Getting in the Zone with Bill Rhodes
I often receive notice that it is time to submit my column for Campus Scene just before leaving for an off-campus meeting. In this instance, it was the November meeting of the UT National Alumni Association Board of Governors. Actually, this is a good thing as I have some time to reflect on a topic. My reflections this time kept coming back to a very successful 2005 fall semester. Here are some examples:

• The university had a record fall enrollment of 6,484 students.

• We received a first-time perfect score of 100 on the THEC Performance Rating, the only 4-year state university to do so.

• We recently received the THEC Alumni Survey results, and UT Martin alumni who have been out of school for three years rated UTM in 37 categories. We exceeded the state-wide average in 35 of 37 categories. This speaks a great deal to the satisfaction level of our graduates.

• The football team finished this season with a 6-5 record. This represents the best finish since 1995. One of our co-captains, Chad McMahan, received a coveted Scholar Athlete designation and was named to the Southeastern Sports Information Directors All-Academic Team.

• Our grants and contracts totals were announced in the fall for the previous year, and they increased 55 percent to a total of $9,800,000. This represents tremendous growth and highlights the success of our grants office and many, many grant-seeking faculty.

• Our ROTC Ranger Challenge team finished first in a group of 30 universities in the Southeast Region.

• The following student groups were recognized by their national organizations:
  ◆ Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society – In addition to 26 consecutive “Outstanding Chapter” awards, this chapter is one of 10 to receive a Green Chemistry Award.
  ◆ The brothers of Kappa Alpha Order won the National Recruitment Award.

◊ The Institute of Management Accountants has received the National Award of Excellence, Gold Level, five years in a row at the organization’s national conference.

◊ Alpha Gamma Rho received the Gold Chapter Award.

◊ The UT Martin Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society won contracts with TWRA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Tyson Foods, Inc., for wildlife management. The chapter was also asked by West Tennessee Outdoors magazine to contribute a column that will cover wildlife topics.

◊ Alpha Delta Pi won 11 different national awards.

◊ The Society of Automotive Engineers placed fourth in Water Maneuverability with their Mini Baja car at the Mini Baja East Competition.

◊ Gamma Beta Phi was awarded the Distinguished Chapter award. Two members were elected to be representatives of the mid-south region, and their adviser, Dan Tracy, was elected to serve on the Gamma Beta Phi National Executive Committee.

◊ Collegiate FFA assisted with National Career Development Events. One of the members, Pam Bartholomew, was named one of 10 National Agriculture Ambassadors.

◊ Alpha Tau Omega won three national awards, including the National True Merit Award.

• We successfully negotiated with the UT Institute of Agriculture to assume management of the entire research farm. Also, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture announced this fall that the new West Tennessee Animal Diagnostic Lab will be established on that site.

As you can see, good things continue to happen at UT Martin. Good things happen because of people who believe strongly in the value of providing a great education to our students. These good people are the heart and soul of what makes UT Martin the special place that it is. Thankfully, our team also includes many alumni and friends who give back to UT Martin in the form of time and money. Your involvement and support are keys to our success, and we appreciate your efforts on behalf of this campus.

Visit the Chancellor’s Corner on the UT Martin Website (www.utm.edu/chancellorscorner_index.html) and find out more about Chancellor Dunagan and UT Martin.
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Bill Rhodes (’87) gives a whole new meaning to kicking the tires and checking under the hood. As president and CEO of AutoZone, he leaves his office frequently to work behind the counter of an AutoZone store. Interacting with customers is his way of knowing and understanding the company from the ground up. This attention to detail is one reason that Rhodes earned the distinction in 2005 as the youngest CEO of a Fortune 500 company.

Rhodes, who turned 40 after being named to lead the company, has no small task. He manages a 26-year-old business that is the largest in the $90 billion-plus automotive parts industry. When the 2005 fiscal year ended in August, AutoZone had registered $5.7 billion in sales. The number of U.S. stores is approaching 3,600, while 81 stores now operate in Mexico. About 52,000 “AutoZoners,” the company’s employees, drive the business.

A native Memphian, Rhodes graduated from Craigmont High School and enrolled at UT Martin. He remembers business professors, Rhelda Barron, Ronald Kilgore and Tommy Cates, who taught him the importance of paying attention to the small things. “It’s those crazy things,” Rhodes said, “that teach you that details are important and that life’s not easy. You’re going to get out of life what you put into it.”

By Bud Grimes
As a member of the then-Pacer golf team, athletics played a big role in his college experience, citing golf as the reason he attended UT Martin. “I would say that golf and athletics have always played a big part in my life … in teaching me how to compete, in teaching me what it takes to succeed.” He recalled one lesson he learned the hard way.

As a scholarship player, Rhodes played well his first two years but saw his game decline during his junior season. This forced Coach Grover Page, who recruited Rhodes to Martin, to cut his scholarship in half before his senior year. “And, it was the right thing to do,” Rhodes remembered. “I wasn’t performing. He (Page) had to make a business decision about where to allocate funds, and I lost out.”

Instead of quitting, Rhodes worked hard on his golf game the summer before his final year of eligibility. The extra effort led to a successful senior year in which he was named both Honorable Mention All-American and an Academic All-American, accomplishments that later earned him a place in the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame.

Page, who still stays in touch with Rhodes, remembers him as a hard worker, good student, “and just a super individual.” Page added, “He worked. He worked extremely hard, and proved himself to be one of the top players in our conference and also one of the top players in the nation.”

With an accounting degree in hand, Rhodes next enrolled at the University of Memphis to pursue a graduate degree in business. During this time, some friends arranged a blind date for him with Amy Plunkett (’91), who was four years younger and someone he never knew while at Martin. They continued to date, later married and now have two children.

A self-described “Marine Corps brat,” Amy graduated from high school in Okinawa, Japan, came to UT Martin at the urging of her parents (Charlie ’68 and Ann Wells Plunkett ’69), who are also alums, and earned a communications degree. After graduation, she headed to the University of Memphis to attend graduate school and study speech pathology, later earning a master’s degree. Ironically, Grover Page personally recruited both her dad and her future husband to UT Martin.

Today, she’s involved in volunteer work. Much of her time is dedicated to an organization called Subsidium that raises money for the Memphis Oral School for the Deaf, where she formerly worked as a speech pathologist. The organization assures that no child is turned away from the school for financial reasons. While pursuing her own career and personal interests, she has seen firsthand her husband’s success in the business world.

“Bill has just always been driven,” she said. “He’s very conscientious. He has always given every job that he’s had his all, and I think that’s helped him along the way. He always tries to do the best job he can no matter what he’s given to do.”

She added that her husband always wanted to go as far as he could, but he wasn’t expecting to be named president and CEO in March. “When it (the CEO position) was offered to him, we were both so honored,” she recalled. “It was exciting for him to get that phone call.”

The path to that telephone call began in graduate school when Bill was recruited to Ernst & Whinney (now Ernst & Young) to serve an internship. After receiving his MBA in December 1988, he was hired full time in the company’s audit practice. He worked six more years until he was hired in December 1994 by one of his clients, AutoZone. He worked in many roles across the company until September 2004, when he was promoted to executive vice president of store operations and commercial. In March 2005, he was promoted to president and CEO.

Dressed in company attire, not a coat and tie, Rhodes talks passionately about AutoZone and the company’s place in a
Even with AutoZone’s favorable market share in both segments, he sees significant opportunities for additional growth. “Yes, it’s a competitive industry,” he said. “It has some big players, but there’s also a tremendous amount of business that still goes to independents in both segments of the business.”

In the company’s quest for more market share, Rhodes points to one factor that he says distinguishes AutoZone from its competitors. “Customer service. We have a unique culture. . . . It’s a strong commitment to customer service.”

Cultural practices include a dress code, recognition pins for “Extra Miler” service and AutoZoners assisting customers in the parking lot (called “GOTTChA”). And then there’s WITTDTJR, a term coined by AutoZone’s first store manager, Doc Crain, that stands for, “What it takes to do the job right.”

“Nothing more, nothing less,” Rhodes said of the company focus on customer service. “Don’t sell a customer a battery if they don’t need it. If they come in with a battery, go test it, so we can find the real problem rather than selling them a battery that they may not need. If all they need is a cable, then sell them a cable.”

Customers have plenty of choices as AutoZone has some 750,000 parts available in its network. Rhodes says that most individual stores will have 21,000 SKUs or stock keeping units, which are specific products in inventory. Many of those parts, Rhodes said, are “tailored to the individual trade block groups of that store’s trade area.”

Simply stated, AutoZone was the first in the business to collect warranty registration information (year, make, model and engine) for vehicles in an individual store’s market. Using mathematical calculations, AutoZone tailors the inventory for each store’s trade area. This way of doing business is important because of a low 1.8 inventory turnover rate.

Although an analytical person, his interest in the “people side” of AutoZone’s business regularly takes Rhodes behind a store counter to greet customers, make sales and see the business in action. “That’s where I love to go. Those are my favorite days. Go stand on the parts counter on a Saturday and sell parts,” he said.

“I’m certainly not an automotive expert,” he added. “But our systems are very robust, and they give people the knowledge and capabilities to effectively give customers service. And I can stand there, and I can see what customers need. I can see what we have, where our systems help, where our systems could be improved, where our coverage is perfect, where our coverage could be improved. I get a kick out of it.”

His in-store work provides Rhodes with some interesting experiences. On one occasion, he worked the counter at the Jackson Avenue store in Memphis. The store manager provided a nametag that identified Rhodes as “Manager in Training.” As he left the store after working several hours, one of the AutoZoners said to him, “I gotta tell you. You know more about our business than any manager in training that I’ve ever seen.”

“Yes, I am the president and CEO of AutoZone, but I’m an AutoZoner,” he said, reflecting on the experience. “I’m no different than anybody else. I just have a different role to play. . . .”

He makes it clear that he and his management team are there to support the company’s stores. AutoZone stores are company-owned, not franchised, a structure that allows the company to make decisions quickly. Rhodes noted that the corporate offices are not called

“Don’t sell a customer a battery if they don’t need it. ... If all they need is a cable, then sell them a cable.”

highly competitive business environment. He described two segments of the automotive after-market business. One is the DIY or “do-it-yourself” segment in which people buy vehicle-related items and make repairs themselves, about a $36-billion industry. The other segment is the “do-it-for-me” segment that supplies parts and products to chain and independent repair businesses, a $53-billion industry.

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the headquarters but the “store support center,” which emphasizes this important aspect of the company’s culture.

“We can make a decision at our store support center this afternoon,” he said. “We can send a communication to all our stores, and tomorrow they can be executing it.” He cited a recent example when a decision was made to implement a weekend headlight and windshield wiper “visibility promotion” on an October Friday before the Daylight Savings Time change. A voice mail was sent to all stores at 2 p.m., and at 8 a.m. the next day, the promotion was under way.

Rhodes is involved in many marketing, operational and other decisions as they are made. Every Monday, he meets four hours with the company’s executive committee where they make and review key decisions. There is also a CEO team of roughly 40 officers that gathers monthly to spend an afternoon discussing and reporting on what is and isn’t working.

“We have many great marketing initiatives,” he said. “Our ‘Get in the Zone’ campaign was launched in 2002. If you haven’t heard that, you haven’t driven in the United States anywhere.” Currently being advertised is the Duralast brand of batteries, alternators and brake pads. “... It’s (Duralast) not a proprietary brand. It’s our brand,” he says with satisfaction.

“We do a tremendous amount of consumer research, and we do extensive testing to decide what works and what doesn’t work.” On this day, a Kenny Wallace banner displayed in the colorful store touts a new relationship announced in late summer with the popular driver and his #22 NASCAR Busch Series car.

Another sports relationship, AutoZone Park, is arguably the company’s highest-profile association. He describes the downtown Memphis stadium, home of the Memphis Redbirds AAA baseball team, as “the premier minor league baseball park in the United States.” The stadium attracts up to a million visitors annually. “When you drive by it, you’re going to see the beautiful park, and you’re going to see AutoZone. But it’s bigger than just an advertising decision,” he said. “This is our hometown. We were founded here, and our first store was in Forrest City, Ark., in 1979. The community of Memphis and helping the Memphis community are very important to us.” He cites the company’s move of its store support center to downtown Memphis in 1995 as evidence of AutoZone’s long-term commitment to the city.

AutoZone’s commitment to the city goes beyond marketing. Rhodes said that 80 percent of the CEO team lives in Memphis, and most of them are involved in community boards. Rhodes is personally involved with the National Civil Rights Museum board and has previously served on the Mid-South Junior Golf Association, the Greater Memphis Arts Council and the FedEx Institute of Technology boards. He’s also a member of Memphis Tomorrow, a group of 25 Memphis CEOs dedicated to making the city a better place to live and work.

Any discussion of his personal success comes full circle to the AutoZone people around him and his family’s support. “No one individual is going to succeed. It takes a team of people.” He does admit to working lots of hours, which reminds him of a favorite quote attributed to Kemmons Wilson, Holiday Inn founder, who said, “If you want to be successful, all you have to do is work half a day every day, and it doesn’t matter which 12 hours it is.”

The company’s concern for its employees might best be illustrated in Hurricane Katrina’s aftermath. Rhodes said that 128 stores were affected by the catastrophic storm, and as of mid-October, 15 were still closed. More importantly, almost 1,200 AutoZoners were displaced by the hurricane and 160 lost their homes.

Within two days of the storm, Rhodes said they were guaranteed jobs at any AutoZone store in the U.S.; they could simply show up and go to work. “We had 155 AutoZoners take us up on our offer within a week,” he said. Also, about 200 AutoZoners were given immediate cash assistance raised from fellow AutoZoners that was matched by a company donation.

Rhodes is upbeat about the company’s future. “The auto parts business is healthy. It’s one of the most predictable businesses,” he said. “You can look back over the past 20 years, and it (the business) has a nice steady growth of about four percent a year, year in and year out.”

Balancing faith, family and work are challenges in his new role, but a simple philosophy keeps everything in perspective. “Uphold ethics and integrity in everything you do,” he said. “Always do what you think is the right thing to do. Sometimes it’s hard to do the right thing, but you (have to) do what’s right. If you do, over the long term, you’ll succeed.”

On this bright October day, between photos and the interview, Rhodes stops to “talk shop” with fellow AutoZoners in the sprawling Summer Avenue store. Although he’s the CEO, it’s evident that he is one of them, a true AutoZoner. That’s why kicking the tires and checking under the hood are important to Bill Rhodes as he works to keep this Fortune 500 company “In the Zone.”

“Uphold ethics and integrity in everything you do.”
When Leon Scioscia was “performing” for neighborhood friends on his garage stage flanked by a curtain his father had sewn, he knew he had found his passion.

Forty years later, the “stage” belongs to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. And, while Scioscia is not performing, his “roles” have taken him from that garage outside Boston to New York, to Phoenix and, ultimately, the nation’s capital city.

A second-generation American of Italian-Greek descent, whose father was a tailor and whose mother worked in the garment factories, Scioscia was reared by his grandmother, who taught him respect for tradition and family.
“Given this background of custom, habit, belief, routine . . . I found myself, early on, actually, gravitating to theater because it allowed me an opportunity to express feelings and emotions,” said Scioscia. “I suppose I always have known I would end up doing something in the performing arts.”

Scioscia graduated from UT Martin in 1976 with a bachelor of arts degree in English. He earned a master of arts degree in dramatic arts from the University of Iowa in 1978.

His career began as a box office manager at Chamber Opera Theater in New York, followed by similar posts at Roundabout Theater Co. and Phoenix Theater, also in New York. He was hired as box office manager at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., in 1981, a job that led to information systems director, a position he held until 1987. At that time, Scioscia became general manager and then assistant executive director of Herberger Theater Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

He joined the Kennedy Center in 1994 as director/management information services, became director/special projects and assistant to the president, and finally, director/facilities management and operations.

Along the way, he’s had memorable experiences. Working for Zelda and Tom Fichandler, a couple at the heart of the nation’s regional theater movement, quickly comes to mind as one of Scioscia’s career highlights. Building the Herberger Theater is another.

“I was part of a four-member team selected to create this new theater in the heart of Phoenix at a time when the city core was deserted and in desperate need of revitalization,” he said.

Finally, his current position at the Kennedy Center has been very rewarding.

“I have been fortunate during my tenure at the Kennedy Center to see the operations of the organization from three distinct perspectives . . . now within the federal segment of the organization where I work with an excellent team of dedicated people to operate this Presidential memorial on a daily basis.”

Scioscia credits UT Martin and Bill Snyder, professor of theater, with providing the perfect environment that nurtured his love of the performing arts.

“As a freshman English major at UT Martin, Scioscia was selected to participate in a unique program that melded English, history, sociology, psychology and the arts into a combined approach to learning. What developed from that program was a distinct method of learning that has enabled me to investigate challenges at hand, look at them critically, evaluate the possibilities, consider the pros and cons, and then make the best decision for my organization.”

Scioscia remembers being visited in Washington by three of “the most engaging English professors I had at UT Martin, Jim Andres, Neil Graves and Phil Miller,” while they were attending a conference.

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Leon Scioscia, cont.

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“We were talking about the relative measure of what an institution like UT Martin truly achieves for its students and I said, ‘it provides you with an opportunity to believe in yourself, and if you can meet and exceed the standards, you are ready for your next step – whatever it might be.’”

While Scioscia acknowledges that there are so many he could choose, several Kennedy Center performances stand out. He offers Zoe Caldwell, who played Maria Callas in *The Master Class*. He had previously seen Caldwell perform *Medea* on Broadway and was not disappointed as she tackled another strong character.

Coincidently, stepping into an elevator with Caldwell the next day, Scioscia said, “Ms. Caldwell, I saw your performance last night.” She replied, “Tell me dear, what did you think?” He responded, “It was” and then began stammering to find just the right response – a process that Scioscia felt lasted an eternity in that tiny elevator. He finally came out with “great.” She placed her hand on his arm and said, “Honey, I thought you were going to say that I stunk,” after which they chatted away about life in the theater.

“UT Martin was an experience unlike anything else before or since.”

Segueing from that garage theater to one of the nation’s premier performance venues has, at times, seemed unbelievable to Scioscia. Still, he has goals on “two fronts,” as a professional and as a volunteer. As a resident of Alexandria, Va., he wants to achieve a new organizational structure for the city’s Commission for the Arts, an organization he has served as a volunteer, and currently, as chair. He also wants to lay a foundation for a month-long festival of the arts in Alexandria that will become a signature event.

“From a professional point of view, I want to continue to grow and develop as a performing arts leader and manager, such that my skills and experiences are put to the best uses possible.”

Scioscia’s memories of UT Martin are strong, and one of them was teaching English as a second language to international students, which he did for a year in UT Martin’s International Programs upon graduation.

“Little did I know at the time, that this experience with these warm, caring and open students would provide me with the foundation to teach ESL to Russian immigrants in New York City once I had moved there after I earned my master’s degree and was trying to do what every other ‘theater person’ in N.Y. was trying to do – find a paying job in the theater.

“UT Martin was an experience unlike anything else before or since,” said Scioscia.

Former Chancellor Larry T. McGehee, once wrote him a note about how convincing he had been in *The Rainmaker* production on campus. Scioscia said that true-to-life portrayal “actually sums up my entire stay at the university, and signifies, perhaps, the strongest sentiment I can make about UT Martin, the University of Tennessee system and everyone I worked with there in the 70s. We believed in what we were doing and then made it come true.”

**UTM**
UT Martin ROTC Cadet Josh Porter became 2nd Lt. Porter in a brief commissioning ceremony on commencement day, May 2004.

His transformation to 2nd Lt. Porter, combat platoon leader in Iraq, was almost as quick.

Within 72 hours after leaving the U.S., he arrived at camp and was placed in charge of a platoon.

Porter and other 2nd lieutenants were told during installation replacement training that they likely would have staff positions when they were deployed to Iraq in June, and, that it might take several weeks for them to reach their destination – Camp Falcon, Baghdad, Iraq.

Instead, within 72 hours after leaving the United States, he arrived at camp and was placed in charge of 1st Platoon, M. Co., 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Calvary Regiment. Fast forward several hours, and he was on patrol leading his men. “It moves very, very quickly. I was in Kuwait three to four hours, went right to Baghdad and right to the platoon.” After three days, he said he felt like a “hardened vet.”

Two months later in an explosion while on patrol, his driver, Sgt. Timothy J. Sutton of Springfield, Mo., was killed, and Porter was seriously injured and sent home to recuperate.

Porter, 23, returned to UT Martin during his recuperation to give cadets a “real-world” view of the war in Iraq and field questions about his assessment of military training and preparation, living conditions in the desert and how he was injured.

“Take the training seriously,” Porter told the cadets. “It’s a very serious thing.”

Porter suggested they learn Arabic, be proficient in marksmanship, practice radio training and “get accustomed to reacting to things.”

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“I was really nervous about taking over the platoon, but I was very fortunate,” he said, adding that his predecessor “set a fine example.”

He explained that the platoon is led through the non-commissioned officers. “You let the NCOs know what the mission is, you oversee it and be there with the men when they’re doing it. You’re going to be the go-to guy as platoon leader.”

Porter’s days gained a routine quality early on – patrolling in Humvees by day and tanks at night – establishing observation points and reacting to situations that arose.

“We would react to things that happened, convoys would get ambushed, insurgents would fire on them, and then we would go react to it,” he said. “Sometimes ... we were attached to do raids and cordon searches.”

His brief routine was shattered and his back broken by an IED – improvised explosive device – in July.

“We were reacting to gunfire on patrol. I pulled my trucks off the side of the road, engaged the enemy, fired back and forth, and it all settled down. It was an area where the insurgents had been firing a lot, so command wanted to know exactly why they were there. It looked like they had entrenched positions, which was kind of rare for the insurgency.” He added, “The next morning, we checked the area on orders from command, got some good intelligence and came back. As we were rolling out, my truck ran over the IED that was fused together and wired up to something that looked like a cell phone.”

Porter explained that the device was detonated by someone in the distance dialing the cell phone number.

The injured were quickly evacuated, and he has little memory of the incident. He spent time at a hospital in Germany and Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, and was not expected to walk until November or December. Beating that timetable walking, he may return to duty in March. “I was very fortunate.” After his respite home, he headed to Ft. Carson, Colo.

UTM
Ben Matthews (left) has had a big day so far at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park near Memphis. He’s just finished swimming at the park’s pool. Earlier, he participated in a petting zoo. Now, he joins fellow campers who are already enjoying a pizza feast for lunch in recognition of the day’s Italian theme, and there are more activities to come.

Being at Camp Celebration is special for both Ben, 22, and his family. The camp annually welcomes mentally challenged children and adults, providing a week of memories for the campers and much-needed breaks for family members and caregivers. Volunteers make the camp work, and the Tennessee Volunteer spirit is evident at every turn.

Camp Celebration began in summer 1993, and for Shannon Cheshire Deal (UTHSC ’92) and Charley Deal (UTM ’92, ’96), the camp is both a labor of love and a family affair. Shannon, a registered nurse and director of UT Martin’s student health services, is a camp founder and co-directs the camp with Jean Watson Phebus (UTM ’92). Shannon and two other friends worked previously for a similar camp, but when that camp raised attendance fees, they dreamed of an alternative for those who could not afford to pay the higher costs.

“We provide training and opportunities for volunteers to interact with the kids prior to camp, and anybody with a big heart qualifies.”

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Camp Celebration began with help the first year from many sources, including the Mental Retardation Foundation of Tennessee Inc., a Knights of Columbus charity. “We just went and begged and pleaded and borrowed from everybody,” Shannon said. Since then, the camp has enjoyed such success that some of the same participants and counselors have attended every year.

The purpose of Camp Celebration is simple: provide a weeklong residential camp experience for mentally challenged children and adults. There is no upper age limit for participants, but campers have to be at least six years old and possess self-help skills with minimal assistance. One camper was 66 years old when he attended, earning Mr. Camp Celebration honors for that year.

On the financial side, the camp is a non-profit organization and accepts donations of time, money and supplies. Campers who can’t afford to pay are not turned away. The day-to-day details of operating the camp are a bit more complex.

“Each camper is put into a cabin based on age and sex, and they have counselors who stay with them the whole week, and during the day we rotate through different activities,” Shannon said. Making the camp safe and fun is a major undertaking. Because all campers are mentally challenged, behavioral issues can surface, so staff members are prepared for these challenges.

Otherwise, no specific expertise is necessary to work with the camp.

“The biggest qualification we have is you have to want to have fun,” Shannon said. “You have to smile. You have to love these kids.

Then there’s the task of attracting camp programming.

“It’s difficult the first time. They (program providers) come out here, though, and they’re hooked and they’re with us from then on out,” Shannon explained. “It’s hard to really imagine what camp is like and what the volunteers get out of it. But once they come out the first time, they’re hooked. If we can get them out here once, we’ve got them.”

It’s June 27, and Camp Celebration is alive with activities. The weather is pleasant, as the summer heat and humidity have not yet settled on the heavily wooded park. A riding lawn-mower converted into a miniature train engine constantly toots its horn and winds through the camp area to the delight of the train’s passengers and onlookers. The traveling petting zoo has the attention of other campers, while yet another group boards a bus for the park swimming pool located about 10 minutes away.

This is the kind of day that brings volunteer Camille Stanfield (UTK ’05) back year after year to Camp Celebration. The Memphis native graduated in May with degrees in business and international business. She delayed starting a new job until August so that she could be a camp staffer. Camille first came to Camp Celebration more than 10 years ago, even before she was old enough to be a counselor. She calls the camp “an experience like no other.”

“It’s kind of an indescribable feeling I guess,” Camille said. “The smiles. The laughter. It makes you appreciate what you have, and these kids don’t get to do this, you know, ever. This is their one week out of the year.”

Lorri Porter of Nesbit, Miss., is someone else hooked on the Camp Celebration experience. She has brought her Happy Times Farm Traveling Petting Zoo and the zoo’s miniature train to the camp for the past several years. Animals ranging from chickens to rabbits to sheep are big hits with the campers. It’s a hard day’s work, so why does she do it?

“Oh, gosh, because I love it. I love bringing the animals to people that don’t get to see them very often,” Porter said. “It’s educational, but it’s also rewarding to me, because I enjoy seeing them have a good time, and everybody does.

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“We’ve actually had some college students switch their majors to special education after they’ve come out and experienced camp.”

Charley Deal, UT Martin director of alumni relations, is the other half of Camp Celebration’s first family. He started as a cook in the camp’s second year. He continues to cook, provide for audio-visual needs, and produce a camp-ending PowerPoint production. Charley’s volunteer work with the camp earned him a 2000 Love Community Service Award, a recognition program coordinated by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

His camp days start at 6 a.m. with cooking breakfast in a kitchen that has no air conditioning. On this day, 400 scrambled eggs and 280 sausages and biscuits are all ready to serve by 8 a.m. Breakfast is followed by cleanup, some morning time with the campers, and then it’s back to the kitchen to prepare for lunch. Evening meals are now catered, but with a constant flow of activities, bedtime for Charley and the rest of the staff doesn’t happen until after 11 p.m.

Typically, the week involves about 80 campers and 30 staff members. This year, volunteers range in age from 15-year-old high school students to a 50-something DuPont executive.

“We’ve actually had some college students switch their majors to special education after they’ve come out and experienced camp,” Charley said.

It’s a lot of hard work, but you know, when the kids come up at the day’s end and they give you hugs and kisses, it’s love in its purest form. I wish we were all this way sometimes, because they know no boundaries and they know no divides. They’re just having fun, and I think that’s what life ought to be about is just having fun,” he added.

Charley relishes his family’s involvement with the camp, which now includes children, Alex and Jessie, who were old enough this year to attend for the first time. “It’s nice. One thing about it is we’re (Shannon and Charley) constantly talking about it, and since I’m the treasurer of the corporation, every month I’m working on camp. It gets a little trying sometimes, but for the most part, it’s worth it in the end,” he said.

Charley speaks humbly of his and Shannon’s work with the camp, but he is quick to praise others who give of their time and talents to make the week a success. One of his favorites is a volunteer who caters one of the camp meals.

“One gentleman, every year he comes and dresses up as Elvis, but he brings the food with him when he comes,” he said. “Not only is he contributing the food and the time to prepare the food and give it out, but then he goes out, puts a costume on and comes back in and performs for the kids for 45 minutes. That takes a special person to do that.”

Shannon never forgets about the families who bring their children and plan vacations around Camp Celebration. “I can’t imagine having to care for a special-needs child, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They do a tremendous job, and it shows in the way that their kids act out here. And then they use this time for a break and for a rest period, which is a great need.”

Ben’s mother, Peggy Matthews of Rosemark, Tenn., is one of many parents who appreciates what Camp Celebration does for her child and family. Ben had encephalitis as a child and was diagnosed at age four as being mentally handicapped. They began to involve him in Special Olympics and other appropriate activities but soon discovered the lack of resources to assist children with similar disabilities.

Ben was a perfect fit for Camp Celebration and attended when the camp first opened. He missed a five-year period when he lived and went to school at the Texas NeuroRehab Center in Austin. When he returned home this year, attending Camp Celebration was high on his agenda.

Peggy searches for the right words when describing what Camp Celebration means to Ben and their family. “The unselfishness of all the volunteers to take the time for these children is unbelievable. … But it means everything to Ben. It is a week of fun, good times, camaraderie with his friends, and it’s just truly a week of celebration. …”

At the week’s conclusion, Ben was asked to describe the best part of camp. He responded, “… the activities, the swimming, and my friends. I love my camp and being with my friends.”

Ben Matthews will tell you, there is always something to celebrate at Camp Celebration.

For information about Camp Celebration, go to the Web at www.campcelebration.org.
Today, he is at home exercising both his mind and his body with hopes of returning to his position as editor of *The Fulton (Ky.) Leader*, a post he held for two years prior to his injury. His ties with the local newspaper date back 25 years, when he began as a reporter/photographer after graduating with a degree in English from UT Martin. Since that time, he has held editor’s posts at the *Weakley County Press*, Martin, and *Hickman Courier*, Hickman, Ky., before returning to the Leader.

“He wants to,” Karen said of Johnny’s desire to regain his physical strength walking and working out. Sometimes, she said, he “lacks motivation. Everything is 10 degrees harder than it was before. It’s just frustrating.”

“I do my exercises, but it’s hard. I try to do them every day,” he said.

He also regularly walks around the former South Fulton football field with his mother, Ruth Jones.

Helping with the motivation is a goal that when he can consistently walk to the railroad track near their home – about a 1.5 mile roundtrip, they’re going to take a vacation.

He’s done it, just not consistently.

When the question arose about what he does every day that he enjoys the most, he said, “I want to say ‘eating’ . . . just anything – especially sweets. But I also enjoy getting out with people and discussing things with them.” Returning to Smith Street Church of Christ, where he led the congregational singing for years, affords him a place to talk to friends.

As part of his mental exercise, Johnny is just now beginning to write again. The author of numerous columns and one-act plays in addition to years of news and features, writing is his love. “I wrote a poem,” he said, adding that he had planned to read it at a recent UT Martin event. “I didn’t read it, though,

continued on next page
because I thought I could do a much better job.” So he’ll keep working on it and other pieces. “He still likes to write. It’s just a slow process,” said Karen, who added she wants him to regain his “creative” edge. One aspect of his life that he doesn’t spend time on is reflection about his injury. Johnny has no recollections from the time of the aneurism, Sept. 13, 2004, until February. “I don’t have any memory of what happened,” he said. “Karen tells me and my mother does, but I have no memory of that whatsoever.” What he has always remembered, however, are his friends and family, calling them by name from the beginning of his recovery. It is those people he credits with his comeback from such a life-altering experience. “I have had so many people who have done so much,” Johnny said. “My family’s been really good,” he said, praising the efforts and persistence of Karen, their two daughters, Melissa and Allison, and his mother. “I’d just like to thank all my friends and tell them I appreciate them.” Karen is thankful for the love and care Johnny and the family have received. “We have a lot of support. We really do,” she said. “Without it, I don’t know what we’d do. It would be a lot tougher.” Karen compared their support system to a pyramid with Johnny on top and layer upon layer of family and friends undergirding him. Both agree he has accomplished much, but there’s still work ahead. “The hardest part is doing what I need to do and lacking the motivation,” he said. “I’ve about reached my goal, but it is still incredibly, incredibly difficult.”

Sports Information

OVC Basketball Tournament Set

The 2006 O’Reilly Ohio Valley Conference Basketball Tournament will be held March 3-4 at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville. The top four teams in the conference post-season tournament for both men and women advance to Nashville.

Tickets are $22 per session (two games per session) or $40 for an all-tournament ticket (all six games). Tickets can be purchased through the Skyhawk Ticket Office (731-881-7207), the Gaylord Entertainment Center box office, or any Ticketmaster location (615-255-9600). Tickets are also available through the OVC Web site. Groups of 10 or more can qualify for a reduced ticket price. To order group tickets, contact Kyle Yeager in the OVC office (615-371-1698).

For additional information visit ovcsports.com.

Former Skyhawk Signs with Arena Football League Team

Former UT Martin linebacker Lavante Epson has signed with the Grand Rapids Rampage of the Arena Football League for the 2006 season.

Epson played for the Skyhawks for two seasons (1998-99). He played in seven games for the Skyhawks in 1998 before a season-ending knee injury sidelined him. He came back to lead the Skyhawks in tackles and tackles for a loss in his senior season.

Epson was also named to the All-Ohio Valley Conference second team in 1999 and was second in the OVC in tackles with 118.

Epson came to UT Martin from Mississippi Delta Junior College where he helped lead the football team to a divisional title.
Get Involved

This is the motto of the Division of Student Affairs during Freshman Experience Week. With any luck, students will stay involved after graduation, as well. I often have been asked about different ways alumni can be involved in activities. So, here are my top-10 ways you can make a difference:

10. Be active in your local UT National Alumni Association. Take on a leadership position or help plan an event. It is a great networking environment!

9. Visit local schools with UT Martin admissions counselors to talk to students about the benefits of receiving an education and your experience at UT Martin. Points of Pride can be found along the bottom of these Campus Scene pages.

8. Start a scholarship fund. Twenty dollars a month could mean the difference between a student’s staying in school or having to leave. (Just imagine … “Insert your name here” Scholarship Fund.)

7. Contact former professors. Volunteer to be a guest lecturer or host a class trip to your business or area.

6. Visit your alma mater when you can. Come and relax in the Quad knowing you have no test to study for or paper to finish! It really is relaxing here.

5. Attend events in your area when they are sponsored by or feature a University of Tennessee at Martin program or entertainment.

4. Update your alumni information and let others know about your accomplishments.

3. Be an advocate to your local and regional legislators. Let them know you recognize the importance of higher education in the overall quality of life of Tennesseans. Let your voice be heard.

2. Send in a gift of any size. Is it because our doors might shut without your support? NO, but the higher our alumni giving percentage is, the better our chances are for moving up in national rankings, thus, making your degree even more valuable.

1. Because it is the right thing to do! Only you can decide how involved you want to be. Opportunities exist for people of all ages and backgrounds. It is your decision. Get involved!

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who attended Homecoming 2005. A great time and a huge victory were enjoyed by all. Please mark your calendar now for next year’s homecoming, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27-29, 2006. UTM

SAVE THE DATE:

Black Alumni Association Reception
in Memphis, Jan. 14, 2006, at the Memphis Area Home Builders Association. For reservations, please contact the alumni office at 731-881-7610.

Other 2006 Alumni Events

March 4      Nashville Celebration
May 3       Grand Finale Celebration
June 17     UTJC Reunion
Aug. 11-12   Golden Grad Reunion
Aug. 24     Legacy Luncheon
Sept. 28    UTNAA Scholarship Dinner
Oct. 16     Clarksville Bash
Oct. 27-29  Homecoming
Award Recipients Note UT Martin’s Impact on Individuals and the Region

Recipients of the three awards presented at the annual alumni banquet during homecoming cited various impacts the university has had on individuals and the region in their acceptance remarks. They spoke about gaining a strong academic foundation and lifelong friendships during their college days. They also spoke about the university as a regional leader in economic development and in efforts to improve the overall quality of life in West Tennessee.

Ray Smith (top) of Camden, Larry Alexander (bottom, right) of Martin and Dr. Michael Revelle (bottom, left) of Jackson were guests of honor at the banquet and accepted their awards from Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor, and Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president (top, left and right, respectively).

Smith received the Chancellor's Award for University Service, Alexander was presented the Outstanding Alumni Award and Revelle, the Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Before the presentation of awards, the chancellor welcomed the group and expressed appreciation to the alumni for their continued support.

"Welcome to the fastest-growing public university in the state of Tennessee for the year 2005," said Dunagan in opening remarks. "Also, welcome to a campus that cares very much about not only its students, but also its alumni.

Citing the many activities scheduled for homecoming, Dunagan said, "The thing that is special about tonight is it gives us an opportunity as an institution, as a university, to recognize some folks who have meant so much to this campus."

="This is an honor for me. I do love the University of Tennessee at Martin. It has meant so much to the economic well-being of West Tennessee," said Smith. He praised Petersen for his leadership and added, "I'm glad to be on the team with him and help support the University of Tennessee. For what little I've done, I've been repaid many, many times." Speaking for his wife, Wilma, he added, "What little we've done has come from the heart. It has come because we think this institution is a vital part of West Tennessee."

Dunagan cited Alexander as a "person I've counted on for good advice and counsel. He's made this community a better place and this university a better institution."

Alexander, who was a student from 1964-68, also praised UT Martin as an outstanding institution. "I am truly humbled to be selected as an outstanding alumnus," he said, and added, "I choose to thank the faculty and staff for a great education, but I got more than that – lifelong friends with fantastic memories. During the years, I have been blessed to cherish friendships with some of the greatest people in education, industry, politics and the UT system."

The chancellor noted that Revelle is not a graduate of UT Martin, "I would bet anything that Ray Smith loves this university just as much as anyone in this room or anyone who is a graduate." He expressed appreciation for, among other things, the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Center at UT Martin.

"We have, as a university, a vested interest in how West Tennessee grows economically, how it grows culturally. Likewise, West Tennessee and the state of Tennessee have a vested interest in the University of Tennessee at Martin. As West Tennessee grows and prospers, so do we. As we grow and prosper and offer graduates – teachers, engineers and all the other professions – then West Tennessee is a better place."

"This is a beautiful campus. You have a great chancellor. You have a great staff," said Petersen. Noting the increase in enrollment and the recent U.S. News and World Report ranking (see page 22), he added, "Growing is not the only thing that we desire, but to get bigger and better simultaneously is something each and every one of you should be proud of."

In making the first award presentation, Dunagan noted that even though Smith is not a graduate of UT Martin, "I would bet anything that Ray Smith loves this university just as much as anyone in this room or anyone who is a graduate." He expressed appreciation for, among other things, the Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Center at UT Martin.

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The chancellor noted that Revelle is well-known for his weekly “Health Watch” segment on WBBJ-TV and, highlighting his work as an emergency room physician, his recent military service in Iraq and other endeavors, added that “his commitment to others is evident.”

Accepting the award, Revelle said he was pleased and proud to have been associated with the University of Tennessee at Martin.” He cited faculty members who encouraged him to attend medical school and get to “where I am today.” Remembering his days as an undergraduate at Martin and membership in Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, Revelle said he, too, developed “friends for a lifetime.”
This spring marks the 25th anniversary of the UT Martin University Scholars and Honors Programs. These programs continue to be models for the state of Tennessee and the southern region. On April 22, an alumni reunion for honors graduates will be held on campus, and plans for the second annual Scholarfest are also under way.

A new initiative will help to ensure the long-term growth and stability of this premier scholarship program. The establishment of an honors enrichment fund will provide support for senior research projects, domestic and cultural travel to events, such as the National Collegiate Honors Conference, and international study-abroad and travel-study opportunities. Dr. Jeff Triplett, of Union City, has made a leadership gift to ensure that the fund will be established in perpetuity, and additional gifts are being solicited to name the fund in honor of former Honors Programs director, Dr. Bill Zachry.

Over the years, many individuals have supported the UT Martin Honors Programs with generous private gifts including J. Houston Gordon, an attorney in Covington, and a former UT trustee. Houston and his wife, Debbie, introduced Bub and Mary Cole of Drummonds, to UT Martin, and the Coles later endowed the first four University Scholar Endowments. On Nov. 5, the Cole Honors Seminar Room was dedicated in their honor.

Dr. Lew Dougherty and his wife, Mary Jo, of Camden, have included the UT Martin Honors Programs in their estate plans. They received the 2004 Chancellor's Outstanding Service Award, and the Dougherty/Tennessee Room was named in their honor on April 8. A retired dentist, Dr. Dougherty has served as a past president of the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association (UTNAA), as a member of the UT Development Council, and as chair of the UT Martin Development Committee.

Dr. Bill Zachry helped lead the honors programs with former director, Dr. Ernie Blythe, since its inception 25 years ago. Dr. Zachry stepped in as director in the summer of 1997, when Dr. Blythe retired. Dr. Blythe's untimely death on Feb. 1, 2005, saddened the entire university family.

Shortly afterward, in July 2005, Dr. Zachry moved to Memphis, and Dr. Dan McDonough took over as the current director of Honors Programs. Like his predecessor, Dr. McDonough also served as assistant director of Honors Programs and has been at UT Martin since 1991. As a history professor specializing in Colonial and Revolutionary American history, he has published several books on Revolutionary and Civil War history. Dr. McDonough can be contacted at 731-881-7436 or danmc@utm.edu, regarding any questions about upcoming honors events. Dr. McDonough is continuing the tradition of an annual trip to the National Collegiate Honors Conference. Many alumni and former honors students can attest to the value of these trips and the pride in representing UT Martin among honors students from across the country and around the world.

This year’s national conference was in St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 27-30. Eleven UT Martin students attended the conference, including Kevin Teets, a former intern in Gov. Phil Bredesen’s office, who made a formal presentation at the conference. University Scholars Rachel Albritton, Tracey Baker, Jodie Carney and Lindsey Holder participated in the Idea Exchange with other honors students nationwide. In addition to attending the conference, a number of students visited Washington University to explore graduate school options while others investigated cultural sites such as the St. Louis Art Museum and Science Center. After the conference gala at the Gateway Arch, students bade a final farewell to Busch Stadium, demolished in late 2005.

Supporting the Zachry Honors Enrichment Fund is a great way to afford exceptional students these kinds of enriching opportunities. It is also a way to ensure that the University of Tennessee at Martin continues to attract some of the best and brightest students to this campus. Outright gifts are welcome, as well as planned and deferred gifts. To learn more about ways to give to the university, while receiving some of the benefits yourself, take a look at the item titled “Just for a Change, Wouldn’t It Be Nice to Get a Check From UT?” on page 35 and contact the Office of Development at 731-881-7626 for more information.
UT Martin announced the Honors Seminar Room in the Holland McCombs Center would be named for C.E. “Bub” and Mary Cole, center, of Drummonds. The announcement was made Nov. 5 in recognition of the couple’s distinguished service and support. Cole is a former UT Development Council member and a former and present UT Martin Development Committee member. Bub and Mary believe education combats many potential problems in our communities and that we have to express an interest in young people so that they can “take up where we leave off.” The Coles endowed the first University Scholar Scholarship in 1991 because of the caliber of the students in the program; they later added to the Cole University Scholars Endowment, which now annually provides five full University Scholars Scholarships. Also pictured, from left, are University of Tennessee President Emeritus Joe Johnson, UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan and Houston Gordon, UT Martin alumnus, honors benefactor and former member of the UT Board of Trustees.

The Honors Study Room in the Holland McCombs Center at UT Martin was named in memory of Dr. Ernie Blythe. The Honors Study served as Dr. Blythe’s office during his tenure as director of Honors Programs. Blythe’s widow, Evelyn Blythe, Chancellor Nick Dunagan and Dr. William Zachry, former director of UT Martin Honors Programs, unveiled the memorial plaque.

The University of Tennessee at Martin honored Lew and Mary Jo Dougherty of Camden by naming the campus’ Tennessee Room within the Holland McCombs Center the “Lew and Mary Jo Dougherty Tennessee Room” in recognition of the couple’s distinguished service and support. The Doughertys are both UT alumni and are members of the UT Founders Society. Lew is a past president of the UT National Alumni Association and served as chairman of the UT Martin Development Committee, 1992-93. Mary Jo is currently on the board of the UT Alliance of Women Philanthropists and a former member of the Women’s Council. The Doughertys received the UT Knoxville Chancellor’s Citation for University Service in 1987 and the UT Martin Chancellor’s Award for University Service in 2004. Making the presentation is UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan, on the right.

Did you know: UT Martin serves as the executive center of the Southern Consortium of the American Democracy Project (ADP-South).
Bartholomew Serves as Agricultural Ambassador

Pam Bartholomew, an agricultural education major at UT Martin, is serving as one of 10 National Collegiate Agricultural Ambassadors. The selection is a first for UT Martin.

Bartholomew, of Decaturville, joins students from Penn State University, Cornell University, University of Missouri and others in the program to promote agricultural understanding and development.

The students were selected from across the nation and are focusing on the development and implementation of a sustainable agricultural awareness program that influences and activates teachers and students at the community level to share the importance of agriculture.

“Serving as Pam’s academic adviser in agricultural education, I have had the unique opportunity to witness the development of her leadership and communication skills,” said Dr. James Butler, associate professor of agricultural education. “She loves to be involved and participate in UT Martin student activities. Pam is also an excellent student spokesperson for Tennessee agriculture.”

UT Martin Moves Higher in U.S. News Rankings

The University of Tennessee at Martin improved its top-tier ranking for master’s level public universities in the South in the 2006 edition of America’s Best Colleges compiled by U.S. News & World Report. The rankings rate colleges and universities using information gathered from various sources.

UT Martin tied for 20th place among public universities in the South that grant bachelor’s and master’s degrees, up from 23rd place last year.

Colleges are ranked against their peers using information submitted in a survey completed by the institutions. Additionally, U.S. News gathers information from other sources, including the American Association of University Professors, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the Council for Aid to Education and the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics.

Categories used to determine the rankings and to measure academic quality include peer assessment, retention, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and the alumni giving rate.

According to the magazine, the greatest weight is given to peer assessment, which surveys individuals who are “in a position to judge a school’s academic excellence.”

In the 2006 rankings, UT Martin improved its peer-assessment score and its retention and graduation rates. Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor, said the university’s efforts to improve total quality are positioning the university to better serve students.

“The U.S. News rankings are important, and I’m pleased that UT Martin’s position in the rankings has improved the last two years,” Dunagan said. “Still, my primary concern is improving overall quality in academic programs and services so that our students receive the best education possible. We’re making excellent progress in these areas.”

Dunagan said improvement in student retention is traced in part to the university’s Student Success Center that opened fall 2004. The center offers advising support, career services and other initiatives, all designed to help students succeed.

Following closely behind the latest U.S. News rankings, UT Martin received a “Best in the Southeast Designation” by The Princeton Review for 2006. “University of Tennessee at Martin is one of 140 schools . . . receiving our ‘Best in the Southeast’ designation,” said Robert Franek, The Princeton Review publisher and editorial director. “We believe these schools uphold the standards of our ‘Best Southeastern College’ distinction and provide students with a wide breadth of excellent schools to consider.”

Bremer Family Establishes Endowment

Glen and Bea Bremer (left) and the Bremer family established the Bremer Family Undergraduate Research Endowment at UT Martin. Income earned on the endowment will be used to provide research support for the Department of Chemistry in the form of faculty awards, student stipends and equipment purchases. Glen H. Bremer was a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry from 1958-1986. Bea Bremer worked in the UT Martin Office of Business Affairs for more than 10 years. Their daughter, Dr. Joyce Glover, graduated from UT Martin in 1977 and UT Medical Center in 1981. She is now a gastroenterologist in Cookeville. She is married to Stephen Glover, a chemist; they have two children, Russell and Carrie Beth.
UT Martin recorded the largest enrollment percentage increase of any public university in the state based on fall enrollment figures. It was the fourth consecutive period UT Martin has enrolled a record number of students.

A total of 6,484 students were enrolled for the fall semester, an increase from 6,104 recorded for fall 2004. It also followed top numbers for spring and summer 2005.

The fall 2005 total included a record fall enrollment for dual-credit and overall record for graduate students.

“This fall’s numbers showed increases in important categories besides total student enrollment,” said Dr. Nick Dunagan. “Record enrollment for dual-credit and graduate students showed that UT Martin is expanding its educational reach.”

Dual-credit courses are offered in high schools in West Tennessee and allow students to earn both high school and college credit before entering college. Graduate enrollment was led by interest in the university’s new online master’s degree in educational administration and supervision offered by UT New College.

As with last fall’s record enrollment, Dunagan again credited the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program with bringing more students to Martin. He also credited the university’s service areas for their efforts to retain students.

“This is the second year of operation for our Student Success Center, which is making a difference for students by offering academic support services outside of the classroom,” Dunagan said. “From orientation to the classroom, students are finding the support they need to stay in school and be successful.”

Based on final figures, the fall enrollment at UT Martin was a 6.2 percent increase over fall 2004. Final figures were compiled by the Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

The record enrollment also reflected 1,219 freshmen, the third largest freshman class on the UT Martin campus. Fall enrollment indicated that first-time freshmen had an average 3.30 high school grade-point-average, up from 2004, and an average ACT score of 22.

“UT Martin Sees the Largest Enrollment Increase in the State

UT Martin is committed to developing and implementing multicultural global opportunities for its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and area residents. One of the primary ways in which this goal is achieved is through international travel-study programs.

At right is a list of the upcoming trips planned. For complete information on the travel programs, contact Prof. Stan Sieber at 731-881-7467, e-mail ssieber@utm.edu, or write to Stan Sieber, Department of History, 322 Humanities Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238. UTM

Extending the Walls of UT Martin Through International Travel

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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Belize</td>
<td>March 9-19, 2006</td>
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<td>Scotland</td>
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<td>Barbados</td>
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<td>Eastern Canada</td>
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<td>Eastern France and Western German Wine Country</td>
<td>May 15-27, 2006</td>
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<td>Tanzania Safari</td>
<td>June 12-26, 2006</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>June 2006</td>
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Travel study Web site: http://www.utm.edu/~ssieber

Did you know: The WestStar Leadership Program, Tennessee’s first regional leadership program that began in 1989, boasts 437 living graduates.
Gift Enhances Student Exchange with China, Travel-Study and Special-Education Initiatives

Chinese scholars recently visited the state capitol, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Tennessee Supreme Court, UT Martin and other regional venues as they participated in a new exchange program developed by UT Martin. The effort is part of a three-pronged grant program sponsored by Dottie Frist International Initiatives at the university. Frist is U.S. Sen. Bill Frist’s sister.

As part of the exchange, UT Martin participants are expected to visit Shandong University for two weeks in 2006, where they will study Chinese legal structures.

The grant also will provide funding for special-education awareness and scholarships for travel-study exchanges.

“It’s been a wonderful vision that is actually going to come true,” said Frist. “It’s just a new beginning for other things we’re going to be doing through the university.” Frist, who accompanied the delegation on several tours, added, “It has been wonderful . . . to have the Chinese delegation here to join with us.” Frist added that she has a “deep passion” for special-education initiatives and is excited about the travel-study component.

“It is because of her vision and foresight that we have an opportunity at UT Martin to better educate our students and the opportunity to have China’s most distinguished legal professionals with us,” said Chancellor Nick Dunagan. He told Frist, at the program announcement, “We appreciate your vision, your energy and your commitment to better international relations.”

The university, in partnership with Shandong University Law School of China, launched the American Civics and Culture Program (ACCP), Sept. 17, when the delegation arrived on the UT Martin campus.

“This is especially promising as we mount a vigorous international and intercultural awareness initiative to make sure our students are prepared to succeed in today’s global structure,” said Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president.

The delegation came from Jinan, the capital of historical Shandong, a province in northeast China, with 90 million people.

While in Tennessee, the delegation attended a UT Martin football game, toured and observed proceedings in the Obion County chancery court as well as the county commission, participated in a mock election in the county election office, observed arraignments and toured the county detention center. The delegation also toured the Northwest Tennessee state correctional facility, Williamson County court complex, the Tennessee Supreme Court, TBI headquarters, state government, and Vanderbilt University Law School, then participated in a forum on intellectual property issues at the American Society for Composers, Artists and Performers (ASCAP). The ACCP program is under the direction of the UT Martin Center for Global Studies and International Education.

The center was established to further the educational experiences of university students, faculty and the community through international partnerships and university exchange programs.

“This exchange program is another way that UT Martin students will see the impact of living in a global economy,” said Dunagan. “In turn, these programs allow citizens of other countries to learn about America.”

In addition to the ACCP program, the Dottie Frist International Initiatives supports a special-education awareness program and will help facilitate student and faculty international travel-study and exchange programs.

The special-education awareness initiative is a collaborative project involving public educators, UT Martin special-education professors and parents of children with special needs. The program will heighten awareness and inform parents of available opportunities for intervention using a children’s book along with accompanying Web and printed materials.

At the close of the local visit, Dunagan and Chen Jinzhao, Shandong University vice president, signed a memorandum of agreement with the goal of developing an expanded exchange program.

Did you know: UT Martin finished second in the 2004-05 OVC Institutional Academic Achievement Award program presented by Aeropostale.
Recent Academic Speakers on Campus

UT Martin hosted an array of impressive speakers fall term. Although there is not room to highlight each one, below is a sample of the caliber speakers drawn to the campus.

A Few Featured Speakers for Spring Term Include:

H.W. Brands,
Distinguished Professor of History at Texas A&M University, will speak Feb. 9 on “Benjamin Franklin and the Birth of American Identity.”

Eugenie Scott,
executive director of the National Center for Science Education, will speak March 27 about “A Scientist’s View of the Creation/Evolution Controversy.”

Michael Angelo,
senior intellectual property architect at Net IQ, will speak April 10 about “Security vs. Privacy.”

Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union, also spoke to Honors Programs students during her visit to the campus in September. Her appearance was sponsored by the Honors Programs, the Freshman Experience, the Student Activities Council and the American Democracy Project. She spoke about “Challenges to Civil Liberties in a Post-9/11 World.” Will Binkley and Jacob Shorter, both of Clarksville, spoke to Strossen following her presentation.

Upcoming Theatre & Visual Arts Events

Theatre Performances
Feb. 23, 24, 25, 26
Durang/Durang
By Christopher Durang
If you dream of a place where silly, over-the-top, satirical comedy reigns supreme, come to Durang country. The fine art of parody has returned to the theatre in this outrageous collection of short plays by the undisputed king of comic verve and vigor. His humor leaves no sacred cow ungored, but never skewers indiscriminately.

April 21, 22, 28, 29
(Lab Theatre production)
Voices of the South
Voices of the South is comprised of University of Memphis alumni specializing in narrative theatre, a form of original script adaptation that brings non-fiction and fiction to the stage.

Art Exhibition Openings
Tuesday, Jan. 17
High School Art Exhibition
Friday, Jan. 20
College Art Day
Tuesday, Feb. 14
Senior Exhibitions
Tuesday, Feb. 28
Senior Exhibitions
Tuesday, March 21
Senior Exhibitions
Tuesday, April 4
Senior Exhibitions
Thursday, April 6
Artists of the 21st Century
West Tenn Regional Art Center, Humboldt, Tenn.
Tuesday, April 18
Visual and Theatre Arts Student Art Group Exhibition
Dr. Jerry Gresham, chair of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, was named the recipient of a University of Tennessee National Alumni Association (UTNAA) Alumni Distinguished Service Professorship. The $3,000 faculty award is an annual salary supplement to be continued until the recipient retires from full-time university employment or relinquishes professorial duties and assumes a non-academic, administrative position. To be eligible for selection, a professor must demonstrate effectiveness in teaching and distinction in a subject matter or professional field as evidenced by publications or other appropriate demonstrations of distinction.

“Jerry gives 110 percent to his teaching and his leadership in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources,” said Chancellor Nick Dunagan. “He is truly an international figure in the field of animal science. UT Martin is very fortunate to have his energy and dedication.”

“It was quite a surprise,” said Gresham, who added that he appreciates the recognition and honor. “There are a lot of people deserving. I want to thank Chancellor Dunagan and others who made this recognition possible.

“What I appreciate most about my career at UT Martin is the opportunity to be associated with so many great people – especially the students,” he added. “One of the unique things as faculty is that we meet a lot of young people as students, and we are then able to follow them in their careers as they become leaders in their communities and career fields.”

Gresham, professor of animal science since 1973, received bachelor of science, master of science and doctoral degrees from Oklahoma State University. He was named chair of the department in 2003. He also serves as director of the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences and director of the Center of Excellence for Experiential Learning in the Agricultural Sciences. Gresham is a member of the American Meat Science Association and the American Society of Animal Science. He received the UT Martin Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award in 2003 and the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award in 1990. He currently serves on the UT Martin Research and Development Committee.

Gresham has numerous publications and presentations to his credit, has secured grant funding for the establishment of a Livestock Merchandising Center and construction funds for a sheep and meat goat teaching/research center and other projects at UT Martin. He is a consultant for the Norwegian Beef Breeders Association and Classic Medical in Florida.

Dr. Paul Sharma, professor of biology, also is a UTNAA Alumni Distinguished Service professor at UT Martin.

Mike Munkel Second Chance Scholarship Established

A second chance – that’s the goal of a newly established scholarship in memory of Mike Munkel, 58, who served as the UT Martin food service director for more than 14 years. Mike died of cancer Oct. 27.

The Mike Munkel Second Chance Scholarship will be awarded each semester to individuals re-enrolling at UT Martin after being out of school for at least one year, for whom financial assistance is crucial to stay in school. It is open to students of any major and residency. Selection will be determined by the Student Government Association executive committee and the Office of Alumni Relations director. Up to $1,500 will be awarded from this endowment each year after the endowment level is attained ($25,000 within 10 years).

Gifts may be made payable to UT Martin and mailed to the following address: UT Martin, 328 Administration Building, Martin, Tenn. 38238. This is a project of the UT Martin Office of Development and coordinated through the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association’s Annual Giving Program. All gifts are acknowledged, and gifts of $100 or more qualify contributors for gift recognition club membership. Donors interested in electronic fund transfer (EFT) options may call the Office of Development at 731-881-7633.

Chancellor Nick Dunagan said that Munkel "truly loved UT Martin students, faculty and staff.

"He made students feel welcome as they entered the cafeteria, participated in cookouts on the quad, or interviewed for the many jobs that Mike provided," Dunagan said. "His smile was infectious, and we all appreciate the caring attitude and sense of community he brought to the campus."
Let us know what you’re up to!
Please also use this form to update your address if it has changed.

Full Name (include maiden name, if applicable): ______________________________________________

Years Attended: ____________ through ________ School /College of: __________________________

Degree(s): ______________________________________ Major: __________________________

Home Address: ____________________________________ City/State/Zip: ______________________

Home Phone: ________________________________ Business Phone: __________________________

Occupation: ________________________________ Business Name or Employer: ________________

Business Address: __________________________________ City/State/Zip: ______________________

Your Email Address: __________________________________________________________________

Would you like your Email address published in Campus Scene? Yes ☐  No ☐

Full Name of spouse: __________________________________________________________________

Did your spouse attend UT Martin? Yes ☐  No ☐

Years Attended: ____________ through ________ School /College of: __________________________

Degree(s): ______________________________________ Major: __________________________

Occupation: ________________________________ Business Name of Employer: ________________

Business Address: __________________________________ City/State/Zip: ______________________

City/State/Zip: ______________________________________________________________________

Spouse’s Email Address: ______________________________________________________________

Names and Ages of Children: ____________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________________

Additional News (honors, promotions, etc.): ________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________________

List your current hobbies: ______________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Would you consider taking an active leadership role in UT Martin alumni activities? Yes ☐  No ☐

Would you like this information published in Campus Scene? Yes ☐  No ☐

If you know anyone who may be interested in UT Martin and is a high school junior or senior, please give us his or her name and address.

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Enclose a recent color headshot photo, if possible.
No low-resolution digital photos, please! Photographs cannot be returned to you. Every effort will be made to use all color headshots submitted. However, space considerations and/or photo quality may prevent us from using submitted photos in some instances.

Fill out, clip and return this form to:
Office of Alumni Relations
University of Tennessee at Martin
Martin, TN 38238
alumni@utm.edu
Harold Alexander Mullins ('48) is a retired dentist. He was the best physical education student in his class and later became a World Concern missionary dentist. Harold and his wife, Carol, live in Fayetteville, N.C. They have two children: Lori, 45; and Amy, 42.

Harriette Lavenue ('60) is a professor at the University of Memphis. She received her master's from UT Knoxville and her doctorate from Ole Miss. She lives in Germantown, Tenn. Email: hlavenue@memphis.edu

Durwood Glenn Moore ('61) is a judge and attorney. He and his wife, Nancey Jo Travis Moore ('59), who is now retired, live in Dickson, Tenn. They have three children: Rusty, 46; Johnny, 42; and Jody, 30. Email: omandlake@aol.com

Linda Lorraine Martin Wilson Carter ('64) is retired. She is currently serving her fifth term as a member of the Millington board of aldermen. Linda also is a member of the Municipal Airport Authority and the Millington Public Library Board. She and her husband, Charles, live in Millington, Tenn. They have two children: Jay, 38; and Tammy, 33. Email: carter@bigriver.net

Phil R. Onkotz ('64) is retired. He and his wife, Judy, live in Johnson City, Tenn. They have two children: Theresa, 43; and Phil, 40. Email: ponkotz@charter.net

Glenda “Jeannie” Hyde Buchanan ('68) has retired after teaching for 36 years. Her husband, James Richard Buchanan ('72), is also retired after teaching for 33 years. They live in Tiptonville, Tenn., and have two children: Amber, 33; and Richard, 29. Email: buchanan@bellsouth.net

John P. Walker Jr. ('70) is a HVAC contractor. He and his wife, Cindy, live in LaGrange, Tenn. They have three children: Tish, 35; Tripp, 32; and Josh, 19. Email: wjw368@aol.com

Jane Elizabeth Ellis ('70) retired from social work and is an office manager for B&S Liquors. She lives in Panama City, Fla., and has two children: Hardy, 31; and Keene, 18. Email: jeffrost48@hotmail.com

Francine Giles Madrey ('71) is the interim associate dean at Winston-Salem State University. She received the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching in May 2005. She and her husband, William, live in Pfafftown, N.C. They have four children: Shelia, 37; Phyllis, 21; Holly, 20; and Michael, 16. Email: madreyf@wssu.edu

Steven F. Murray ('71) is community college president at Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in West Helena, Ark. They have two children: Joshua, 25; and Alydia, 19. Email: murray@pccua.edu

Robert E. Hatler ('72) is a supervisor for the Internal Revenue Service. He and his wife, Maryann, live in Rutherford, N.J. They have two children: Kyle, 24; and Brandon, 20. Email: bhatler@verizon.net

Shirley Head Hefner ('73) is a library media specialist for Memphis City Schools. She is also a National Board Certified Teacher. Shirley lives in Memphis, Tenn. She has four children: Michael, 27; Melody, 23; Joseph, 21; and Albert, 19. Email: sshefner@aol.com

Regina Beth Evans Crawley ('74) is an elementary art teacher for East End Elementary. She has taught school for 26 years and has recently illustrated a children's book. Her husband, Marty Davin Crawley ('74), is the chief of security for Milan Arsenal. They live in Humboldt, Tenn., and have two children: Jared, 25; and Alex, 21.

Joseph Manning ('74) is a plumbing engineer and designer for Pickering Inc. His wife, Barbra Welch Manning ('74), is a nurse and educator at Northwest Mississippi Community College. They live in Senatobia, Miss. Email: jmanning@pickeringinc.com

David Earhart ('75) is a brokeraged manager for Guardian Life Insurance Co. He lives in Collierville, Tenn. David has two children: Brad, 22; and Ben, 18. Email: j_david_earhart@glico.com

Betty Murphree Allen ('75) is an education consultant with the Tennessee Exemplary Educator Program. Her husband, Sidney L. Allen ('75), is a heavy equipment salesperson for Nortrax. They live in Humboldt, Tenn., and have two children: Justin, 27; and Blake, 24. Email: ballen@usit.net

Rourke Dunlap ('75) is a laboratory manager for the Paris Board of Public Utilities. His wife, Melinda Dunlap ('71), is a mortgage loan processor for Regions Bank. They live in Paris, Tenn., and have two children: Kyle, 23; and Troy, 20. Email: rdunlap@bellsouth.net

Peggy Robbins Monroe ('75) is an educator for the Wayne County Board of Education. She is also an officer of her local Tennessee Education Association and an active member in Daughters of the American Revolution. Peggy and her husband, Gary, live in Collinwood, Tenn. They have three children: William, 32; Amelia, 26; and Johnathan, 16. Email: monroepegg2001@yahoo.com

Amelia, 26; and Johnathan, 16. Email: monroepegg2001@yahoo.com
Deborah Ann Kirkland McCrory (’75) is a kindergarten teacher for the Hardeman County Board of Education. Her husband, James Edward McCrory (’76), is a purchasing agent for American Electrical Contractors Inc. They live in Whiteville, Tenn., and have two children: Matthew, 21; and Mark, 19. Email: dmbmccrory@yahoo.com

Jerry Thomas McDaniel (’76) has retired from the military and is a retail salesperson for Oma’s Antik Haus. He and his wife, Laura, live in Clarksburg, Tenn. They have three children: Brad, 28; Jeremy, 23; and Sue, 22. Email: jmcdaniel@calvalry.com

L. Edward Phillips (’76) is a professor at Duke University. His wife, Sara Webb Phillips (’76), is a clergymarian. They live in Durham, N.C. Email: ephillips@div.duke.edu

Yvonne Elaine Howard Walden (’76) retired in 2003 and is pursuing her second career as a training and development specialist for DHL Express. She lives in Roseville, Calif., and has one child: Kristin, 23. Email: 20pearls@surewest.net

Rachel Cashion Young (’76) is a registered nurse at Methodist Hospital Emergency Room. She and her husband, Robert, live in Bartlett, Tenn. They have two children: Ashley, 24; and Robert, 19.

Jason “Jay” Williams (’76) is a national sales manager in computer software sales for QS/1 Data Systems. He and his wife, Jenny, live in Franklin, Tenn. They have three children: Bryan, 22; Patti, 20; and Thomas, 17. Email: jwilliams@qs1.com

Edward Franklin Childress Jr. (’77) is an attorney and shareholder for Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C. He and his wife, Cynthia, live in Memphis, Tenn. They have two children: Franklin, 21; and Bailey, 16. Email: fchildress@bakerdonelson.com

Marsha Hazlewood Kennedy (’77) is a senior human resources consultant for TransUnion. She and her husband, Allan, live in Roswell, Ga. They have two children: Jacob, 17; and Patrick, 17. Email: adkmhk@bellsouth.net

Leland Franklin Moore (’77) is vice president and sales manager for Regions Bank. His wife, Peggy Korn Moore (’77), is a children’s coordinator for the First Baptist Church of Bolivar. They live in Bolivar, Tenn., and have four children: Eric, 23; Elaine, 21; Elliot, 19; and Emily, 17. Email: Leland.Moore@ Regions.com

Jerry Douglas Nash (’77) is the scholastic director for the U.S. Chess Federation. His wife, Sylvia Ruth Price Nash (’78), is a teacher. They live in Crossville, Tenn., with their two children: Sarah, 18; and Rebekah, 15. Email: jnash@uschess.org

Nancy Street Merriweather (’78) is a fiduciary accounting manager for Broadspire Services. Her husband, Terry

W. Merriweather (’79), is an operations manager for Northwest Airlines. They live in Troy, Mich., with their two children: Leia, 21; and Leslie, 17. Email: nsm411@aol.com

Pamela Bartholomew Taylor (’78) is a high school English teacher for the Jackson-Madison County School System. She was listed five times in Who’s Who Among Outstanding High School Teachers. Pamela and her husband, Jerry, live in Scotts Hill, Tenn. They have one child: Lauren, 24. Email: taylor2077@bellsouth.net

William Arnold Roberts (’79) is the minister for Christ United Methodist Church. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Memphis, Tenn. Email: arnoldr@CUMCmemphis.org

Wanda Waller Allen (’79) is a teacher for Camden Central High. In 2004, she was presented the Distinguished Educator Award at TEA State Assembly and is the sponsor of the Camden High Future Teachers of America. Her husband, Ricky L. Allen (’79), is a targeted CASE supervisor for the state of Tennessee. Ricky recently won second place in a Tennessee short story contest and was published in a collection of short stories. They live in Camden, Tenn., with their child: Tyler, 12. Email: wandarallen@hotmail.com

David K. Bell (’80) is the deputy director for security for the U.S. Department of Commerce. His wife, Pamela S. Bell (’81), is a university provost for Strayer University. They live in Nokesville, Va., and have one child: David, 22. Email: dbell1@doc.gov

Susan M. Halpenny (’80) is a supervisor in import operations for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. She lives in Olive Brach, Miss. Email: shalpenny@hhs.gov

Aaron W. Hughey (’80) is chair of the department of counseling and student affairs for Western Kentucky University. His wife, Sandra Gilbert Hughey (’81), works in retail at the Greenwood Mall. They live in Bowling Green, Ky., and have two children: Taylor, 20; and Keaton, 7. Email: aaron.hughey@wku.edu

Tracey D. Williams (’80) is an executive director, Region 5, for the State of Illinois, Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health. She lives in Anna, Ill. Email: tragor58@yahoo.com

Joseph Sturdivant (’03), a medical student at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, is serving a one-year term as student trustee on the UT Board of Trustees. The board governs the entire UT System, including campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin. Sturdivant is involved in the Medical School Executive Council and the Biological Sciences Subcommittee at the UT Health Science Center. He earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and graduated summa cum laude from UT Martin.

(PHoto courtesy of Thurman Hobson.)
1981
Marcus Anthony Anderson (’81) is a financial adviser for Shoemaker Financial. He and his wife, Shelia, live in Selmer, Tenn. They have one child: Cherish, 27. Email: manderson@shoemakerfinancial.com

Christy Cooper Shaffer (’81) is a scientist and CEO for Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc. She and her husband, Joel, live in Chapel Hill, N.C. They have two children: Elizabeth, 17; and Kelsey, 13. Email: cshaffer@inspirepharm.com

1982
Tere Archer Lumley (’82) is a teacher and coach for Peabody High School-TSSD. She and her husband, Todd, live in Jackson, Tenn. They have two children: Lauren, 14; and Todd, 14. Email: terelumley@hotmail.com

1983
Ryohei Kakio (’83) is a journalist for Chunichi Shimu Bun. He and his wife, Mikako, live in Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan. They have two children: Sayaka, 19; and Shota, 17.

Thomas H. White Jr. (’83) is a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He is lead biologist of the Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program. Thomas and his wife, Arelis, live in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. Email: Thomas_White@fws.gov

1984
Sandy Abrams (’84) is an insurance agent for Tennessee Farmers Insurance Co. He is married to Beverly Gaye Abrams (’84). They live in Savannah, Tenn., and have one child: Lindsay, 10. Email: sla582@yahoo.com

1985
Dianna Riddick (’85) is an attorney. She and her husband, Emil, live in Benton, Ky. They have four children: Eden, 18; Jasmine, 17; Benjamin, 4; and Loralie, 3. Email: dianarriddick@mchsi.com

Mohammad Taha Sahim (’85) is a manager for Premium Paramount Automobile SDN BHD. He and his wife, Wan Zuhaida, live in Senlangor D.E., Malaysia. They have two children: Nur Hidayatul Hannah, 12; and Ahmad Izzat Fauzan, 11. Email: premiere@streamyx.com

Kevin Douglas Roberson (’85) is a poultry nutritionist for Michael Foods. His wife, Mary Jean Baker Roberson (’85), is a homemaker. They live in Wakefield, Neb., with their children: Jackson, 10; and Will, 3. Email: extremefamily4@hentel.net

1986
Gary Ihnen (’86) owns his own business, Ihnen Pools, Inc. His wife, Meribeth Ihnen (’86), is an English teacher at Sebastian River Middle School. They live in Sebastian, Fla., with their two children: Luke, 17; and Hayley, 16. Email: srmslax@aol.com

Pablo Pratolongo (’86) is a general manager for Maquinarias Pratolongo C.A. He lives in Venezuela. Email: ppratolongo@yahoo.com

Wendell R. Verdell (’86) is an insurance and securities professional for Woodmen Insurance Agency. He and his wife, Alicia, live in Gleason, Tenn. They have four children: Josh, 18; Tyler, 16; Alex, 14; and Samantha, 12. Email: wverdell@frontiernet.net

1987
Elaine Marie Micksch Vanderland (’87) is a management program coordinator for Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield. Her husband, Peter Allen Vanderland Jr., is a New York state trooper. They live in Remsen, N.Y., with their three children: Elora, 16; Andrey, 2; and Max, 1. Email: elainev@dreamscape.com

1988
Barbara Archangela Beasley (’88) is a North Zone Paleontologist for U.S.D.A. Forest Service. She lives in Chadron, Neb. Email: babeasley@fs.fed.us

Sharon L. Cawood Northcutt Jr. (’88) is a homemaker. Her husband, John D. Northcutt Jr. (’88), is a community president for Regions Bank. They live in Tullahoma, Tenn., and have one child: Trey, 6. Email: slnorthcutt@netscape.net

1989
Myles Luster (’89) is a regional sales manager for Warner Music Group. He and his wife, Lynette, live in Valley Glen, Calif. They have one child: Shelby, 2. Email: mroshon@aol.com

Terry Powers (’89) is a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the State of Tennessee Division of Rehabilitation Services. He and his wife, Rubberta, live in Martin, Tenn. They have two children Rachel, 4; and Rebecca, 1. Email: terrypowers78@hotmail.com

1990
Russell K. Kirk (’90) is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon for the U.S. Navy. He lives in Lebanon, Tenn. Email: RussellKirk@hotmail.com

Courtney Weaver Hughes (’90) is an art director for Programs Marketing Innovations. She has just returned from a Tsunami relief trip in Mulahoh, Indonesia. Courtnay lives in Franklin, Tenn. Email: cawhughes@comcast.net

Tina Swearingen Mackin (’90) is an artist and a homemaker. She and her husband, Jay, live in Louisville, Ky. They have two children: Holly, 8; and Nick, 6. Email: tinamackin@bellsouth.net

Kenton Sandridge (’90) is a small business relationship manager for First Tennessee Bank. He and his wife, Angela, live in Nashville, Tenn. They have two children: Kent, 1; and Copeland, 4 months. Email: kentandangela@comcast.net

Kimberly McElroy Patterson (’90) is the director of sales for Four Seasons Sales and Service. She and her husband, Andy, live in Puryear, Tenn. They have one child: Samuel, 2. Email: kamp728@yahoo.com

1991
Tisha L. Bennett (’91) is a faculty member at Vanderbilt University. In June 2005, she directed the statewide Tennessee Pre-Kindergarten Institute. Email: tisha.bennett@vanderbilt.edu

Patricia Anne Sanders Fisher (’91) is a library media specialist for Memphis City Schools. She and her husband, Bill, live in Germantown, Tenn. Email: mellepat@hotmail.com

Robert Franklin McMackins (’91) is a plant manager for Dura Automotive Systems, Inc. He and his wife, Linda, live in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. They have three children: Clay, 12; Cole, 4; and Caitlin, 2. Email: mcmakins.b@duraauto.com

Did you know: The Skyhawk men’s rodeo team is the reigning Ozark Region champion.
Michele Frazier Plats (’91) is a private music instructor and a substitute teacher. She and her husband, Neil, live in Ashtabula, Ohio. They have one child: Chase, 2 months. Email: pegmc@suite224.net

Richard W. Asbridge (’92) is an operator for Chemtreu Co. He lives in Millington, Tenn. Email: asbridge@yahoo.com

Jennifer Kee Glass (’92) is director of publications and Web content at Bethel College. Her husband, Paul L. Glass (’92), is a Tennessee deputy state fire marshal. They live in McKenzie, Tenn., with their two children: Gus, 7; and Maggi. Email: jenglass@bellsouth.net

Kendall “Ken” Hill (’92) is a professional services engineer and systems analyst for Silicon Graphics, Inc. He and his wife, Christie, live in Clinton, Miss. They have two children: Hannah, 6; and Holly, 2. Email: kenh@sgi.com

Mele Barbara Sowers Langston (’92) is a teacher for the Kountze Independent School District. She and her husband, Robert, live in Kountze, Texas. They have one child: Christopher, 4. Email: melebl@yahoo.com

Ronald Harrison (’93) is a natural resources conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Henry County, Tenn. He is married to Michelle Morris Harrison (’91), who is an optometrist and owns her own businesses, Harrison Eye Clinic and Camden Eye Care Associates. They live in Paris, Tenn., with their four children: Jackson, 9; Alexi, 8; Phoebe, 3; and Parker, 1.

Mara Timmerman Read (’93) is a publisher for Institutional Investor News. She and her husband, Jeremy, will be moving to Charleston, S.C. Email: maratim72@hotmail.com

Lewis G. Walling (’93) is a teacher for the Robertson County Board of Education. He and his wife, Julie, live in Pleasant View, Tenn. They have two children: Emily, 5; and Kathryn, 2. Email: wallingl1@k12tn.net

Tonya Mason Fowler (’94) is a teacher for Memphis City Schools. She and her husband, Thomas, live in Memphis, Tenn. They have two children: Kyla, 6; and Mason, 1. Email: tntfowler@hotmail.com

Angela Connell Huffman (’94) is a homemaker. She and her husband, Michael, live in Brighton, Tenn. They have two children: Alyssa, 5; and Jalan, 4. Email: HHuffdog22@aol.com

Laurie Anne Tompkins Gaitskill (’95) is a high school French teacher for Randolph County Schools. Her husband, Clay Allan Gaitskill (’99), is a high school drama teacher for Moore County High Schools. They live in North Carolina and have one child: Sarah, 3 months. Email: cgaitskill@triad.rr.com

Jack Ward Long Jr. (’95) is a computer programmer for CBK Ltd. He is married to Martha Sue Stovall Long (’97). They live in Lewisburg, Tenn., with their two children: Jackson, 6; and John, 2. Email: jsj95@bellsouth.net

James S. Wagner (’95) is an analyst for Superior Enterprises, Inc. He and his wife, Tiffany, live in Memphis, Tenn. Email: jameswagner@bellsouth.net

Lisa Cashion Anaya (’96) is a health-care consultant. She and her husband, Jared, live in Albuquerque, N.M. Email: LCash123@comcast.net

Lane Boyte (’96) is a professor for Troy University. She lives in Dothan, Ala. Email: mboyte@troy.edu

Melissa “Missy” Carter (’96) is an English instructor for the University of Phoenix Online. She lives in Portland, Tenn. Email: MissyCarr9@aol.com

Teri J. Handley (’96) is an administrative coordinator for UTI Integrated Logistics. She and her husband, John, live in Waverly, Tenn. Email: terihandley@stanardcorp.com

Carolyn James Jeffries (’96) is a salesperson for Lucite International, Inc. She and her husband, Corey, live in Memphis, Tenn. They have two children: Corey, 5; and Jasmine, 2. Email: crlfieffri@aol.com

Laura Caton David (’97) is a faculty member at the University of North Florida. She and her husband, Bill, live in Jacksonville, Fla. They have two children: John, 3; and Liam, 1. Email: love2write@earthlink.net

Emily Michelle McFarlin Gilbert (’97) is the principal for Hickman County Middle School. She and her husband, Brad, live in Centerville, Tenn. They have one child: Bailey, 3. Email: gilbert@melc.net

Gregory Guy (’97) is a plant manager for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. He and his wife, Marian, live in Locust Grove, Ga. They have two children: Ashley, 17; and Britney, 11. Email: Guy1035@charter.net

1997

Alumni, current UT Martin students and local area prospective students gathered at the home of Lee Hudson, ’87 (not pictured), for the first Clarksville Fall Bash. The event was a success, and more than $600 in scholarships to potential students was presented by Clarksville resident and UT Martin alumnus Bill Hoy, ’77 (center). Photo courtesy of The Leaf-Chronicle in Clarksville.
Jeffery Trey Halterman (’97) is a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He lives in Arlington, Va. Email: t_halterman@hotmail.com

Marla Ann Pinkley Keeley (’97) is an administrative assistant and editorial staff member for Cotton Outlook Magazine. She is currently in graduate school at the University of Memphis pursuing a secondary teaching licensure and a master’s in teaching. She and her husband live in Lakeland, Tenn. They have one child: Abby, 9. Email: marla_cotlook@hotmail.com

John Thomas Pugh Jr. (’97) is a brand manager for Taco Bell Corporate. He and his wife, Kimberly, live in Mission Viejo, Calif. They have one child: Griffyn, 1. Email: john-thomaspugh@hotmail.com

Ray “Curt” Wilson (’97) is a sales representative for Avery Outdoors. He lives in Sacramento, Calif. Email: curtw@averyoutdoors.com

Kristi Kochert Morgan (’98) is an employee services relationship manager for First Horizon/First Tennessee. She and her husband, Erik, live in Carmel, Ind. Email: kristi.morgan@sbcglobal.net

Andrew L. Douglas (’98) is an assistant professor of finance at Loras College. He is married to Amy Celeste Rochell Douglas (’99), a homemaker. They live in Dubuque, Iowa. They have one child: Sophie, 8 months. Email: Andrew.Douglas@loras.edu

Sharley Barfield Ross (’98) is employed by Austin Peay State University. She and her husband, Robert, live in Clarksville, Tenn. They have one child: Samantha, 6 months. Email: sjbrat@yahoo.com

Justin Lamb (’98) is a prep editor for the Columbia Daily Herald. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Columbia, Tenn. They have one child: Drew, 3 months. Email: uksportswriter@yahoo.com

Denise Fitzpatrick Johnson (’98) is an investment sales assistant for Commercial Bank & Trust Co. She and her husband, James, live in Big Sandy, Tenn. They have one child: Adam, 5. Email: denise-johnson@investfinancial.com

Shon Johnson (’98) is an attorney for McLeary, Domico, & Kyle, PLLC. He lives in Memphis, Tenn. Email: truegent38@hotmail.com

Penny Elaine Dublin Bell (’99) is a teacher for Dresden Elementary School. Her husband, Harold Glen Bell (’88), is a dairy farmer. They live in Dresden, Tenn., with their three children: Katie, 13; Lacey, 10; and Brady, 1. Email: pebell@yahoo.com

Lisa Ann Blankinship (’99) is an instructor for the Department of Biology for the University of Tennessee at Martin. She completed her doctoral degree at the University of Alabama-Birmingham before accepting her position at UT Martin. Lisa lives in Martin. Email: lblankinship@utm.edu

Kelly Renae Allmon Bryant (’99) is a school health manager for LeBonheur Children’s Medical Center. She and her husband, Keith, live in Milan, Tenn. They have one child: Jacob, 10. Email: bryantrk@methodisthealth.org

Stephanie Mattox Elliott (’99) is an English teacher for LaVergne Middle School. Her husband, Eric Elliott (’99), is a project manager for Web MD. They live in Nashville, Tenn., with their two children: John, 3; and Julianne, 6 months. Email: srmattox@yahoo.com

Tiffany Denise Emerson (’99) graduated with a master’s in English from Murray State University in May 2005 and was also a graduate teaching assistant. She lives in Milan, Tenn. Email: temerson99@hotmail.com

Jessica Lynn Daughtry Coleman (’99) is a kindergarten teacher at Chapel Hill Elementary School. Her husband, Brian Daniel Coleman (’95), is a math teacher at Marshall County High School. They live in Chapel Hill, Tenn., with their daughter: Jayden, 2 months. Email: colemanj6@k12tn.net

Beth Halbert (’99) was one of six Tennessee teachers to receive an Award of Recognition for Outstanding Teaching from Humanities Tennessee for excellence in teaching the humanities. She teaches English, AP language and composition, and creative writing at Mt. Juliet High School. Halbert is also a co-director of the West Tennessee Writing Project at UT Martin. She used her fellowship to travel to a two-week literacy institute during summer 2005 at the University of New Hampshire. The school award was used to purchase humanities resources for her school and invite a guest poet and author to speak to and work with her students.

Laura J. Kostyk (’99) is a paralegal for DeHay & Elliston, L.L.P. She lives in Timonium, Md. Email: lkostyk@comcast.net

Kelly Nerren Barnes (’00) is a teacher at University School of Jackson. Her husband, David Barnes (’99), is a dentist. They live in Jackson, Tenn. Email: kellyelizabethbarnes@yahoo.com

Robin Kelly Coggin Clark (’00) is a project consultant for Vanderbilt University. Her husband, John Jay Clark (’99), is a law clerk for Hardin and Parkes PLLC. They live in Columbia, Tenn., and have one child: Jack, 1. Email: Kelly.clark@vanderbilt.edu

Anthony Scott Vincent (’00) is a graduate in May 2005 from South Texas College of Law and will receive the doctor of jurisprudence. He currently lives in Houston, Texas. Email: scott_vincent77@hotmail.com

H. Brandon Whitehead (’00) is a financial analyst and environmental regulator for the state of Tennessee. He lives in Antioch, Tenn. Email: hwhitehead@yahoo.com

Kathey McCauley Wiles (’00) is a realtor for Hickman Realty Group. Her husband, Jason Wayne Wiles (’01), is an exterminator for Terminex. They live in Humboldt, Tenn., and have one child: Elizabeth, 3. Email: kathey529@yahoo.com

Heather Delyne Campbell (’01) is a private preschool teacher for Primrose School of Hendersonville. She is currently engaged. Heather lives in Goodlettsville. Email: hsoyars@hotmail.com
Monica Jane Canaday Garton
(’01) is an Emergency 911 communications officer for Pemiscot County Sheriff’s Office. She is married to William Ray Barton (’02), who is a conservation agent for the Missouri Department of Conservation. They live in Hayti, Mo. Email: mjcanaday@hotmail.com

Chasity Halford (’01) is a law student at the University of Memphis School of Law. She currently lives in Memphis, Tenn. Email: chasityhalford@hotmail.com

Michael R. Hill (’01) is an attorney for Flippin, Collins, & Hill, PLLC. He is married to Jean Hooper Hill (’01), who is a teacher. They live in Milan, Tenn., with their two children: Hanna, 5; and Taylor, 4. Email: mrrjhb@usit.net

Dawn Ann Neal (’01) is a veterinarian for Animal House. She recently graduated from UT Knoxville with her doctorate of veterinary medicine. She lives in Clarksville, Tenn. Email: dawn4558@yahoo.com

Kelly Castleman Smith (’01) is a teacher for Hardin County Schools and a Pampered Chef consultant. She and her husband, Timothy, live in Adamsville, Tenn. Email: castlewoman38237@yahoo.com

Margaret Ruth Watson (’01) is a recreation specialist for the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department. She lives in Delray Beach, Fla. Email: watson_margaret@hotmail.com

2002

Kevin Barron (’02) is a health-care administrator for West Tennessee Healthcare. He lives in Jackson, Tenn. Email: kmebarron@earthlink.net

Jason A. Haynes (’02) is a financial aid counselor for Southern University and Texas A&M College. He lives in Baton Rouge, La. Email: ramfan38237@yahoo.com

Lynette B. Shirkley (’02) is a software analyst for FedEx. She is married to Eric K. Shirkley (’02), who is a police officer for the town of Collierville. They live in Lakeland, Tenn. Email: lynetteshirkley@hotmail.com

Heidi Lara Berg Truett (’02) is a fraud specialist for First Tennessee Bank. She is married to James Winston Truett (’03), who is a medical student at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. They live in Lakeland, Tenn. Email: hltruett@bellsouth.net

Amy Elizabeth Rowland Vinson (’02) is a technology lab instructor for the Jackson-Madison County School System. She and her husband Jeremy, live in Jackson, Tenn. They have one child: Claire, 1. Email: amyevinson@hotmail.com

2003

Kristy Michelle Leach Brewer (’03) is a substitute teacher for Shelby County Schools. She is married to Andy Brewer (’05), who is currently a student at the Memphis School of Preaching. They live in Collierville, Tenn. Email: andbrewer@hotmail.com

Matthew Bryant Crouch (’03) is a graduate assistant at Southern Illinois University Athletic Media Services. Email: mattbcrouch@hotmail.com

Ahmed Hassan El-Khatib (’03) is head of road structures unit for Dubai Municipality in the United Arab Emirates. Email: armani10_0_1@hotmail.com

Eliza Ann Steinbrink Friskillo (’03) is an art teacher for Shelby County Schools. She and her husband, John, live in Millington, Tenn. They have one child: Iwalani, 6 months. Email: jivehen@yahoo.com

2004

Jill Ann White Whittaker (’04) is a United States Navy engineer. She is currently working on her master’s in organizational leadership at Regent University and is also helping prepare sailors for life aboard a Navy vessel. She and her husband, Blake, live in Norfolk, Va. Email: jlawhit@hotmail.com

Michael Brandon Baggett (’04) is a law student at Southern Illinois University School of Law. He currently lives in Carbondale, Ill. Email: mbaggett179@hotmail.com

Kathy Shinkle Ferebee (’04) is a nurse at Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital. She is married to John David Ferebee (’04), who is a nurse at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. They live in Smyrna, Tenn. Email: ksutmrn04@yahoo.com

2005

Michele Leigh Priddy (’05) is an admissions counselor for Austin Peay State University. She lives in Clarksville, Tenn. Email: michelep Sidd@hot mail.com

Marione Ginger Schmitt (’05) is a soccer coach for West Des Moines Soccer Club. She is married to Christopher Donald Schmitt (’04), who is a medical student. They live in West Des Moines, Iowa. Email: gsoccer6@hotmail.com

Corrections

The correct email address for Paul Leenaarts (’77) is pauluspetrus@aol.com

Jim Davis (’74) reported that the correct name of his son is Carey, and Jim’s email address is jimmy.davis1@bayercropscience.com.
at the UT Junior College, where she won a bronze medal at a 1944 swimming meet. Turns out, that was a portent of things to come. In June of 2005, Mary captured a bronze medal for the 50-yard breast stroke at the National Senior Olympic Games held in Pittsburgh, Pa. She also won two sixth-place ribbons for the 100- and 200-yard breast stroke and an eighth-place ribbon for the 50-yard free-style event.

Her love for athletics started as a home economics major at UTJC, where her favorite intramural sports were basketball and swimming. After graduation and a brief career in California, she returned to the campus to become Mr. “Mac’s” (J.E. McMahan) first full-time secretary in the School of Agriculture. She later married UTJC graduate, Morris Vowell, (’46). Before Morris passed away in August 2002, she once again took up swimming for relaxation and health reasons. She won medals at the district and state levels from 1997-2005 and ribbons at national competitions in 2001, 2003 and 2005. At present, she holds seven state of Tennessee records: three in long course and four in short course.

Still, Mary finds time to prepare lunch every day for family members who continue the family legacy at Vowell and Sons Lumber Co., Inc., in Martin. The company is operated by two of their sons, David (’73) and Richard (’81), who, along with Mary and Morris’ nephew, Steve (’76), gather for home-style cooking on a regular basis. Her tradition of “the kitchen being open” has extended through the years, not only to her own children but to scores, if not hundreds, of UT Martin students.

Her children have cheered on her athletic exploits, including son Donald (UTM ’75, UTK ’78), who is an attorney in Knoxville, and daughter, Carolyn, who attended UT Martin from 1975-1977 and graduated from Western Michigan University. Morris’ sister, Patti Cate (’44), and brother-in-law, Billy (’50), also attended UTJC, and the entire family has supported the university’s athletic and academic programs for decades.

“Miss Mary” attributes much of her senior athletic success to Frank Leach, a faculty member in UT Martin’s International Programs, who has also earned six first-place ribbons in state competitions. He has coached, mentored and encouraged her since the spring of 2001. “Frank is a graduate of Indiana University and was the student-manager of the team that was coached by the legendary James ‘Doc’ Counsilman. I would not be where I am today without his help and support.” Mary’s dedication, determination and love for athletics have continued over the decades and show no signs of waning. The next national competition for the Senior Olympics will be held in 2007 in Louisville. She leaves no doubt that UT Martin will continue to be well represented.
Class Challenge Update

The following classes have had at least a 15% participation rate in the class challenge. The challenge will continue through June 30, 2006. The class with the highest participation percentage will be recognized in Campus Scene. To make a contribution, visit www.utmforever.com or call 731-881-7633.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent Participation</th>
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<tr>
<td>1947</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
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<td>1938</td>
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Just For a Change
Wouldn’t it be Nice to Get a Check From UT?

Many of us remember going to the Bursar’s Office to pay our tuition and fees at the beginning of each quarter. Standing in line just to write a check...sometimes we wondered if we could stand in the line...or make the check good!

You may not know there is actually a way to get paid by the university. By funding a charitable remainder trust, you may actually increase your income while at the same time reducing your taxes. Here’s how it works:

Assume you have stock worth $100,000, and you paid $50,000 for it years ago. The stock only pays you 1% per year. You would like to move the money to a higher-yielding investment, but do not wish to pay the capital gains taxes on the appreciation. By transferring the stock to the charitable remainder trust you receive the following benefits:

1. Your income goes up five times—perhaps even more—depending on IRS regulations.
2. You avoid $7,500 in capital gains taxes, thus keeping the entire $100,000 working for you.
3. You receive an income tax deduction depending on your age. This can be used up to 30% of your adjusted gross income (the bottom figure of the front page of your 1040) and can be carried forward for as many as five years.
4. The $100,000 is not subject to estate taxes.
5. You have the pleasure of making a gift to the University of Tennessee in your name or in the memory of a loved one.

If you have any interest in discussing such a plan at no obligation, please contact Jeanna C. Swafford at 731-881-7629 or plannedgiving@utm.edu. As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Note: The university’s trust minimum is $50,000 and $5,000 for its pooled income fund. Please consult your tax or financial adviser before making such a gift, depending on your tax and financial circumstances.
Welcome Home!

If your travel plan calls for a stopover in Martin, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations. If your time permits, we will give you a campus tour, hosted by a retired faculty member or a current Undergraduate Alumni Council member. If you only have a minute, stop by for an orange drink and blueberry muffin, and share your stories with us. In our office, you will find a copy of every yearbook, reunion information and much more. You can contact us by phone at 731-881-7610 or by email at alumni@utm.edu.

UT Martin has added a “Special Features” section to the Web site (www.utm.edu). One of the features is “Great Things Are Happening!” Click here to read information about many of the great things that are happening at UT locations all across the state.