team finished 8-3 overall, while tying a school record of six OVC victories.

The Skyhawks return 12 starters from last year, and Simpson believes they have another golden opportunity to do something special this season.

"Sometimes the ball has to bounce your way," said Simpson. "But talent level wise and team chemistry wise, we are where we need to be at this point."

The Skyhawks kick off the season against UT Chattanooga on August 29.

UT-Martin Named “Best” Again

August 8th, 2013 - By Charles Choate

UT-Martin was selected by the Princeton Review as one of 138 institutions for the annual honor.

For the 11th consecutive year, the University of Tennessee-Martin has been named one of the best colleges in the Southeast.

UT-Martin was selected by the Princeton Review as one of 138 institutions for the annual honor.

Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes said the staff was delighted to again be recognized for providing a quality learning environment.

Dr. Rakes also added that being recognized 11 straight years was a compliment to the faculty and staff who provide solid academic programming and outstanding student support.

The designation of a “Best of the Southeast” school comes from a review of locations in a 12 state area.
SKYHAWKS ROLL ON

Talking Football — UT Martin football head coach Jason Simpson talks about the upcoming season to fans who gathered at Buckets in Union City on Tuesday night for the second of three stops on the Skyhawks caravan. Several UTM coaches were part of the Union City visit, promoting their programs. The caravan stopped in Paris last week and will be at Buffalo Wild Wings in Jackson on Thursday.

UT Martin receives grant to enhance engineering labs

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 that UT Martin engineering students have robust and up-to-date lab experiences in their coursework.

Some of the equipment purchased in this 2012-13 award include: Buchler Simplit Metallurgical Mounting Press, BioLogic Potentiostat, Chicago Dreis & Krump Box and Pan Sheet Metal Brake and Longacre 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 up-to-date lab instructional," said Dr. Ed Wheeler, chairman of the Department of Engineering.

"This grant allows our department to purchase the equipment required to support our instructional goals."
It’s almost time:  
Tennessee Soybean Festival

Annual pageants scheduled for Aug. 31 on UT M campus

The annual Tennessee Soybean Festival is offering girls the opportunity to participate in the upcoming Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants. The University of Tennessee Federal Credit Union is sponsoring the pageants.

Girls 0-21 years of age are invited to participate in the pageants Aug. 31 during the festival.

Pageants begin at 10 a.m. in the Student Life Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin located at 199 Moody St. The deadline to register is Aug. 26.

The pageant lineup includes the following: Baby Miss Soybean (0-18 months), 10 a.m.; Tiny Miss Soybean (19 months -3 years old), 10:45 a.m.; Petite Miss Soybean (4-5 years old), 11:30 a.m.; Little Miss Soybean (6 - 9 years old), 12:30 p.m.; Junior Miss Soybean (10-12 years old), 1:30 p.m.; Teen Miss Soybean (13-15 years old), 2:30 p.m.; and Miss Soybean (16-21 years old), 3:30 p.m.

All pageants will have one queen and four alternates.

A $35 non-refundable entry fee is required with the application. Make check payable to the Tennessee Soybean Festival. Mail fee and application to: Tennessee Soybean Pageant, 109 University St., Martin, TN 38237 or deliver to the Martin City Hall. There will be no registration at the door.

For more information, call 731-587-9845. Applications for pageants are available at these locations in Martin: UT Federal Credit Union, Lana’s Boutique & Bridal, Sugar and Spice and Martin City Hall.

To receive an application online, go to www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

The festival begins Aug. 30 and runs through Sept. 8. This year is the 20th anniversary of the festival.
Chancellor named to national committee

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See Rakes, Page 2

UTM women picked to win OVC

The UT Martin soccer team has been named the favorite in the Ohio Valley Conference preseason poll of coaches and sports information directors.

The Skyhawks received 18 of 22 first-place votes. Austin Peay was chosen second and received the other four votes.

UTM beat Austin Peay in last year’s conference tournament final to earn an NCAA tournament bid.

Sophomore forward Saphyra Coombs-James, last year’s league freshman of the year, leads eight starters returning for UTM.

The Skyhawks were 13-6-3 overall last year with a conference record of 8-1-1. UTM lost to Kentucky 1-0 in the NCAA tournament first round.

UTM opens its regular season in Martin at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23 against Oklahoma State.
Skyhawk caravan stops in Jackson

By Craig Thomas
cthomast2@jacksonsun.com

In a few weeks, UT Martin football coach Jason Simpson and volleyball coach Darrin McClure will be consumed with the daily grind of their regular seasons.

Things are busy for them already, but the two traveled Thursday evening to Buffalo Wild Wings in Jackson for a Skyhawk coaches caravan.

The caravan stopped earlier this week in Paris and in Union City.


Each coach spoke in front of fans and other UTM personnel for a couple minutes and talked about their team's upcoming season.

After the brief speeches, coaches mingled with the crowd and introduced themselves to people they hadn't met.

One man in a UTM shirt brought his son over to talk with Simpson, and he asked his son to tell Simpson what passing route they'd been working on at home.

The boy thought for a moment and said "Post!"

"Sweet, man!" Simpson said.

Caravan
Continued from Page D1

Basketball players Mike Liabo and Tobias Dowdell, volleyball player Allie Whimpey and three cheerleaders were also present.

New football and baseball player Jake Overbey, a USJ graduate, was also there and said he's excited to be part of the ongoing quarterback competition.

Overbey transferred from Ole Miss so he could play both football and baseball.

"We put on pads for the first time Monday, and it was the first time in about two and a half years I've put on pads," Overbey said with a smile. "It was a fun and awkward experience, so it took me about a good hour to get used to the pads throwing-wise and everything."

A former Jackson Sun Player of the Year and Mr. Football, Overbey is one of the candidates to replace graduated quarterback Derek Carr.

Overbey's roommate is defensive back Thad Williams, and he has gotten to know plenty of teammates already.

"It's been a real blast," Overbey said. "They've really accepted me and it's been a lot easier than I thought it would be."

Radio broadcaster Chris Brinkley was the emcee for the event and introduced all of the coaches and players.

UTM fan Rick Hensley of Trenton attended the caravan with his wife, Rita. Their son, Tanner, played baseball at the school and their daughter, Niki, is a cheerleader.

Rick and Rita go on all the road trips Niki goes on, so they've gotten to know the coaches of various teams.

"We've been going to those ballgames for eight, nine years. We're big UTM fans now," Rick Hensley said.

Hensley said he enjoys all the sports and closely follows whatever sport is in season. So far his favorite road trip was the women's basketball team's NCAA tournament game at Duke in 2011. He'll travel to Boise State for the football team's game there Sept. 7.

Their daughter is in her final year as an undergraduate student and cheerleader, but the Hensley's are fans for good.

"I don't know what we're going to do because we've been doing this now faithfully for seven or eight years," Hensley said.

"We'll probably just keep going, we don't know any better," he added with a laugh.

Craig Thomas, 425-9634
The Great Lawn

As the tour progressed from the south side of the grounds to the north side, one would be remiss to not mention the beauty of the landscape with water flowing from the north to the south end of the park, allowing one to take in the wonderful sound of flowing water. Just to the north of the Discovery Center is a lovely hillside amphitheater and the Great Lawn that Bondurant commented the park hopes will become a site of many evening and summer concerts. The south side of the grounds also features an American Garden with the north side featuring Japanese and European gardens just adjacent to the Great Lawn. Recognizing that the grounds are an important part of the Discovery Park experience, unlimited-access pass holders will be allowed to enter the park even during non-hours of operation to enjoy a walk around the gardens, a small family picnic, or even take in the sunrise or sunset.

Freedom Square

The tour continued with a stop on Main Street in Freedom Square. A replica of small towns in the early 1900s, the highlight of Freedom Square is Liberty Hall, in honor of our country's independence and includes a refurbished Fire House. Liberty Hall will feature replica documents such as the Mayflower Compact and the Declaration of Independence, as well as a life-size replica of the Liberty Bell. Freedom Square is an ideal site not only for individuals who appreciate history, but also for social studies educators to bring history and civic lessons to life by showing their students up close the same documents, structures and artifacts they are reading about in their school books. The extraordinary outdoor gallery offers a glimpse of the park's mission to enhance the educational experiences of children and adults and to inspire them to see beyond their current level of knowledge.

Discovery Center

After a lengthy grounds tour it was time for Andrew to get out of the vehicle and explore inside the Discovery Center. Although fascinated with the outside grounds, he could not wait to get inside and see the 50-foot man he has heard so much about, as well as the 10 galleries and 50,000 square feet of exhibits contained inside. The Discovery Center itself has a unique design that cannot be easily described and was designed by Verner Johnson Inc., an architecture firm in Boston that specializes in museum projects and has completed more than 200 projects worldwide including several projects for the Smithsonian museums.

Bringing learning to life

The Military Gallery offers a variety of things to see, with the first artifacts in the museum having arrived just in mid-July. The gallery is complete with artifacts from every war the United States has participated in, as well as videos from veterans speaking about their experiences. As a tribute to pilots, many of whom trained at nearby airbases, an actual PT-17,
UT Martin named among best in the region

UT Martin is one of the best colleges in the Southeast according to the nationally known education services company, The Princeton Review. UT Martin is one of 138 institutions The Princeton Review recommends in its “Best in the Southeast” section of its website feature, “2014 Best Colleges: Region by Region,” that posted recently on the company’s website at princetonreview.com.

The university has been named to the “Best in the Southeast” listing for 11 consecutive years. “We are delighted that The Princeton Review has again recognized UT Martin for providing a high-quality learning environment,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor. “Student input helped make this recognition possible through comments and feedback based on their experiences at the university. Receiving this designation for 11 consecutive years is a compliment to faculty and staff who work hard to provide solid academic programming and outstanding student support.”

The 138 colleges The Princeton Review chose for its “Best in the Southeast” designations are located in twelve states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The Princeton Review also designated 226 colleges in the Northeast, 124 in the West, and 155 in the Midwest as best in their locales on the company’s “2014 Best Colleges: Region by Region” lists. Collectively, the 643 colleges named “regional best(s)” constitute about 25 percent of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges.

“We’re pleased to recommend these colleges to users of our site as the best schools to earn their undergrad degrees,” said Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s senior vice president/publishing. “We chose these as our ‘regional best’ colleges mainly for their excellent academic programs. From several hundred schools in each region, we winnowed our list based on institutional data we collected directly from the schools, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of our staff, plus college counselors and advisors whose recommendations we invite. We also take into account what students at the schools reported to us. Only schools that permit us to independently survey their students are eligible to be considered for our regional ‘best’ lists.”

The Princeton Review does not rank the 643 colleges in its “2014 Best Colleges: Region-by-Region” list hierarchically or by region or in various categories.
MSAAL — Dr. Tom Payne, chairman of the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, presented Terri Brundige with her certificate of completion from the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending (MSAAL) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The MSAAL was co-hosted by the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture (Food and Fiber). The school was held Aug. 3-7. Brundige works for BancorpSouth in Dresden.

MSAAL — Dr. Tom Payne, chairman of the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking presented Jason Dotson with his certificate of completion from the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending (MSAAL) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The MSAAL was co-hosted by the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture (Food and Fiber). The school was held Aug. 3-7. Dotson works for Farm Credit Mid-America in Dresden.

Ben Woods, CPA, has joined Coulter & Justus, P.C. as a staff member in the Audit Department. Woods holds a bachelor's in Accounting and Finance from the University of Tennessee Martin.

Ben has one year of professional accounting experience and recently has relocated to Knoxville from Union City.

Katelyn Bowman, has joined the Knoxville firm in the Tax Department. Bowman holds a bachelor's in Accounting from Carson-Newman College and is currently working on her Masters.

This story is contributed by a member of the Knoxville community and is neither endorsed nor affiliated with Knoxville News Sentinel.
PREVENTING VIOLENCE — More than 35 people attended the recent GreenDot Workshop on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The purpose of the workshop was for participants to become certified instructors for violence prevention. Members attending the week-long workshop included (bottom row, from left) Lea Hegge, Dr. Lynn Alexander, All Shuf, Joanna Webster, Lisa Fagan, Lindee McCarty; (second row) Monica Black, Deborah Gibson, Phyllis Hamer, Stefanie Gray, Patricia Floyd, Stephanie Butler; (third row) Beth Parish, Karen Miles, Kimberly Olive, Tisha Pletcher, Donna Damron; (fourth row) Diane Marks, Delia Adcock, Anna Clark, Dana Howard, Connie Harris, Leslie Copper, Isaac Dandy; (fifth row) Dr. Arnie Jones, Latie Smith, Jenny Harrison, Shannon Deal, Deidra Beene, Daisy Wang, Jennifer Hart (top row) Richard Schoeberl, Teresa Erwin, Dr. George Daniel, Amy McLean, Jared Anderson and Anthony Previtt.

UT Martin Fine Arts Building Ribbon Cutting this Friday

August 13th, 2013 - By Chris Stockdale

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for 1:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 16, for the expansion of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus. UT President Joe DiPietro, university Chancellor Tom Rakes and other officials are scheduled to attend the event that will take place outside the Fine Arts Building (Quad Side), located at 16 Mt. Pelea Road in Martin.

The expanded building is now 112,000 square feet and the completion cost was $14 million. The expanded building will house the departments of music and visual and theater arts, and includes more than 16 classrooms, 24 office/studio rooms, 35 offices, 23 individual practice rooms, a choir-recital hall, a band practice room, a percussion rehearsal room, a graphic arts lab, ceramic lab, fabrics lab, sculpture lab, costume shop, scene shop and a state-of-the-art black box (acting classroom) theater with the most update sound and lighting available. The new black box theater seats 110 people.

The existing 52,000-square foot building was expanded by 60,000 square feet. The renovation increased footage to the north, south and east by a total of almost 25,000 square feet. Plans are under way for Phase Two of this project, which will include a renovation of the Harriet Fulton Theatre.

Classes and personnel vacated the building four years ago, and all classes will return to the expanded building this fall semester. Classes start Monday, Aug. 26.

For more information about the music or visual and theater arts programs, contact Dr. Elaine Harris, professor and chair of the music department, at 731-881-7411 or Doug Cook, professor and chair of the visual and theater arts department at 731-881-7406. Additional information about the ribbon cutting is available by contacting Cook, the Fine Arts Building facility manager.
Snakes interest Keith Paluso.

So do lizards, turtles and frogs.

For that matter, he’s interested in most any animal that he encounters in nature.

His love for the outdoors and work with Tennessee State Parks during his college years prepared Paluso for his appointment in February as a ranger for the 1,247-acre Mousatril Landing State Park. The park is located on the east bank of the Tennessee River near Linden in Perry County.

Paluso, who lives with his wife, Bethany, near Parsons in Decatur County, earned a biology degree with a concentration in ecology and environmental biology in December 2012 from the University of Tennessee at Martin. But his fascination with animals and the outdoors began well before his college years. To say that he’s had a lifelong interest in reptiles and amphibians is an understatement.

“Well, I’ve been interested in biology, especially in reptiles and amphibians, for as long as I can remember,” he said in a December interview before his graduation. “I remember particularly in the third grade when my teacher, Miss Jenkins, asked me what I wanted to be when I grow up, and I said, ‘a herpetologist.’ And the look on her face was just unforgettable.”

Swamps were common where he was raised in eastern Arkansas. He was active in Boy Scouts, spent most waking moments outdoors and read a lot about snakes.

Homeschooled until third grade, his family moved to Atoka when he was in sixth grade and he later graduated from Munford High School. His family camped almost year-round and his dedication to scouting led to an Eagle Scout badge, the organization’s highest award.

He came to UT Martin after completing two years at Dyersburg State Community College and almost left Martin after the first semester. But strong relationships with biology faculty members convinced him to stay and he considers Dr. Tom Blanchard, associate professor of biology, a mentor.

Paluso worked summers during his high school years as a nature director for Boy Scout camp. His first opportunity to work at a Tennessee State Park came when he served as a naturalist for a year at Natchez Trace State Park, located 35 miles east of Jackson.

He then began a research project at Reelfoot Lake, needed a place to stay for the summer and inquired about becoming a naturalist at Reelfoot Lake State Park. He cold-called asking about the position and was hired almost immediately.

“I’m surprised actually, because Reelfoot’s the park that everybody wants to be at,” he said, adding, “Reelfoot Lake has had a profound influence on my life.”

As a naturalist, he provided environmental education for the public and gave lake tours, including tours for wildlife photographers from Project Noah and National Geographic Magazine.

“I gave programs all across the state with the birds that we rehab at the park, but I’ve been known particularly for my snake programs,” he said, estimating that he presented environmental education programs to more than 30,000 people during his three years at Reelfoot.

“Some of my responsibilities were not especially fun, like trail work in the swamp mid-summer, but the thing about the job is that you get out of it exactly what you put into it,” he said. “If you place yourself in the state of constant curiosity and you’re always learning something about the environment, you’ll do a better job in educating the public and you’ll learn interesting things in the process.”

Paluso does have a special compassion for snakes. He has caught many snakes but has never been bitten by a venomous snake, which he doesn’t attribute to skill but to the “misunderstood temperament of a lot of these animals.”

For example, during his Reelfoot Lake work, he and others often caught cottonmouth snakes, sometimes a dozen in a day, measured and photographed them and then released the animals. In his view, cottonmouths have earned a reputation that doesn’t fit them for being aggressive.

“You just have to be careful and you have to know about that animal,” he said. “Ninety percent of the documented venomous snake bites in the U.S. are on the face and on the hands, and that’s not because the snakes are intentionally going for the face or the hands. It’s because people are picking them up when they shouldn’t be. That’s how people get bit is picking them up.”

Reelfoot research

His research project was made possible when he received the university’s Smith, Henson, Sliger Undergraduate Research at Reelfoot Lake Grant, which secured his naturalist job at Reelfoot. Only two papers had been published about Reelfoot Lake’s herpetofaunal life, both in the 1930s, and this was the project’s focus. He and a Southeastern Louisiana University graduate student split a $4,000 grant, which served as a stipend and helped to support him between his Natchez Trace State Park job and transition to Reelfoot Lake.

The research included surveying all of the reptiles and amphibians in the Reelfoot Lake complex, which included each of the national wildlife refuges in the area. He said the area includes about 30,000 acres of open water and swamp and bottomland hardwood forests, and the research involved obtaining various data from all the reptiles and amphibians in the area. The project was designed “so that the survey can run for about as long as there are people to work on it.”

He added, “Some of these long-term herpetofaunal surveys last as long as 75 years or more, and we hope that ours is going
The UT Martin volleyball team received a Team Academic Award for its 3.40 team Grade Point Average in 2012-13. The Skyhawks were one of only 20.9 percent of NCAA Division I squads to receive the award.

UTM volleyball club lauded for grades

A ribbon-cutting ceremony set at UTM

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for 1:30 p.m. Friday for the expansion of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

UT President Joe DiPietro, university Chancellor Tom Rakes and other officials are scheduled to attend the event outside the Fine Arts Building (Quad Side) at 16 Mt. Pelia Road in Martin.

The expanded building is now 112,000 square feet and the completion cost was $14 million.

The expanded building will house the departments of music and visual and theater arts and includes more than 16 classrooms, 24 office/studio rooms, 35 offices, 23 individual practice rooms, a choir-recital hall, a band practice room, a percussion rehearsal room, a graphic arts lab, ceramic lab, fabrics lab, sculpture lab, costume shop, scene shop and a state-of-the-art black box (acting class-room) theater with the most updated sound and lighting available.

The existing 52,000-square foot building was expanded by 60,000 square feet. The renovation increased footage to the north, south and east by a total of almost 25,000 square feet.

Plans are under way for Phase Two of the project, which will include a renovation of the Harriet Fulton Theatre.
OC student graduates from veterinary school

Kelly M. Whitson of Troy recently graduated with Academic Excellence from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

The doctoral convocation and hooding ceremony were held at the James R. Cox Auditorium in the Alumni Memorial Building in Knoxville.

During her attendance at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, she was vice president of the Food Animal Club, secretary of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Club and a member of the Large Animal Emergency Team.

She is a member of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, American Angus Association and the Society for Theriogenology.

She has volunteered for the UTCVM Feed-A-Pet Program, Ronald McDonald house and Amachi Knoxville.

Dr. Whitson received her bachelor of science degree in agriculture from the University of Tennessee at Martin in May 2009. She was a 2005 Top Ten Challenge graduate of Obion County Central High School in Troy.

She was a long-time employee of Reelfoot Animal Hospital in Union City.

Dr. Whitson is the daughter of Joe and Connie Whitson and the late Carrie Whitson of Troy. She is the granddaughter of Carrie Lanier and the late Jimmy and Shirley Whitson, all of Tiptonville.

She is now practicing at Halifax County Veterinary Center in Halifax, Va.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION — The family of the late Marshall Cunningham, a graduate of Union City High School, decided to honor his memory by establishing a scholarship in his name last year. The $175,000 trust means a UCHS graduate can receive at least $1,250 annually for four years, with a 5 percent increase each year, to pursue a college degree. Matthew Adams, a 2013 UCHS graduate who will be attending UT Martin this fall, was selected by the scholarship committee to receive this impressive and valuable award.

On hand for the announcement were (from left) Donna Pruett, Cunningham's niece; Adams; Don Cunningham, Mrs. Pruett's father and Marshall Cunningham's brother; and UCHS principal Wes Kennedy. Morgan Stone (not pictured), the first recipient of the scholarship, graduated in 2012 and has been attending Belmont College in Nashville.
UT Martin among Princeton Review’s “Best in the Southeast” for 11th consecutive year

UT Martin is one of the best colleges in the Southeast according to the nationally known education services company, The Princeton Review. UT Martin is one of 138 institutions The Princeton Review recommends in its “Best in the Southeast” section of its website feature, “2014 Best Colleges: Region by Region,” that posted today on the company’s website at princetonreview.com.

The university has been named to the “Best in the Southeast” listing for 11 consecutive years.

“We are delighted that The Princeton Review has again recognized UT Martin for providing a high-quality learning environment,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor. “Student input helped make this recognition possible through comments and feedback based on their experiences at the university. Receiving this designation for 11 consecutive years is a compliment to faculty and staff who work hard to provide solid academic programming and outstanding student support.”

The 138 colleges The Princeton Review chose for its “Best in the Southeast” designations are located in twelve states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The Princeton Review also designated 226 colleges in the Northeast, 124 in the West, and 155 in the Midwest as best in their locales on the company’s “2014 Best Colleges: Region by Region” lists. Collectively, the 643 colleges named “regional best(s)” constitute about 25% of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges.

“We’re pleased to recommend these colleges to users of our site as the best schools to earn their undergrad degrees,” said Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s senior vice president/publishing. “We chose these as our ‘regional best’ colleges mainly for their excellent academic programs.

From several hundred schools in each region, we winnowed our list based on institutional data we collected directly from the schools, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of our staff, plus college counselors and advisors whose recommendations we invite. We also take into account what students at the schools reported to us. Only schools that permit us to independently survey their students are eligible to be considered for our regional ‘best’ lists.”

The Princeton Review does not rank the 643 colleges in its “2014 Best Colleges: Region by-Region” list hierarchically or by region or in various categories.

For more information about UT Martin, go to www.utm.edu.

Officials to cut ribbon for UTM Fine Arts Building expansion

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for 1:30 p.m., Friday, August 16, for the expansion of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus. UT President Joe DiPietro, university Chancellor Tom Rakes and other officials are scheduled to attend the event that will take place outside the Fine Arts Building (Quad Side), located at 16 Mt. Felix Road in Martin.

The expanded building is now 112,000 square feet and the completion cost was $4.1 million. The expanded building will house the departments of music and visual and theater arts, and includes more than 16 classrooms, 24 office/studio rooms, 35 offices, 23 individual practice rooms, a choir-rehearsal room, a percussion classroom, a percussion practice room, a graphic arts lab, ceramic lab, fabrics lab, sculpture lab, costume shop, scene shop and a state-of-the-art black box (acting classroom) theater with the most updated sound and lighting available. The new black box theater seats 110 people.

The existing 52,000-square foot building was expanded by 60,000 square feet. The renovation increased footage to the north, south and east by a total of almost 25,000 square feet. Plans are under way for Phase Two of this project, which will include a renovation of the Harriet Fulton Theatre.

Classes and personnel vacated the building four years ago, and all classes will return to the expanded building this fall semester. Classes start Monday, August 26.
UT Martin Chancellor appointed to serve on National McAuliffe Award Committee

Dr. Tom Rakes, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, is one of three college presidents chosen nationally to select one or more outstanding teacher education programs for the Christa McAuliffe Excellence in Teacher Education Award. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities sponsors the award. Rakes has served since 2010 on the AASCU Teacher Education Committee.

Joining Rakes are Dr. John Miller, president of Central Connecticut State University, and Dr. Dene Kay Thomas, president of Ft. Lewis College.

"I'm pleased to be a part of the McAuliffe Award process that honors Christa McAuliffe, as well as recognizes stellar teacher education programs," Rakes said. "There are many excellent teacher education programs, and it is a joy to review information about some of the top programs in the nation." Award announcements will come in December, following the presidential selection committee's review and final decisions.

UT Martin's own teacher education program has earned national recognition. The graduate secondary licensure program made the National Council on Teacher Quality Prep Review honor roll released in June by U.S. News & World Report. The program received three out of a possible four stars and was one of 104 programs or nine percent of all schools listed on the honor roll.

"We have a long tradition in teacher training at UT Martin, including a nationally recognized Teacher Warranty Program," Rakes said.

The warranty provides a three-year performance guarantee for a UT Martin graduate who has completed an approved program. More than two-dozen Tennessee school districts have signed an agreement with UT Martin.

Humphrey earns Certified Public Accountant license, promoted to manager

Chloe Doyle Humphrey, with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs, recently passed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Examination, earned her Certified Public Accountant license, and was promoted to manager.

"Chloe has been a tremendous asset to the ATA Team," said ATA Chief Manager Al Creswell. "She works hard to understand the rules and regulations that affect her clients and provides exemplary customer service. Plus, she understands how important it is to be involved in her community. We are proud of her determination and leadership within our firm."

Humphrey joined Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs in May 2007 and became a licensed Certified Public Accountant on June 14, 2013. She is a member of ATA's Financial Institutions Team and is a recent graduate of Leadership Gibson County. A graduate of Greenfield High School, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in accounting from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Her practice focuses on external audits, loan review, regulatory reporting, HUD audits, consolidated reports, financial statement audits and taxation for financial institutions. Humphrey and her husband, Matt, live in Greenfield with their daughter, Layla.
Certified Violence Prevention Instructors

More than 35 people attended the recent GreenDot Workshop on campus. The purpose of the workshop was to become certified instructors for violence prevention. Members attending the week-long workshop included (bottom row, from left): Lea Hegge, Dr. Lynn Alexander, All Shull, Johnna Webster, Lisa Fagan, Lindee McCurley; (second row, from left): Monica Black, Deborah Gibson, Phyllis Hammer, Stefanie Gray, Patricia Floyd, Stephanie Butler; (third row, from left): Beth Parish, Karen Miles, Kimberly Olive, Tisha Pletcher, Donna Damron; (fourth row, from left): Diane Marks, Debi Adcock, Anna Clark, Dana Howard, Connie Harris, Leslie Cropper, Isaac Tandy; (fifth row, from left): Dr. Annie Jones, Latie Smith, Jenny Harrison, Shannon Deal, Deidra Beene, Daisy Wang, Jenifer Hart; (top row, from left): Richard Schoeberl, Teresa Erwin, Dr. George Daniel, Amy McLean, Jared Anderson, and Anthony Prewitt.
Family and Consumer Sciences field experience

Libbi Verdell, left, a recent graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, with a concentration in Child and Family Studies, has completed a field experience with Belles and Beaus in Gleason. Verdell is the daughter of Brad and Becky Wilson and the wife of Alex Verdell. Libbi and Alex Verdell live in Martin.

Hannah Wade, right, a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, with a concentration in Child and Family Studies, has completed a field experience with the Infant Stimulation Program in Martin. Wade is the daughter of Rose Wade of Sharon.
Chief diversity officer among new positions at WT

Posted: August 15, 2013 - 11:21 pm

By Mollie Bryant
mollie.bryant@amarillo.com

The creation of a chief diversity and inclusion officer position is among several administrative changes that have gone into effect at West Texas A&M University this month.

Dr. Amy Anderson now serves as associate provost, Dr. Donna Eddleman has been named vice president for student affairs and Dr. Rosemary Gray is the university’s first chief diversity and inclusion officer.

Gray will be in charge of creating a diversity and inclusion plan, in an effort to create an inclusive environment for underrepresented students, including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered, WT President Dr. J. Patrick O’Brien said. Compared with white students, Hispanic and African-American students typically have a lower persistence rate, the rate at which students return to the university after completing their sophomore year, O’Brien said.

“We’ve got to make sure that the climate and culture on campus is one that respects the views and lifestyles of others and is a place where they can be successful,” he said.

Gray most recently served as equity and diversity officer and Title VI coordinator at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“A diverse student body promotes a stronger commitment to diversity and inclusion,” she said. “There is greater faculty emphasis on cross-cultural issues in research and in the classroom, and there is more frequent student involvement in cross-cultural awareness workshops and discussions.”

Anderson most recently served as the head of WT’s Department of Education, and has 20 years experience teaching in public schools and higher education. Among her duties as associate provost, she will manage First-Year Experience Programs, including student orientation, the quality enhancement plan, learning communities, core curriculum, advising services, the teaching excellence center and associate deans council.

Eddleman, former vice president for student services at Southern Utah University, will oversee programs and services in student affairs, the Jack B. Kelley Student Center, recreational sports, student government and residential living.

“My goal is to make sure the work that happens in student affairs complements the student experience and enhances that experience so that we’re creating an opportunity for students to take what they learn in their classes and apply it to real situations,” Eddleman said.

In other changes, David Willard has been named the head of the Department of Art, Theatre and Dance, Dr. Judy Williams will serve as interim head of the Department of Education, Susan Allen is the new associate department head for educator preparation, Dr. Mark Riney has been named the associate department head for graduate education programs and Rick Haasl will serve as assistant to the dean in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.
WORK EXPERIENCE — Libbi Verdell, a recent graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Child and Family Studies, has completed a field experience with Belles and Beans in Gleason. She is the daughter of Brad and Becky Wilson and the wife of Alex Verdell. Libbi and Alex Verdell live in Martin.

FIELD EXPERIENCE — Whitley Southerland, a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Child and Family Studies, has completed a field experience with the Exchange Club at the Carl Perkins Center in Jackson. She lives on Gene Adams Road in Martin.

EXPERIENCE COUNTS — Hannah Wade, a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Child and Family Studies, has completed a field experience with the Infant Stimulation Program in Martin. She is the daughter of Rose Wade and of Sharon.

CASE CONFERENCE — Four University of Tennessee at Martin students attended the 40th Annual CASE ASAP (Council for Advancement and Support of Education’s Affiliated Student Advancement Programs) Aug. 8-11 in New Orleans. Attending were Matt McBride of McKenzie, Mary Medling of Dyersburg, Rebecca Smith of Trenton and Ben Garner of Greenfield, all members of the Undergraduate Alumni Council (UAC). Students and advisers learned best practices, ideas and other ways to encourage student/alumni engagement and philanthropy throughout the conference. Assistant director of alumni relations and annual giving Andrew Hart also attended the conference with the students as their adviser. The purpose of the UAC is to be of service to potential students, fellow undergraduates and UT Martin faculty and staff in the promotion of the university. Through service, the UAC is designed to help in the development of a better student-alumni relationship and consequently a more interested and active alumni.

GOOD TIMES — Spectators lined the street in Historic Downtown Martin in anticipation for last year’s Weakley County Training School Alumni Association’s Homecoming Parade. This year’s parade steps off Saturday at 10 a.m. Line-up is at 9 a.m. at UT Martin’s football stadium. The festivities continue through Sunday.
Tennessee Soybean Festival

BEAN MAGIC — The countdown is on: only 15 more days until the 20th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival begins, ushering in a week of fun, excitement and plenty of activities for the whole family to enjoy in Historic Downtown Martin. Registration is now under way for the annual talent show. See page 2 for more information.

UTM to unveil fine arts facility

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for 1:30 p.m. Friday for the expansion of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

UT President Joe DiPietro, university Chancellor Tom Rakes and other officials are scheduled to attend the event outside the Fine Arts Building (Quad Side), located at 16 Mount Pelia Rd.

The expanded building is now 112,000 square feet and the completion cost was $14 million. The expanded building will house the departments of music and visual and theater arts and it includes more than 16 classrooms, 24 office/studio rooms, 35 offices, 23 individual practice rooms, a choir-recital hall, a band practice room, a percussion rehearsal room, a graphic arts lab, ceramic lab, fabrics lab, sculpture lab, costume shop, scene shop and a state-of-the-art black box (acting classroom) theater with the most update sound and lighting available. The new black box theater seats 110 people.

The existing 52,000-square-foot building was expanded by 60,000 square feet. The renovation increased footage to the north, south and east by a total of almost 25,000 square feet. Plans are under way for Phase Two.
The newly renovated Fine Arts Building is now officially open on the campus of UT Martin. The expanded building is now 12,000 square feet and the completion cost was $14 million.

University Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes spoke at a ribbon cutting event for the building Friday afternoon, and said the students and staff now have a space they can be proud of and can excel in learning and teaching.

Dr. Rakes said more renovations are planned at the Fine Arts Building as well as other places around the campus to help improve faculty and student life at UT Martin.

Classes and personnel vacated the building four years ago, and all classes will return to the expanded building this fall semester and classes start Monday, August the 26th.
Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) announced today that Nathan Miller will be the interim director at Lewis Health Center effective August 19. This change in leadership follows the resignation of previous director, Dustin Flowers, DPT, who has announced plans to attend medical school.

“Nathan has been with the medical center for twelve years and has shown strong leadership ability during that time. His management experience in the outpatient health care arena will help to ensure that Lewis Health Center continues to offer quality services to the residents of Lewis County and surrounding communities,” said MRMC Chief Operating Officer Paul Betz.

As director, Miller will be responsible for the daily operations for the clinic and physical therapy department. Duties will include oversight of clinical operations, fiscal planning and management, physician relations and community outreach.

Miller previously served as the assistant director of physical medicine for MRMC, supervising service areas that include outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapy as well as the athletic trainer program. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and his master’s degree in physical therapy from the University of Tennessee at Memphis. He is a certified American Physical Therapy Association clinical instructor and a certified ergonomic assessment specialist. Miller is currently pursuing a master’s degree in health care management from the Owen School of Business at Vanderbilt University.

Lewis Health Center provides a vast array of outpatient health care services. Providers include board certified physicians, nurses and certified clinical staff. In addition to primary care and wellness services, the facility offers laboratory services, physical therapy, a physician specialist clinic and diagnostic imaging services that include MRI, mammography, ultrasound, bone densitometry and X-ray.

Services and hours will remain the same. No appointment is necessary except for immunizations, school physicals and mammograms. For more information, call 931.796.4901.
UT Martin Dedicates New Fine Arts Building

By Krystyna Biassou
By kbiassou@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Aug 16, 2013 at 4:40 PM CDT
(Story Updated: Aug 16, 2013 at 7:30 PM CDT)

The president of the University of Tennessee was in Martin Friday to dedicate the school's new fine arts building.

President Joe DiPietro and Chancellor Tom Rakes attended the ribbon-cutting that took place Friday afternoon.

The $14 million renovation expands the previously 52,000 square foot fine arts building to 112,000 square feet. The building houses labs and rooms to accommodate the growing music, art and theatre program.

More than 15 classrooms and 20 practice rooms were included in the renovation. A new percussion rehearsal room, graphic arts lab and black box theater were also added.

Students will return to classes in the Fine Arts Building on August 26. The building has been vacant for renovations since 2009.

Plans are underway for Phase Two of this project, which is a renovation of the Harriet Fulton Theater.

UT Martin cuts ribbon on renovated, expanded Fine Arts Building

Posted: Aug 17, 2013 11:57 AM CDT
Updated: Aug 17, 2013 11:57 AM CDT

Amber Ruch - email

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus was held Friday afternoon.

Those present included Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick, Martin Mayor Randy Brundage, UT Martin Chancellor emeritus Margaret Perry, UT President Emeritus Joe Johnson, UT Martin professor emeritus of music Allison Nelson, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and UT President Joe DiPietro.

"Today is an exciting day," Rakes said. "We have not had a new building on this campus in 40 years, and this building gives you that feel. We have a nationally recognized faculty, and now we have the space to back that up."

The expanded building is now 112,000 square feet and the completion cost was $14 million. It will house the department of music and visual and theater arts, and include more than 16 classrooms, 24 office/studio rooms, 35 offices, 23 individual practice rooms, a choir-recital hall, a band practice room, a percussion rehearsal room, a graphic arts lab, ceramics lab, fabrics lab, sculpture lab, costume shop, scene shop and a state-of-the-art black box (acting classroom) theater with the most up-to-date sound and lighting available. The new black box theater seats 110 people.

The existing 53,000 square foot building was expanded by 60,000 square feet. Plans are under way for Phase Two of this project, which will include a renovation of the Harriet Fulton Theatre.

Classes and personnel left the building four years ago, and all classes will return to the expanded building this fall semester. Classes start Monday, Aug. 26.

"We are fortunate to share the completion of this building," Rakes said. "It was predominately funded by the state. Vision is essential, but execution is required."

DiPietro said he had a special fondness for the UT Martin campus and the Fine Arts Building, because he grew up on a college campus similar to UT Martin where his father was a math professor and his mother was a librarian.

DiPietro, Rakes and the more than 250 people at the ribbon cutting were fans.

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Marcia Davis: Hummingbird fest offers closer look at birds and banding

By Marcia Davis

Saturday, August 17, 2013

Enjoy a day celebrating hummingbirds at the third annual Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival on Saturday, Aug. 24 at Ijams Nature Center.

The Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (KTOS) and Ijams Nature Center are planning a fun-filled day with guided bird and nature walks, expert speakers, bird-banding demonstrations with ruby-throated hummingbirds attracted to hummingbird feeders, and wildlife education and rehabilitation demonstrations. There will be native plant sales, arts and crafts, food and drinks, and an outdoor bargain barn selling gently used bird books and bird-related items.

Close-up looks at ruby-throated hummingbirds, in the hands of Mark Armstrong, master bird bander of hummingbirds and songbirds, are always a highlight of the festival. Observers will watch the process of safely capturing a delicate hummingbird and then attaching a tiny numbered band to the hummingbird's leg for the purpose of tracking its migratory movements.

Late August is the peak of hummingbird migration in East Tennessee. Banded hummingbirds, if they are recaptured and their band numbers reported, scientifically document the travels and wintering areas of migratory hummers. Hummingbird banding will occur only from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Expert speakers in the indoor Speaker Hall include David Pitts, professor of biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, who will speak on “The Hummingbirds That Nest In Our Yards” and “Eastern Bluebird Nesting Ecology: Nest Early And Often.” You'll learn about the nesting cycle of ruby-throated hummingbirds, finding hummer nests in your yard, placing bluebird nest boxes in proper bluebird habitat, and the many fascinating details of the lives of nesting hummingbirds and eastern bluebirds.

Everything you need to know about hummingbird feeders and trouble-free hummingbird feeding will be discussed in a workshop presented by myself. Chris Mahoney’s talk “Landscaping For Hummingbirds” covers the best flowering plants to attract hummingbirds in spring, plants hummers need for nesting, plants that attract hummers during fall migration when the greatest numbers of hummers will visit your yard, and late-blooming plants that attract winter hummingbirds.
Hummingbirds aren’t the only featured creatures. David Unger, professor of biology at Maryville College, will talk about carnivores, including wolves and black bears, and the important roles they play in our environment. Outdoor activities (rain or shine) include a birding and nature walk led by Mark Campen, an introduction to birding session with Tom Howe, a nature walk led by Sabrina DeVault, and a live American kestrel show by Stephen Lyn Bales. Licensed wildlife rehabilitator Lynne McCoy will display live birds and tell about her experiences caring for sick and injured wildlife.

Storyteller Oliver Lang will be dressed in costume as he portrays E-Man, an environmental ambassador who speaks for the animals and explains the importance of the food chain and protecting the environment. Ijams educator Peg Beute will be at the new Alice Ijams Garden and Greenhouse demonstration site discussing flowering plants that hummingbirds love. Steve McGaffin will lead a butterfly walk through the fields and woods in the Mead’s Quarry area.
UT Martin officials cut ribbon on arts building

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the expansion of the Fine Arts Building drew a cluster of officials to the University of Tennessee Martin campus on Friday, according to a news release.

Gov. Bill Haslam’s office was represented. Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick and Martin Mayor Randy Brundige attended. UT Martin Chancellor emeritus Margaret Perry and her husband, Randy, were also there, according to the release.

So was UT President Emeritus Joe Johnson. UT Martin professor emeritus of music Allison Nelson, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and UT President Joe DiPietro also attended, the release said.

"Today is an exciting day," Rakes said. "We have not had a new building on this campus in 40 years, and this building gives you that feel. We have a nationally recognized faculty, and now we have the space to back that up."

The expanded building is now 112,000 square feet, and the completion cost was $14 million. The expanded building will house the departments of music and visual and theater arts, and includes more than 16 classrooms, 24 office/studio rooms, 35 offices, 23 individual practice rooms, a choir-recital hall, a band practice room, a percussion rehearsal room, a graphic arts lab, ceramic lab, fabrics lab, sculpture lab, costume shop, scene shop and a state-of-the-art black box (acting classroom) theater with the most up-to-date sound and lighting available. The new black box theater seats 110 people.

The existing 52,000-square-foot building was expanded by 60,000 square feet. The renovation increased footage to the north, south and east by a total of almost 25,000 square feet. Plans are under way for Phase Two of the project, which will include a renovation of the Harriet Fulton Theatre, the release said.

Classes and personnel vacated the building four years ago, and all classes will return to the expanded building this fall semester. Classes start Aug. 26.

"We are fortunate to share the completion of this building," Rakes said. "It was predominately funded by the state. Vision is essential, but execution is required."

DiPietro said he had a special fondness for the UT Martin campus and the Fine Arts Building, because he grew up on a college campus similar to UT Martin where his father was a math professor and his mother was a librarian.

"This faculty is world renowned, and now the facilities match that," he said. "This building solidifies the quality of life for this region. This is important to the region, important to UT Martin, and important to the University of Tennessee."

"We are absolutely ecstatic to have all the arts under one roof," said Doug Cook, chairman of the Department of Visual and Theater Arts.

"One-stop shopping for the arts is our goal," said Elaine Harris, chairwoman of the Department of Music. "I remember the excitement of the 1970 opening of the Fine Arts Building. What a thrill it is to witness the renovation and expansion."

DiPietro, Rakes and the more than 250 people at the ribbon cutting were fans. "This is a day to celebrate," DiPietro said. "This is a day to come cheer on this building."
The newly renovated Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee Martin, which will house the departments of music and visual and theater arts, features more than 16 classrooms, 24 office/studio rooms, 35 offices, 23 individual practice rooms, a choir-recital hall, a band practice room, a percussion rehearsal room, a graphic arts lab, ceramic lab, fabrics lab, sculpture lab, costume shop, scene shop and a state-of-the-art black-box theater. Submitted photo
The Rotary Club of Memphis East will meet Wednesday, Aug. 21, at noon at The Racquet Club of Memphis, 5111 Sanderlin Ave. David Coffey, professor at The University of Tennessee at Martin, will speak. Cost is $17. R.S.V.P. to Lee Hughes at lhmhughes@bellsouth.net.

The 20th anniversary of the Tennessee Soybean Festival will take place Aug. 30 through Sept. 8 in downtown Martin, according to a news release. Celebrate one of the county's biggest cash crops through a variety of activities that kick off with the annual tractor/truck pull, a salute to America's heroes, a Beatles Tribute Band: The Return and a fireworks display. Enjoy competitions and concerts provided by headlining artists Dustin Lynch, Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, The Martins, Survivor, Sawyer Brown throughout the 10-day festival.

A car and bike show, the Soybean Festival Midway featuring amusement rides and games, a golf tournament and a street fair and carnival with food, music, carnival rides and craft vendors also will be featured. For more information, visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

RECEIVES CERTIFICATE — Dr. Tom Payne (right), chairman of the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, recently presented Kurt Baggett with his certificate of completion from the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The school was co-hosted by the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture. The school started Aug. 3 and ran through Aug. 7. Baggett works for Commercial Bank and Trust in Union City.
UT Martin unveils revamped fine arts facility

UT President DiPietro, other dignitaries on hand for occasion

MARTIN — Gov. Bill Haslam's office was represented. Weakley County Mayor Houston Patrick and Martin Mayor Randy Brundige were there.

UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Margaret Perry and her husband, Randy, were there. So was UT President Emeritus Joe Johnson. UT Martin professor emeritus of music Allison Nelson was there. as were UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and UT President Joe DiPietro.

They were all at the Fine Arts Building ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday afternoon on the UT Martin campus.

"Today is an exciting day," Rakes said. "We have not had a new building on this campus in 40 years, and this building gives you that feel. We have a nationally recognized faculty and now we have the space to back that up."

The expanded building is now 112,000 square feet and the completion cost was $14 million. The expanded building will house the departments of music and visual and theater arts and includes more than 16 classrooms, 24 office/studio rooms, 35 offices, 23 individual practice rooms, a choir-recital hall, a band practice room, a percussion rehearsal room, a graphic arts lab, ceramic lab, fabrics lab, sculpture lab, costume shop, scene shop and a state-of-the-art black box (acting classroom) theater with the most up-to-date sound and lighting available. The new black box theater seats 110 people.

The existing 52,000-square-foot building was expanded by 60,000 square feet. The renovation increased footage to the north, south and east by a total of almost 25,000 square feet. Plans are under way for Phase Two of the project, which will include a renovation of the Harriet Fulton Theatre.

Classes and personnel vacated the building four years ago and all classes will return to the expanded building this fall semester. Classes start Monday.

"We are fortunate to share the completion of this building," Rakes said. "It was predominately funded by the state. Vision is essential, but execution is required."

DiPietro said he has a special fondness for the UT Martin campus and the Fine Arts Building because he grew up on a college campus similar to UT Martin where his father was a math professor and his mother was a librarian.

"This faculty is world renown and now the facilities match that," he said. "This building solidifies the quality of life for the region. This is important to the region, important to UT Martin and important to the University of Tennessee."

Newbern senior William Kwasigroh was there, too.

SEE UTM, PAGE 2
"The new building has everything we need," he said. Kwasigroh, a percussionist in the Skyhawk marching band, was scheduled to report to band camp at 3:30 Friday afternoon.

"The new building will make band camp more logistic. Everything will be back where it needs to be," he said.

For Kwasigroh and the other percussionists, that means their very own rehearsal hall. "The reverb, in the rehearsal hall and in all of the smaller practice rooms, is dead and that's a good thing," he said.

"We are absolutely ecstatic to have all the arts under one roof," said Doug Cook, chairman of the Department of Visual and Theater Arts. "One-stop shopping for the arts is our goal," said Dr. Elaine Harriss, chairman of the Department of Music. "I remember the excitement of the 1970 opening of the Fine Arts Building. What a thrill it is to witness the renovation and expansion."

DiPietro, Rakes and the more than 250 people at the ribbon cutting were fans. "This is a day to celebrate," DiPietro said. "This is a day to come cheer on this building."

CEREMONIAL RIBBON — UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes (left), UT Martin Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Jerald Ogg (center) and UT President Joe DiPietro cut the ceremonial ribbon Friday afternoon during an opening ceremony for the university's Fine Arts Building. The expanded building is now 112,000 square feet and the completion cost was $14 million. It will house the departments of music and visual and theater arts.
Johnson leads UTM list in latest preseason football honors

A total of five UT Martin football players have been hailed as Preseason All-Americans by USA College Football.

Linebacker Ben Johnson was named a first team Preseason All-American on defense, while his defensive teammates DJ Roberts (second team) and Thad Williams (third team) also appeared on the list.

Jeremy Butler also captured third team offense accolades, while James Satterfield earned a spot on the third team special teams.

A 6-2, 235-pound red-shirt senior linebacker, Johnson was named to the Preseason All-Ohio Valley Conference team last month and has been named a Preseason All-American by six different publications.

He led the OVC with 131 tackles and ranked sixth in the country with 11.91 tackles per game in 2012.

The Primm Springs native accounted for double-digit tackles in eight games and had a season-best 17 stops in a win over Jacksonville State on Nov. 3 of last year.

Roberts, from Knoxville, was also honored by the OVC head coaches and sports information directors last month, as he was chosen as a preseason all-conference selection as well.

He ranked seventh in the OVC with two interceptions and also ranked seventh in passes defended (nine) last season, while adding 44 tackles.

The 5-9, 190-pounder set a season-high with seven tackles in wins against Southeastern Louisiana (Sept. 13) and at Southeast Missouri (Oct. 20).

Butler, a 6-3, 205-pound wide receiver, led the OVC with three multi-touchdown games in 2012, including a four-touchdown effort in a win at Murray State on Oct. 13.

Butler was responsible for the two longest punts in the OVC in 2012, a 73-yarder at Tennessee Tech on Nov. 10 and a 70-yarder against Eastern Kentucky on Sept. 29.

Overall, the 6-1, 171-pounder tallied three touchdowns, 14 fair catches, seven punts of 50 yards or more and nine punts inside the opponent’s 20-yard line.

UT Martin opens its season with an Aug. 29 showdown at in-state rival Chattanooga.

Kickoff from Finley Stadium is set for 6:30 p.m.
UT faculty, students gather to mark building expansion

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FIELD WORK — Jordan Jones (left) of Kenton and Whitley Southerland of Martin, students at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, with concentrations in Child and Family Studies, both recently completed field experiences. Miss Jones' field work was with the Obion County UT FCS Extension office in Union City, while Ms. Southerland's field work was completed with the Exchange Club at the Carl Perkins Center in Jackson.

Two Obion County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2013-14 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The scholarships recipients include:
• Macie Britt, daughter of James Britt and Paula Britt of Union City, who will be a freshman. She received the McWhorter Scholarship/Workship.
• Morgan Grisham, daughter of Steve Grisham and Penne Grisham of Union City, who will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.
Renovated Fine Arts building opens at UTM

University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes (from left), Dr. Jerald Ogg Jr., UTM Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and University of Tennessee President, Dr. Joe DiPietro participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated 112,00 square-foot Fine Arts Building, Friday, August 16, 2013 in Martin. The building, which will house the departments of music and visual and theater arts, features more than 16 classrooms, 24 office/studio rooms, 35 offices, 23 individual practice rooms, a choir-recital hall, a band practice room, a percussion rehearsal room, a graphic arts lab, ceramic lab, fabrics lab, sculpture lab, costume shop, scene shop and a state-of-the-art black box theater.
Dinosaurs arrive at Discovery Park

*UT Martin professors helped acquire bones for the exhibit*

By MAIGAN BRADBERRY
Special to The Press

The Natural History section of Discovery Center is going to be big in more ways than one—dinos have arrived! Discovery Park of America is receiving almost 30 reproductions of dinosaur bones.

The Natural History Committee was responsible for finding and purchasing the dinosaurs. Jim Bondurant is chairman of the committee, and he had the help of Geologist, Dr. Michael Gibson and Astrophysicist, Lionel Crews from UT Martin. The committee started out by going to a fossil and gem show in Tucson, Arizona. At the show, they became acquainted with a company called Triebold out of Colorado. The committee ended up getting the dinosaur reproductions from Triebold.

"Triebold stood out to us because of what they had to offer, for example, they allowed the UT Martin students to participate in a dig in Kansas," said Bondurant.

The committee tried to find dinosaurs that would have been in this area, and they discovered that the local area was underwater during prehistoric times. All of the dinosaurs from this area were aquatic. A lot of the aquatic and flying dinosaurs will hang, while the land dinosaurs will be standing erect.

Maltbie, the company behind the creative displays in Discovery Center, is creating the exhibit bases upon which they will stand. Triebold will resemble the dinosaurs on site at Discovery Park.

“We wanted to make sure everything was accurate from the actual dinosaur to the date of when they were around,” said Bondurant.

Almost all of the dinosaurs are complete reproductions, with one that has authentic bones. The committee spent almost $2 million on the fossils and reproductions.

The portion of Natural History in Discovery Center will be called “Dinosaur Hall.” This area will also be a rental venue for special events, such as “dining with the dinosaurs” and will accommodate over 400 people for a sit-down dinner.

Discovery Park is located in at 830 Everett Blvd. in Union City and is slated to open in November. See page 17 for information on the opening of Discovery Park.

Maigan Bradberry is a UT Martin intern at Discovery Park.

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Students returning to campus; classes will begin Monday

By JOE LOFARO
Special to The Press

They are coming back. About 7,500 students at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be back on campus for the first day of class Monday.

Of those 7,500 students are about 1,700 freshmen and transfer students.

While the first day of class is Monday, Martin residents can expect an influx in traffic on the local streets, at restaurants and in the local box store beginning today (Thursday).

“I am glad they are coming back,” said Martin Mayor Randy Brundige. “We have a safe community, and we are going to keep that going.”

One of the reasons Brundige likes it when the UT Martin students return to campus in the fall is because the students make Martin more lively.

“This is good for our city,” Brundige said. “There is always something to do at UT Martin, ballgames and all that.”

UT Martin will host perennial power Central Arkansas at 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 14, at Hardy M. Graham Stadium. The Skyhawks, who play in the Ohio Valley Conference, will also host Jacksonville State (Oct. 5), Tennessee State (Oct. 19), Murray State (Nov. 2) and Eastern Illinois (Nov. 23).

SEE UTM, PAGE 7
Welcome UT Martin students, parents

UT Martin offers more than 50 degree programs and is made up of five colleges, Agriculture and Applied Sciences, Business and Global Affairs, Education Health and Behavioral Sciences, Engineering and Natural Sciences and Humanities and Fine Arts.

"UT Martin not only has a highly regarded academic presence but is nationally recognized for its online affordability ranking No.5 in the nation and is home to several of the top performing academic programs in the state and region," Rakes said.

The town and gown relationship is essential to Weakley County as an educational institution within the region and nearby counties and communities.

"Additionally, UT Martin provides a vital link as part of our local economic engine as well as a hub for the performing arts, Division I athletics, and a community gathering location," Rakes said.

Both the City of Martin and UT Martin will come together to host the 20th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival Aug. 30-Sept. 7.

The annual festival includes a concert downtown at Festival Park every night of the week and culminates Saturday with Sawyer Brown.

"I believe the linkages among the university, the City of Martin, as well as the surrounding communities, continue to grow and become stronger," UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes said. "I have found working with the city and county leadership productive and beneficial to all involved."

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Some UT Martin commuter students may find it difficult to assimilate when arriving on a college campus.

Living off-campus, be it in their own apartment or at home with their parents, can make it difficult for commuter students to make friends with classmates who live in the dorms, where they already have a built-in social network.

But while it's often easier for students living on campus to assimilate into campus culture, commuter students can still become an integral part of UT Martin. The following are a few tips that might help commuter students more easily assimilate into campus culture.

• Form a study group. The classroom is where many commuter students are introduced to their fellow students, so it's a great place for commuters to make new friends. A study group outside the classroom can be a bonding experience for commuter students and their classmates, and such groups can be a great way for commuters to improve their grades while learning about social gatherings on campus.

• Join student organizations. Student organizations, whether it's student government or the campus radio station or a school-based charity, are great opportunities to get the most out of UT Martin. They're also great places to meet new people and expand your social circle.

• Get a job on campus. Many commuter students work in an effort to offset the rising costs of tuition. When looking for work, such students can look for an on-campus job where they can meet more of their fellow students.

• Play sports. Intramural sports are wildly popular on many college campuses, and you need not be a great athlete to take advantage of these opportunities. Ask friends or acquaintances from class if they have a spot on their teams, or organize a team of your fellow commuter students.

• Make lunch dates. Many college students, especially those living in dorm rooms that aren't equipped with kitchens, have their meals with friends and fellow students. Commuters can do the same, booking lunch or dinner dates with classmates and friends. This keeps you on campus longer, which allows you more time to make friends and assimilate into the campus culture.
Greek organizations an option for campus life

UT Martin students getting ready to begin their college careers may soon find themselves pondering how to ingrain themselves in their new community. College presents opportunities to explore new interests and hobbies and make new friends in the process. One of the more popular ways students assimilate into campus life is by joining a Greek organization.

Some students have gotten their first perceptions of Greek organizations from movies such as “Animal House” and “Old School,” but such depictions of Greek life are not entirely accurate. Greek organizations like fraternities and sororities date back hundreds of years, when the organizations were largely social associations formed in European universities. When colleges were founded in North America, many of the traces of student organizations and independence were not incorporated into modern-day learning. Students eventually set off to form their own groups to debate and discuss current events and literature that was not part of their college curriculum. Some met in secrecy, while some schools supported the free thinking of these clubs.

One of the first American schools to establish a college society was the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., where the Phi Beta Kappa Society was founded, setting the precedent for naming North American college societies after Greek-letter initials.

Other societies soon began to form under the basis of literary debates and other educational merits, like the Chi Delta Theta group at Yale. It was not until the Kappa Alpha society, the first general Greek letter fraternity, was formed at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., that the focus of fraternities turned from being merely academic to more socially-oriented.

Many fraternities for men, and later sororities for women, began as localized Greek societies unique to particular schools. However, Sigma Phi, another fraternity formed at Union College, became the first Greek organization to establish a chapter at another college, making it the first national Greek organization. Today many Greek organizations have national reach.

Modern-day Greek societies have moved beyond strictly academic pursuits. Many are now used as social, honorary and professional groups that promote a variety of ideals. Greek life encompasses many traditions.

According to information published by StateUniversity.com, a school and university directory, more than 10 percent of all college students are members of a Greek-letter society. In the early 21st century, there were more than 5,500 chapters on 800 campuses throughout the United States and Canada. Fraternities and sororities can be a good way to expand social and educational horizons while at school.
Welcome Back UTM Students

Office of extended campus, online studies to offer classes

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies (ECOS) is offering a series of classes in ballroom dancing, digital photography, Laughter Yoga, a reading clinic and dance (both creative movement and modern).

Registration is under way and classes begin as early as Sept. 3 with the reading clinic on the main campus in Martin.

Reading Clinic
A sequential and intensive course for reading improvement taught by experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center will be offered. Three sessions are scheduled. The first session is Sept. 3-30, the second session is Oct. 1-Nov. 5 and the third session is Nov. 6-Dec. 5.

The clinic is for students in grades 2-12 who need extra support and practice in reading. Students will be individually tested to determine their specific levels of phonics and comprehension. Using results, students will be placed into a research-proven course of study designed to build skills and to fill in any gaps that may exist in their reading skills and strategies. Students meet twice per week for one hour per meeting, either on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule.

To register, call ECOS at 731-881-7082. ECOS will provide the program director your name and number to contact you for an appointment for your child to be tested.

Laughter Yoga
Laughter Yoga has become a worldwide phenomenon, and there are thousands of Laughter Clubs in more than 72 countries. Laughter Yoga combines unconditional laughter with yogic breathing (Pranayama). Anyone can laugh for no reason, without relying on humor, jokes or comedy. Laughter is simulated as exercise in a group and soon turns into real and contagious laughter. The concept of Laughter Yoga is based on a scientific fact that the body cannot differentiate between fake and real laughter. One gets the same physiological and psychological benefits.

For more information, visit laughteryoga.org (adapted from laughteryoga.org). You don’t need any special equipment or clothing to attend a laughter yoga session — not even a sense of humor.

This class will meet from 11:30 a.m. until noon on Thursdays, Sept. 5 through Dec. 5. The cost is $35 per person.

Amy McLean will teach the course. She is a certified Laughter Yoga leader and a licensed advanced practice social worker.

Digital Photography I
When you purchase a new digital camera, it usually comes with an instruction manual that most owners cannot understand. In this introductory course you will learn to take control of your digital camera through clear and concise explanations. In the process you will learn what the manuals do not teach you — how to take good pictures. You will learn how to take those shots that you never before knew how to get and, in the process, you will come to understand how simple it really is. Learn what all your dials and buttons are for and how to take the best pictures of your life. You may never use the “auto” button again.

Bring your camera (big or little) and your associated manual to class for reference. Invite a friend to come with you and work together.

This class will meet from 6:30-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 10, 17 and 24.

Coming in October is the Advanced Fundamentals of Composition and in November Advanced Photographic Techniques and Tricks.

Dr. Tom Gallien will teach the course. The Digital Photography I class is $99 per person or you can register for all three of Gallien’s fall digital photography classes for $285.

Ballroom Dancing
Come join the fun and learn the fundamentals of ballroom dancing. This five-week course introduces you to basic steps in the waltz, swing, foxtrot, rumba and cha-cha. Plus, it’s great exercise. Singles are welcome, but aren’t guaranteed.

This course will meet from 6:30-8 p.m. on Mondays, Sept. 16 through Oct. 21. The class will not meet on Oct. 14.

Fran Robinson will serve as the instructor for this course. Dancing since the age of 5, Fran began her career in classical ballet and has been studying and teaching ballroom dance for more than 30 years.

The cost of this class is $100 per person or $150 per couple.

Dance — Creative Movement
This is a beginning level class in which children will learn fun ways to move and dance. Your child will learn many basics in dance, as well as explore their own creativity.

This class is open to children ages 4-7 (beginners). The class will meet from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Sundays, Sept. 29 through Oct. 27. There will be no class on Sunday, Oct. 13.

The cost is $50 per person and Abby Taylor will teach the class.

Dance — Modern
This class is for those wanting to learn technique and move across the room. Students will learn how to move their body, as well as how to control their movements. Anyone who has a passion for dance should attend this class.

This class is open to youth ages 13-16 (beginning/intermediate). Classes will meet from 3:45-5:45 p.m. on Sundays, Sept. 29 through Sunday, Oct. 27. There will be no class on Oct. 13.

The cost of the class is $50 per student and Abby Taylor will serve as the instructor.
Welcome Back UTM Students

UT Martin senior welcomes freshmen to campus

By SARAH WILLIAMS
Special to The Press

When I entered my freshman year of college at the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2010, I did not know anybody else on the campus. My hometown was four hours away in Middle Tennessee and I was unfamiliar with Martin.

Even though I was isolated from my family in an unfamiliar town, I immediately loved UT Martin. I first toured the campus four years ago when I was a junior in high school, and even though I was a year and a half from going to college, I knew I wanted to attend Martin.

Students attend Martin from all over Tennessee, including Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville, Chattanooga and smaller towns and cities in between. Some attend UT Martin because of scholarships or sports team. I did not decide to attend UT Martin because I had a scholarship or family nearby. Instead, I came halfway across the state to Martin because I wanted to be farther away from my family and hometown. After living in Tullahoma for 17 years, I decided it was time to move away and prove my independence.

The transition from high school to moving away from home can be quite a shock. Freshmen can become homesick if they are not accustomed to being far away from their friends and family. To prevent homesickness and also meet new friends, I recommend attending the fun social gatherings provided by UT Martin.

The Browning, Ellington and Cooper dorms provide entertaining activities throughout the school year such as ice cream socials, karaoke, volleyball, Humans vs. Zombies tag, and other various game nights. An excellent way to meet new friends is to attend these recreational events. Game nights also help students relax after a day of attending classes and studying.

However, college is not simply about staying up late and playing games with friends. Academic classes are the first priority at UT Martin. College-level classes can prove to be challenging. Freshmen are generally advised to take 15 credit hours of classes their first semester so they do not become overwhelmed.

All students are required to take general education classes in order to graduate. These classes may include introductions to History, Biology, English, Math, and even Art, Dance or Music. My advice to incoming freshman is to study particularly hard for your General Education classes. These may be beginning level courses, but that does not mean these courses are easy A's to boost your GPA.

For example, I am a senior English major and I had to take a General Education freshman math class. This math class proved to be extremely challenging and in order to make a good grade I had to study two hours a day. Learning time management is the best advice I have to offer. Study for all classes, even if they may appear to be easy and require little study time.

Even though I came to the University of Tennessee with no former acquaintances, I had no problems meeting new friends. I enjoyed the activities around campus, ate in the cafeteria and studied many hours in the Paul Meek Library. To all incoming freshmen, welcome to the University of Tennessee at Martin and enjoy your first semester.

Sarah Williams is a senior English major at UT Martin.
UT Martin expands criminal justice program

The Jackson Sun

The criminal justice program in the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Tennessee Martin has stepped up to meet demand at the four extended-campus centers in Jackson, Parsons, McNairy County/Selmer and Ripley, according to a news release.

UT Martin will offer a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at all four extended-campus locations starting in the fall semester that begins Monday.

"We have had a presence in the centers for years, and there has been a lot of demand for a bachelor of science degree in those centers," said Brian Donavant, associate professor of criminal justice, in the release. "This has been a challenge, but we are finally able to meet the demand and get enough classes taught to offer the entire degree, whether they are face-to-face or distance learning."

In addition, Donavant said, "We now have the ability for students to take the classes they need at the centers during the summer."

To meet the demand and offer the bachelor's degree, the criminal justice program has added a fourth full-time faculty member to the staff.

Donavant said the program has about 230 declared criminal justice majors on the main campus and another 30 to 40 in the centers.

"This is going to enable us to provide a comprehensive program. We have put the whole package together," Donavant said. "We also will be able to better reach potential high school students and increase our outreach through recruiting and student advising."
The E.D.G.E. Conference fashion show

August 25, 2013
Yessica Calz

A fashion show featuring local boutiques for women and children also took place at the E.D.G.E. Conference for Women on Saturday, Aug. 24.

The event, held in the Lannom Center from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., featured the E.D.G.E. Mart shopping expo, lunch, a fashion show, door prizes and a presentation by actress, author and public speaker Lisa Whelchel.

The event was sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Centers of Dyersburg State Community College and the REED Center at the University of Tennessee-Martin.

E.D.G.E. Mart features local entrepreneurs

August 26, 2013
Vanessa Calz

The E.D.G.E. Mart, held at the Lannom Center from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 24, featured local small business vendors, including two new entrepreneurs who launched their new business ventures at the event.

Produced ranged from original paintings to gourmet dog treats.

Wings Fitness and Palma Lee Gillihan Photography each chose the event to make a splash in the local community. The first offers fitness wear that encourages women to ‘exercise their faith.’ The latter, original fine art photography. Each booth offered door prizes to attendees attending the bazaar.

The event was sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Centers of Dyersburg State Community College and the REED Center at the University of Tennessee-Martin.
Dinosaurs arrive at Discovery Park

The Natural History section of Discovery Center is going to be big in more ways than one… the dinosaurs have arrived. Discovery Park of America, in Union City, Tenn., is receiving almost 30 reproductions of dinosaur bones.

The Natural History Committee was responsible for finding and purchasing the dinosaurs. Jim Bondurant is chairman of the committee, and he had the help of Geologist, Dr. Michael Gibson and Astrophysicist, Lionel Crews from UT Martin. The committee started out by going to a fossil and gem show in Tucson, Ariz. At the show, they became acquainted with a company called Triebold out of Colorado. The committee ended up getting the dinosaur reproductions from Triebold.

"Triebold stood out to us because of what they had to offer, for example, they allowed the UT Martin students to participate in a dig in Kansas," said Bondurant.

The committee tried to find dinosaurs that would have been in this area, and they discovered that the local area was underwater during prehistoric times. All of the dinosaurs from this area were aquatic. A lot of the aquatic and flying dinosaurs will hang, while the land dinosaurs will be standing erect. Maltbie, the company behind the creative displays in Discovery Center, is creating the exhibit bases upon which they will stand. Triebold will reassemble the dinosaurs on site at Discovery Park.

"We wanted to make sure everything was accurate from the actual dinosaur to the date of when they were around," said Bondurant.

Almost all of the dinosaurs are complete replications, with one that has authentic bones. The committee spent almost $2 million on the fossils and reproductions.

The portion of Natural History in Discovery Center will be called "Dinosaur Hall." This area will also be a rental venue for special events, such as "dining with the dinos," and will accommodate over 400 people for a sit-down dinner.
CLARKSVILLE, TENN. — Off-campus housing is buzzing as thousands of students arrive in Clarksville, Johnson City and Martin, Tenn., with the futon, microwave, and multitude of electronics.

Charter, the area’s cable provider, says in a news release it has done its homework and is well prepared for the influx of student tenants needing service. Charter’s Internet and cable technicians work around-the-clock to support student’s high-speed Internet, video and phone needs in their off-campus residences.

“Much like a retailer has a peak season during the holidays, this is our busy season,” said Joe Pell, vice president and general manager for Charter’s operations in Tennessee and Louisiana. “For Charter, the off-campus move-ins taking place at Austin Peay State University, East Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee at Martin, are a carefully choreographed organizational undertaking. From August through Labor Day, the work volume for our technicians increases by as much as 400 percent.”

Planning and preparations for this busy season have become a company-wide initiative for Charter. The company has teamed up with campus bookstores to provide kiosks where students can sign up for Charter services.

Charter’s Senior Vice President of Marketing Allan Samson says the company has turned its busiest season into a special customer event and has taken measures to ensure Charter can meet the demands of off-campus housing tenants and provide top-notch customer service.

“We’ve worked hard to plan and solidify our processes to ensure customers receive prompt service, competitive offers and a superior network that delivers high-quality products and services,” Samson said in prepared comments.

The company has teamed up with programming networks such as ESPN, Music Choice, and Showtime to bring entertainment to campuses across the nation. Charter is staffing mobile booths where company representatives are demonstrating new innovations, like TV On-The-Go applications.

Students also have the opportunity to sign up for services and daily prize drawings.

According to Charter, most students opt for its standard 30 Mbps Internet service, since many students are connecting multiple devices, from laptops and tablets to other handheld devices and smart phones. “If you want to witness the perfect intersection of entertainment, education and technology, visit a college campus,” said Samson. “Charter customers are already viewing programs like ESPN on their Smart Phones and tablets — and more innovation is coming.”

Samson said Charter has witnessed a lot of technological changes when it comes to off-campus student housing. The reliance on high-speed Internet for students to function in today’s academic environment is perhaps the most notable.

Charter serves customers in nearly 200 communities across 29 states where colleges, universities and technical schools are located.
The Princeton Review's best includes UT Martin again

The University of Tennessee at Martin is one of the best colleges in the Southeast, according to the nationally known education services company The Princeton Review.

UT Martin was one of 138 institutions The Princeton Review recommended in its “Best in the Southeast” section of its website feature, “2014 Best Colleges: Region by Region,” posted on the company’s website at princetonreview.com.

The university has been named to the “Best in the Southeast” listing for 11 consecutive years.

“We are delighted that The Princeton Review has again recognized UT Martin for providing a high-quality learning environment,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor. “Student input helped make this recognition possible through comments and feedback based on their experiences at the university. Receiving this designation for 11 consecutive years is a compliment to faculty and staff who work hard to provide solid academic programming and outstanding student support.”

The 138 colleges The Princeton Review chose for its “Best in the Southeast” designations are located in 12 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

The Princeton Review also designated 226 colleges in the Northeast, 124 in the West and 155 in the Midwest as best in their locales on the company’s “2014 Best Colleges: Region by Region” lists. Collectively, the 643 colleges named “regional best(s)” constituted about 25 percent of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges.

“We’re pleased to recommend these colleges to users of our site as the best schools to earn their undergraduate degrees,” said Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s senior vice president/publishing. “We chose these as our ‘regional best’ colleges mainly for their excellent academic programs. From several hundred schools in each region, we winnowed our list based on institutional data we collected directly from the schools, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of our staff, plus college counselors and advisors whose recommendations we invite. We also take into account what students at the schools reported to us. Only schools that permit us to independently survey their students are eligible to be considered for our regional ‘best’ lists.”

The Princeton Review does not rank the 643 colleges in its “2014 Best Colleges: Region-by-Region” list hierarchically or by region or in various categories.

For more information about UT Martin, go online to www.utm.edu.
WIVES' RECEPTION — A reception was held for the wives of new faculty and staff Sunday at the Dunagan Alumni Center. Those attending the reception included (front, from left) Heidi Busch, Dr. Sylvia Moran, Dr. Karen DiBella and Jennifer Alexander; (back) Dr. Margaret Lewis, Dr. Sarah Haig, Sandy Kelley, Sam Goyret, Kiara Champion and Michelle Dickens.

LEGACY LUNCHEON — University of Tennessee at Martin alumni and their children who are enrolled at the university for the fall semester were invited to the annual Legacy Luncheon held Aug. 22 as students arrived for the start of fall semester Aug. 26. Among those attending the event at the university's Student Recreation Center were Georgia Brown (second from left), of Martin, and her mother, Laura; and Nick Hart (second from right) of Martin, and his parents, Dana (center) and David (right).
Completes Mid-South School of Advanced Ag Lending

Dr. Tom Payne, chairman of the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking presented Terri Brundige (left) with her certificate of completion from the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending (MSAAL) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The MSAAL was co-hosted by the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture (Food and Fiber). The school started Sunday, August 3, and ran through Wednesday, August 7. Brundige works for BancorpSouth in Dresden.

Dr. Tom Payne, chairman of the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking presented Jason Dotson (left) with his certificate of completion from the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending (MSAAL) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The MSAAL was co-hosted by the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture (Food and Fiber). The school started Sunday, August 3, and ran through Wednesday, August 7. Dotson works for Farm Credit Mid-America in Dresden.
Whelchel gets personal at EDGE Conference

By VANESSA CAIN
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When Lisa Whelchel was chosen from a nationwide talent search to be on “The New Mickey Mouse Club” at the age of 12, the young girl knew her life would change forever.

A move to California – without her family who remained in Texas – quickly set her on the path to independence. But the move also began an era of emotional disconnection that the actress, writer and speaker is still struggling to overcome.

On Saturday, Aug. 24, Whelchel came to the Lannom Center in Dyersburg to share her experiences with local women attending The EDGE Conference for Women.

The event, designed as a venue for local women to Encourage, Develop and Gain Excellence, was sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Small Business Development Centers at Dyersburg State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin’s REED Center.

Whelchel served as the keynote speaker at the luncheon and also spent time at a booth at the EDGE Mart shopping expo, speaking to local residents, signing books and posing for photos.

Her message was a personal one – the importance of creating and maintaining connections with others. She also shared lessons she has learned on acceptance, being true to yourself and God’s unconditional love.

Whelchel is best known for her role as Blair Warner on the long-running 1980s television sitcom, “The Facts of Life” and as a contestant on “Survivor: Philippines” last fall. A talented writer, Whelchel has also published over a dozen books in a ministry for mothers and parents who wish to home school their children.

Disconnected and on her own

On Saturday, the actress confessed feeling an invisible wall stood between her head and her heart as she went though adolescence and puberty in the public eye – ad halfway across the country from her family. That wall remained until recently, when Whelchel gave God permission to tear it down.

“Going through puberty is hard. Going through puberty on television is something else entirely,” said Whelchel, who found herself “weighing in” before “Facts of Life” rehearsals when studio executives felt she had gained too much weight.

“When I was 12 years old and joined the Mickey Mouse Club, my family had to stay in Texas. So when connection wasn’t possible, I learned to disconnect. I seared that off. I said ‘I can do this on my own.’ I was independent and strong, a Texas philosophy. That disconnect-
ed part was a blessing. Not feeling (those feelings) was a good thing.”
Accepting faults

Whelchel's next step on her journey came when she met Ney Bailey at a Women of Faith conference.

"Have you ever met somebody and the love of God just soaks out of their pores?" said Whelchel. "I have learned more about the love of God and love for myself through that friendship. She has been a point of reference for how God loves me."

Whelchel said as she talked with Bailey, her new friend would often smile and say, "Lisa, you delight my heart in a million ways."

Soon, Whelchel saw a pattern forming. Bailey didn't interject the sentiment when she had talked about doing something good or worthy. She would most often show her love when Whelchel confessed to being foolish or childish - or even naughty.

Whelchel went to the Lord in her prayer time, confessing that she didn't understand.

"I said, 'I know I delight your heart, but I know I can't take it that far. I know I don't delight your heart when I am foolish or childish or naughty.'" remembered Whelchel, who said immediately a picture came to her mind that she had taken of her daughter when they were very young.

Whelchel had set an easel in the backyard and allowed her 3- and 4-year-old daughters to paint while she completed some chores in the kitchen. When she looked outside and they were not at the easel, she went to investigate. She found them around the corner, stripped down and painting each other's naked bodies instead.

Whelchel remembered the delight she felt as she ran to grab her camera and record the moment. God's reminder allowed her to understand His unconditional love for us as His children. The reminder also helped her rest in the love of God and to embrace both the 'good' and 'naughty' parts of her friends.

Seeking connection


"Obviously, Mrs. Garrett taught me the facts of life well," said Whelchel with a smile.

Whelchel enjoyed her role as a stay-at-home mother. She homeschooled her children and began a writing and speaking ministry for mothers like herself, who wished for more time to study the Bible.

"As much as I loved being a part of (my children's every day lives), I longed to feel the connection," said Whelchel.

"But it was like there was Plexiglas between me and other people. I just couldn't feel it. And I had a longing to be connected."

Whelchel brought her longing for connection to the Lord in a prayer eight years ago at a girls' weekend in a cabin in the mountains of north Georgia. She joined four of her oldest friends for the trip, with the weekend's agenda limited to "eating, talking and not getting out of their pajamas."

"At some time during the weekend, each of us was allowed the opportunity to 'unzip our heart' and just talk about our lives," said Whelchel. "(It was then that I realized) I wasn't feeling the same levels of emotion and intimacy as the others. As I prayed that night, I asked God 'Why can't I feel? Why can't I cry? And I realized it had been years since I had cried.'"

As Whelchel sought the answer, she heard God's reply.

"He said, 'Baby girl, I'm not mad at you for building that wall around your heart. That wall was my protection for you when you were a little girl, but it is safe to come out now.'" remembered Whelchel. "So I said 'Well, tear that wall down!' I had no idea what I was giving God permission to do. I was overwhelmed with all those feelings of fear and sorrow and things I thought I shouldn't feel if I was a 'good Christian.'"
A trip to the Philippines as a contestant on “Survivor” taught her the next lesson she needed to learn — how to accept all parts of her own personality and to extend that same love to herself.

“I learned so much on Survivor,” said Whelchel. “It was more real than I could ever have imagined. It went from freezing cold to boiling hot and there was no toilet. But it was the emotional part that absolutely killed me. I was torn between the desire to be good and to win at all costs. I felt like I was being drawn and quartered.”

For Whelchel, surviving 39 days on the reality show wasn't the end of her lesson.

“The hardest part of being on ‘Survivor’ isn't being on ‘Survivor,’” said Whelchel. “It is watching ‘Survivor.’ I learned to accept both sides of me — the side that wants to be good and the part that wants to win at all costs. I was judged by both Christians and non-Christians. And what they said was true. But I just learned to accept myself. I realized this is who I am and I accept who I am and love who I am, good or bad. It was life-changing.”

Whelchel’s advice for others who wish to make those connections?

“Just wanting (those friendships and those connections) and allowing yourself to want it is the open door,” said Whelchel. “Just ask for it and be aware. Because it will come.”

EDGE conference keynote speaker Lisa Whelchel shares a lesson on God’s unconditional love with a photograph she took of her daughters nearly two decades ago. The picture allowed her to remember the delight she took in her daughters when she caught them huddled around the corner in the backyard, painting each other instead of the easel she set up for them. Bringing this photo to her mind, God allowed Whelchel to see His delight in her — no matter her actions.

For more photos of the EDGE Conference for Women luncheon, fashion show and EDGE Mart shopping expo, visit the photo galleries at www.stategazette.com.
Classes are back in session at UT Martin. The fall semester began Monday, and professors and students alike were already busy on day one. Dr. David Pitts (above) gets started lecturing during a biology class on the first day of classes at UT Martin. Dylan Allen (right), a junior from Martin, spent the first hour of his first day of class working in the Paul Meek Library at UT Martin. See page 12 for more UT Martin news.
Suzanne Grueser has long been an advocate for living healthy and staying active.

As director of the volunteer and Senior Circle programs at Dyersburg Regional Medical Center, she often encourages older residents to take extra steps when they can and to work exercise into their daily routines.

"We need to allow people to think outside the box," said Grueser. "I really believe we need to encourage people of all ages to remain active. You want to be able to stay functional, to stay in your home as long as possible. To do that, you have to maintain your flexibility and your strength."

The energetic Grueser follows her own advice.

Suzanne Grueser stops for a photo before competing in the National Senior Games. The 55-year-old shaved 15 seconds off her best breaststroke time and ranked 10th in the event's 50-yard freestyle competition. But Grueser's goal for the pool goes deeper than one national competition. "Some people just get swimming in the blood," said Grueser. "It is a lifetime sport."
The 55-year-old feels her regular trips to the pool offer both pleasure for the present and an investment in her future.

And this summer, Grueser took that active lifestyle one step further with a trip to Cleveland to compete in the National Senior Games. The experience offered her a chance to up her game in competitive swimming and experience an event that offers much more of a challenge than many expect.

Grueser has remained an avid swimmer since competing on the college level. When she and her family moved to Dyersburg, she joined a group of local swimmers who enjoy making the trip from Dyersburg to swim laps in the Caruthersville pool. She also met a local physician who encouraged Grueser to dive into competition.

"There is a whole group of us from Dyersburg who make the trip to Caruthersville to swim," said Grueser. "Back when we first moved here, Dr. Noonan met me at the YMCA and he just couldn't wait for me to turn 50. When I did, I went to the state meet."

The Senior Olympics wasn't quite what Grueser expected. "One of the first women I saw was 5-foot-9 with an Ironman Triathlon tattoo on the back of her neck," said Grueser. "When you go to the Senior Olympics, the people who are there are competitive and they are fast. The people there are in such good shape and the times are pretty competitive compared to Olympic records."

A second-place win in the 2012 Tennessee Senior Olympics secured Grueser a chance to compete in the 2013 National Senior Games, an event held every other year.

The 2013 National Senior Games took place in Cleveland July 19-Aug. 1.

Grueser's times at the National Senior Games include

- 10th in the 55-59-year-old 50-yard freestyle with a time of 31.88
- 11th in the 55-59-year-old 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:31.79
- 11th in the 55-59-year-old 100-yard freestyle with a time of 1:15.74
- 14th in the 55-59-year-old 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:34.29
- 19th in the 55-59-year-old 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:56.56

"I ended up shaving 15 seconds off of my 200 breaststroke time," said Grueser. "I couldn't believe I got 10th because the women I was swimming against were so competitive."

In addition to the thrill of the meet, Grueser enjoyed the balance between competition and camaraderie at the National Games.

"There is a lot of fun and fellowship," said Grueser. "There is much more balance to the competition. They are competitive, but everyone seems to have a real nice time together. It is a lot more fun to compete at this age than it was in high school and college."

With family in the Cleveland area, she brought a few fans with her to the meet.

"My sisters-in-law came to the pool to cheer me on," said Grueser. "It was nice to have a couple people in the stands."

But she also discovered a few familiar faces in the pool.

"I swam competitively in my 20s in the Masters," said Grueser. "And (in Cleveland) I ran into some of the people I swam with then. Some people just get swimming in the blood. It is a lifetime sport, like golf or tennis or walking."

Senior athletes interested in swimming in the Tennessee Senior Olympics or National Senior Games have the chance to qualify for the state competition this autumn in West Tennessee.

A qualifying swim meet at the University of Tennessee at Martin ensures swimmers have times fast enough to compete on the state level. Those who qualify may compete in the Tennessee Senior Olympics in Franklin in June of the following year.

The National Senior Games take place at the end of July every other year.

Grueser said the timing of the events allows swimmers to work toward specific goals throughout the calendar year.

"Once you get your qualifying time, you work on making that better for the state competition," said Grueser. "After state, you work on making that time better for the nationals, so you always have a goal in front of you."

Swimmers earn a spot on the starting block at the National Senior Games by placing first, second or third in a state swimming competition or by having a time fast enough to enter the competition on their own.

"I won my entry into the national games by winning second place in the state," said Grueser. "But my times weren't fast enough, so I asked Spencer Royer (at the Caruthersville pool) to design some workouts for me so I could improve my time. I worked really hard. I started lifting weights once or twice a week and adding intervals was really important. That was what helped me shave 15 seconds off my time."