Introducing ...

Dr. Thomas Rakes becomes UT Martin’s ninth chancellor.
As we complete the formal transition process, I have experienced a mixture of emotions during numerous celebrations and appreciation events honoring retired Chancellor Dunagan and Cathy. We are fortunate to have benefited from the leadership by example and prosperity that has accompanied several years of unparalleled accomplishments and growth. The campus community and our numerous stakeholders, including alumni plus countless corporate and political supporters and friends of UT Martin, are stronger, more successful people because of the influence of Nick and Cathy Dunagan. As we transition toward a new era, full of opportunities and ample challenges, I need to describe a summary of ongoing activities and an initial glimpse of an emerging vision for the future.

Beginning in fall 2008, undergraduate admissions standards will be higher. Admissions requirements for our largest graduate program – education – already have been increased. We are also completing a five-year faculty equity pay plan that, by some indications, has given 43% of the full-time faculty salary increases within the past three years on the basis of diversity, gender and longevity. Our next step will be to use national indicators of salary comparison for adjustments. Although levels of state assistance have increased since 2002, the overall percentage of total budget support has decreased from 57 percent to 48 percent. We are fortunate that our overall level of state assistance remains well above that of several other states, such as Arizona at 26 percent or Oregon and Washington that provide a support level in the 6 percent range. We are increasing tuition this fall by 6 percent which is well below tuition increases in several other states. This is possible, in large part, because of support from members of the Tennessee legislature and, in particular, our own West Tennessee legislators. UT Martin has received significant one-time support for initiatives at our Parsons, Ripley and Selmer centers.

We will be supporting efforts to enhance and expand program delivery for both undergraduate and graduate programs using online and hybrid systems to increase access for our students. We are reviewing our campus security to better enable us to monitor and more effectively communicate among ourselves during potential times of disaster or other dangers. A member of the information technology staff, Larry Holder, wrote the script that enables institutions throughout the nation that use the Banner Student Information System to implement a text messaging notification system without additional cost to the institution. In addition to steps to increase campus preparedness and security, we are involved in more than $70 million in capital improvements on campus. During the coming months, we will be considering a potential expansion of the Selmer Center, completing construction of our new Ripley Center this fall, relocating our Jackson Center and beginning construction on the Parsons Center. In Martin, improvements include upgrades to five major campus buildings that are in varying stages of completion. These efforts include construction of a $28 million Phase II apartment-style housing project, beginning construction of a new $16 million student recreation facility and nearly $14 million in combined new construction/renovation of other campus structures to ensure our facilities can meet present and future needs.

I encourage you to visit the Martin campus or one of our centers to see for yourself what is happening. Also, we are planning the largest selection of Homecoming events and activities, Oct. 8-14. The excitement is contagious, and I believe it may remind you of a previous time when students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered to share memories of the past. You’ll also gain a personal glimpse of a dynamic UT Martin. Private giving exceeded last year’s giving of $2.3 million with $3.2 million received from 2,590 donors.

A recently completed economic impact study, conducted by economics professor, Dr. Parker Cashdollar, documents the multimillion-dollar impact our institution has on Weakley County and the surrounding area. I expect this impact to increase substantially over the next 10 years as the number of our graduates and university partnerships grows. Additionally, faculty, staff and students are increasingly becoming involved globally through travel, international partnerships and external grant efforts. UT Martin continues to be a catalyst in efforts involving biofuels, business development, artistic talents, athletics and an assortment of creative and professional studies. We have the collective knowledge to enhance a number of initiatives. The challenge will be to focus on those opportunities that will improve the quality of life and educational opportunities for our students, faculty, staff, stakeholders and citizens throughout the region and beyond.”
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Trey Halterman is a Special Agent for the FBI. We’d tell you more, but if we did, this magazine would self-destruct in 60 seconds.

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Reavis family members continue the family’s tradition of excellent customer service in their “dry goods” store with a twist.

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On May 7, 2007, UT President Dr. John Petersen announced that Dr. Thomas A. Rakes had been named the ninth chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“This is a critical time in the continued growth and excellence of our Martin campus,” said Petersen. “Identifying and selecting the individual capable of leading UT Martin through this transition from the strong leadership and demand for excellence of Chancellor Dunagan has been a challenging but vital task.”
1. Does succeeding a successful chancellor, Dr. Nick Dunagan, make your job easier or more challenging?

There are at least two clear answers to this question. There is an old saying that one should never follow a very successful coach. There is logic behind this adage in that when things are going well, even a small move or minimal change, if not immediately successful, may be met with concern. The problem with this approach as a total philosophy is that treading water means staying afloat, but not moving forward, or proceeding in an unplanned direction.

The other response, and the one I would offer, is that having five years to experience what is happening and, when coupled with experience at two previous institutions, I have a great perspective to make the kinds of measured decisions that can maintain the many great initiatives we have, but also provide new insights in order to continue to move forward.

I appreciate the many excellent decisions and initiatives Chancellor Dunagan has brought forward, and working with him has provided an excellent basis from which we can develop additional positive actions.

2. What major points form the core of your vision for UT Martin?

There are at least eight specific areas we need to review during the next several years: 1) Increasing academic rigor, which involves higher standards, enhancing our research agenda to add support for our teacher-scholars, ensuring staffing and support services are available for expanded program offerings both on and off campus, and involving more students in research and internship experiences; 2) Moving forward with security initiatives involving better external lighting, ensuring our personnel and building-level notification systems are appropriate, upgrading digital security measures, and, possibly, increasing personnel in the area of public safety; 3) Reviewing and adjusting resources for the offices of development and alumni relations; 4) Reviewing student and academic program services and finding ways to increase leadership and internship opportunities for students, as well as prepare for changes resulting from completion of a new recreation facility and new residence halls; 5) Determining ways to support outreach and economic development partnerships; 6) Deciding what level of resource allocation is realistic to support our athletics programs over the next 5-10 years; 7) Continuing to organize and adjust our international programs and travel study to ensure a sound educational focus and operational basis; and 8) Refining our enrollment management plan to assure appropriate levels of services, facilities and scholarship support are available for our students.

3. What are the biggest challenges in carrying out that vision?

There are at least three essential ingredients: 1) Collaborative planning among those involved; 2) Resource procurement or reallocation to enable university activities to operate on a sustainable basis, and 3) Appropriate personnel management, which involves having the right people with the right skill sets involved in leadership and support positions.

4. What is UT Martin’s role as part of the University of Tennessee System?

Overall, UT institutions are similar in many ways, particularly in terms of a global educational mission and student focus. There are, of course, noticeable differences in each institution’s focus. We are a university, and, as such, we provide a different type of post-secondary experience from institutions with an open-admissions or more technical focus. UT Martin offers liberal arts and professional programs that include a personalized, faculty-involvement approach to learning. Also, we are increasing our focus on student access and success through our off-campus centers, global studies opportunities and evolving online learning offerings. Clearly,

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In Tom Rakes, we are fortunate to have an individual who is known and respected on this campus, who understands the Martin mission and can move seamlessly into the leadership role. At the same time, he has demonstrated his commitment to pursuing excellence and to continuing to raise the bar,” added Petersen.

Rakes joined UT Martin as vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of educational studies in May 2002. He was named provost in 2005.

Rakes’ wife, Dr. Glenda Rakes, is a UT Martin professor of education. The couple has two children, Karee and Patrick.

Rakes received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Milligan College, a master’s degree in reading from East Tennessee State University and a doctor of education from UT Knoxville.

Shortly after the announcement, Rakes responded to a Q&A interview submitted by the Office of University Relations. Rakes discussed his vision and priorities for UT Martin, the university’s role in regional efforts, such as economic development, and challenges in the coming years.

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the Martin campus is becoming more active in assisting and supporting economic development and leadership training needs within our region. I view our commitment to involve our stakeholder base that has expanded to include not only students and alumni, but also community residents, as well as business and political leaders. UT Martin is a true partner in the “real world” and provides growth opportunities that range from educational, research and outreach efforts in areas such as biofuels initiatives, agricultural, health care and technology to communications, industrial, service, aesthetic and recreational ventures.

5. How will you enhance that role?
My role will be to help assemble the appropriate individuals and guide the development of an agenda that is both manageable and affordable. Locating and blending human and economic resources toward a common goal are essential. I hope to be able to expand our pool of resources and help define several initiatives that will enhance the quality of life and educational opportunities for our students, faculty, staff and stakeholders.

I am well aware that my role is primarily one of service. I have no ambitions beyond the needs and best interests of our campus, community and those we seek to serve – students, employees and our stakeholders.

6. What are several components of UT Martin’s role in West Tennessee economic development?
Our biggest assets are our faculty, staff, students, alumni and community stakeholders. We also have significant infrastructure and networking resources. We have the collective knowledge, problem-solving capability and support systems to manage a number of issues and initiatives. The challenge is to focus on those endeavors with the greatest potential. Sometimes, determining the appropriate level of involvement is difficult with competing operational or political interests in the mix. I would characterize our role as “capacity building.”

7. Can you cite several ways in which serving in administrative roles at different institutions and involvement on state and community boards helped prepare you to become chancellor?
I have worked in institutional settings in large urban, moderately urban and rural settings, as well as having taught classes in six different locations in Tennessee. Also, I chaired campus, community and economic development efforts in northern Louisiana.

An important element that I believe helpful is that my 35 years of experience in higher education includes 16 years as a faculty member, promoted through the ranks, and then 19 years of broad administrative experience within the university setting. Roles as department chair, dean, vice provost, vice president, provost and interim president provide a strong background involving three different public institutions.

Also, I have a combination of experiences working with individuals, boards and a variety of corporate groups. This has helped me develop a level of understanding of the personal and operational expectations others have about change, economic development and university partnerships.

My service on state and community boards, such as the United Way, Boy Scouts of America, Endowment for the Humanities and Blue Ribbon Commission on Excellence in Education, helps me understand various leadership roles and constraints that sometimes exist interacting with a variety of agencies, organizations and business interests.

8. What is your management style?
I do my best to listen carefully to multiple sources of information, ask the right questions and then make decisions that will have the most positive impact on those involved now and in the future. Some situations have no best solutions, but rather best options. Seeking input and data involving numerous individuals usually will result in a positive outcome.

9. What has been your most memorable time/event at UT Martin prior to being named chancellor?
There are so many things. This is a tougher question than one might expect. There are occasions when we honor outstanding faculty, students and staff for their achievements, and these times are particularly enjoyable. Also, I vicariously take pride when our students, faculty and staff have an occasion to present or talk about their experiences at UT Martin. Finally, I particularly enjoy written and oral comments from alumni, parents and other stakeholders who care about us and express how a program, faculty or staff member has benefited them.

I rejoice when we are able to promote and tenure quality faculty. Finally, being on stage during commencement and seeing our graduates accept their diplomas are always a highlight.

10. How are college students different than they were 10-20 years ago?
Current students are certainly more electronically connected than 10-20 years ago. Also, there is an increased sense of urgency in their behaviors and expectations. Other differences include an increased sense of mobility and, sometimes unfortunately, data to indicate that a portion of entering first-year students do not have the academic capabilities in writing, mathematics and problem-solving that are necessary for success in university-level programs.

11. What special challenges do these differences present to administrators, faculty and staff?
We are not able to make decisions based almost entirely upon experience or data. Annually, we survey our students using multiple measures in order to learn how well we are doing compared to their expectations. Also, there is greater student and parental interest in safety and security, campus services and amenities than even five years ago. Access to

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information must be seamless, and communication avenues and technology infrastructure must be evaluated on a frequent basis.

12. You are known for having a good sense of humor. How will this help you take on the demanding role of chancellor?
I hope to continue to take the job seriously, but maintain a realistic grasp as we prioritize, manage and plan for the future. I believe that most of us learn, work and play better in an environment that is safe and supportive. A sense of humor helps nurture that type of setting. There will be occasions when humor will not be appropriate, but I believe I can recognize those occasions.

13. What other personality/character traits will serve you well in your new position?
I am a bit shy, but I enjoy being around people and visiting new places. There is an excitement about a university environment with its mixture of people, events and a changing landscape of issues and opportunities for growth and learning. I enjoy listening, and that could end up being a major asset. A final characteristic would be my ability to generally remain calm, reflect and gather information prior to offering an opinion.

14. What do you read for pleasure?
Much of my reading is what I would describe as “short interval” material. I read very little about self-improvement. Instead, I prefer biographies. I enjoy reading photography and technology-related articles. I enjoy news and political analysis, as well as business-related information. I can actually relax reviewing information, reports and news specifically involving education.

15. What are your other leisure activities?
Time with the family tops the list. Other favorite activities would include taking pictures, reading, watching old films and sometimes rambling through an antique or junk store.

16. How will you know if you have been successful as UT Martin’s leader?
We are about “capacity building,” and there are multiple indicators including both formal and informal performance judgments offered by the UT System president, trustees, members of our campus community and external stakeholders. Most importantly, our students as alumni, will offer the ultimate judgment as to the value of their UT Martin education. That is the best indicator of all.
Jerry Reese (‘87, ‘88), standing on a raised platform and sandwiched between bright spotlights and a backdrop of Giants logos, laughed when he considered just how it was that he got here.

He grew up in poverty in western Tennessee, the oldest of eight children, raised mostly by a single mother in a two-bedroom house. He was a good football player at a small college program, but never played professionally. Twelve years ago, he was an assistant coach for that university, [UT] Martin. Now, at 43, Reese is the third African-American to earn the title of NFL general manager. He was introduced Tuesday [Jan. 16] as senior vice president and general manager of the Giants. He wore a suit and a smile and spoke with a mix of determination and ease. And when he was asked if the whole thing felt real, he laughed and called it a “fairy tale.”

“If you guys knew where I’d come from – Steve Tisch would write a movie about it, to be honest,” Reese said, referring to the Giants’ co-owner, who is also a movie producer. “I just come from meager beginnings.”

In Reese’s mind, the script gets more unbelievable from here. According to his wife, Reese would someday like to be the commissioner of the NFL.

“Sign his name on the footballs, I’ll say that,” she said.

The notion that Jerry Reese could become commissioner of the NFL, might be preposterous if not for the journey he has already made. Many other African-Americans who have risen to high-level jobs in the NFL, and other major sports, were players, given the inherent advantages of connections and name recognition.

Gwen Reese has seen the far more anonymous diligence of Jerry Reese since dating him at Tennessee-Martin. She is three years younger, and was finishing college when he was an assistant coach there. “He called me over to the football office and said, ‘I have something for you,’” she said Tuesday. “I went over, and it was an engagement ring. He was like: ‘Here put this on. I’ve got to go to practice.’”

She laughed. Of the things the two share, the most obvious is a comfortable laugh. “We got married the next year,” she said. “Our honeymoon we spent recruiting college players in Biloxi, Miss. So he still owes me a honeymoon. After 18 years, I still didn’t get it yet.”

Jerry Reese expected to someday be the coach at Tennessee-Martin, where he was inducted into the college’s hall of fame for his exploits as an all-conference safety. Those plans changed when Jeremiah Davis, a former Tennessee-Martin assistant and a Giants scout since 1988, recommended Reese for a scouting job with the Giants in 1994.

Reese blanched. Davis persisted. It spun Reese’s life in a different direction. In 1999, he took his family to New Jersey, far from the relatives who still live in western Tennessee, to become an assistant in the team’s pro personnel department. In 2002, he was named director of player personnel, overseeing college scouting and the NFL draft. The Giants, particularly the exiting general manager Ernie Accorsi, saw a rising star. Tuesday, it seemed, did not mark the top of the arc.

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Jerry Reese has wholly embraced the notion of being a trailblazer among African-Americans. He said he has something in mind already, but, she said.
was grateful for those who provided openings deep into the executive offices of the NFL. He said he expected many more would follow through a gap he planned to widen.

“Only because I’m going to be successful,” Reese said. “Only because of that reason. This is a show-me business. I can’t come in here and win three games every year for four years and expect African-Americans to be advanced. I don’t take that lightly, that I’m a torchbearer. Not being cliché with that, but I am a torchbearer to keep the drive alive. There are many African-Americans coming along behind me saying, ‘Man, look at Jerry.’”

For now, there is no place Reese would rather be. He said he believed the Giants, who finished 8-8 this season and lost in the first round of the playoffs, were not far from being Super Bowl champions. He acknowledged that the Giants had “hot spots” on the roster that needed to be addressed but declined to name them.

He pledged his support to quarterback Eli Manning and Coach Tom Coughlin; each heads into his fourth season having performed below expectations.

“Obviously it’s not where we want it to be,” Reese said of Manning’s progress. “We want him to be a Pro Bowl guy that can lead us into the Super Bowl.”

The decision to retain Coughlin was made by the owners last week, before Reese was promoted. He will now decide Coughlin’s future. “We’re going to support him 100 percent,” Reese said as Coughlin stood nearby. “Tom is our coach and we want him to be here for a long time.”

The situation that Reese inherits has no obstacles tougher than the ones he has already overcome. As Reese was introduced, his wife and children beamed, representing dozens of friends and family members centered in western Tennessee.

“There’s been a lot of praying going on, trying to get me into this seat,” Reese said.

And there will be a lot of praying, from people Reese knows and many he does not, to see where he takes it from here.
Teaching for this Family is “In the Genes”

By Rita Mitchell

As Dr. Ann Gathers (’92) literally follows in the footsteps of her grandfather and parents at UT Martin, she has the perfect explanation. “As a biologist, I have to say that teaching is in our genes. It’s an honor to teach with my parents in the footsteps of my grandfather. I believe that my parents have a solid reputation here as professors, who have a strong work ethic and who care about their students and colleagues. I am trying to live up to that reputation,” she said.

Gathers, UT Martin assistant professor of biology since 2005, is the daughter of Dr. Emery Gathers, professor of computer science since 1967, and Judy Harbison Gathers, instructor of math since 1985. She is the granddaughter of James Harbison, who taught chemistry and physics from 1947-51 when it was UT Junior College.

While Harbison is quick to tell you that he accepted a teaching position at the institution because “I needed something to live on,” he adds that he is “lucky” three generations of the family have been employed at the university.

Harbison retired in 1974 from Southern Illinois University, in Carbondale, where he also received a bachelor’s degree in physics. He earned a master’s degree in physics at the University of Illinois, in Champagne-Urbana. During his career, he also taught at the elementary and high school levels.

Ann received a bachelor’s degree at UT Martin; master’s at the University of Louisville; and a doctorate at the University of Kentucky. Judy received a bachelor’s degree at SIU and master’s at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. Judy’s husband, Emery, received a bachelor’s degree at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, a master’s at Bowling Green and an educational specialist degree and doctor of education at Oklahoma State University, in Stillwater. Rounding out the family of teachers, Agnes...
Harbison, Judy’s mother, taught in public schools and Judy’s maternal aunt, Dr. Helen Duda, taught Greek and Latin at the university and public school levels.

It is probably Judy who has the best perspective of the legacy and what it means. “I lived here for five years when my dad taught physics and chemistry. I had not thought that I would ever live here again, let alone teach here, although, when I was working on my bachelor’s degree in mathematics, Dr. (Paul) Meek, (former longtime chancellor) told me to come back here when I was ready for a teaching position.” She added, “I really had not thought that either of our children would ever teach here either, but I am glad that Ann could do so.”

The Gathers’ son, Adam, is a Techtronic Industries North America, Inc., senior project engineer. He is a UT alumnus. He and his wife, Anna, live in Anderson, S.C., with their two children, Noah and Katie.

Judy also thinks of UT Martin a little differently than other professors because of her history with the institution. The family lived in barracks where the Grove Apartments are now located. She has heard her father say that the family was probably poorer then, “but it was one of their happier times.” She added, “I have so many positive childhood memories of this campus. My dad painted my first bicycle in one of the older buildings on campus. That was a wonderful Christmas present.”

“I did not forget the beauty of the campus or the friends I had here. I loved living here as a young girl, and I still enjoy it,” she said. “I like small college towns. They offer the best of everything – the beauty and culture of a university and a relaxing and family-centered environment. I believe my children still appreciate having Martin and the campus as their home.”

And, even though many years have passed, Mr. Harbison can hear back to those days, as well. In fact, he remembers being hired. When he asked where the physics lab was located, he remarked, it was handed to him “in a pasteboard box.” He also remembers that there were very few buildings on campus at the time. He recalls teaching in what is now the Sociology building and eating in the cafeteria where WLJT-TV/DT is currently housed. He had approximately 35 students in class each quarter, mostly male at that time, and was expected not only to teach summer school, but to help build concrete bleachers at the football stadium – all for the same salary. “You got paid a little bit,” he said of $3,000 annual earnings. He liked teaching, but not grading papers. And, he remembers that all of the faculty knew each other and “did things together,” including races at the football field. From what he experienced and has noted through the years—“students haven’t changed much.”

Emery agrees. “Every generation has had to deal with different environments, problems and technologies. Each generation has done a great job in adapting and handling them,” he said. “I am convinced our young people will continue to do likewise.” That leads him to note the most fulfilling part of his teaching career has been “working with students who are eager to learn.”

Pursuing that career at UT Martin has been a joy. “UT Martin is a great place to teach, do research and work with caring professionals in a great, friendly, rural-community environment,” he said. “I am one small part of an organizational team consisting of many faculty, staff and administrators who really care about providing educational opportunities for adults.” When he retires in the next five years, Emery wants to be remembered as a faculty member who was “a Christian and a good citizen.”

As a couple, teaching together at UT Martin has been an added benefit, Emery said. “Judy and I understand each others’ job responsibilities. We are complements of each other, which makes us function better as a team in everything we do in our personal and professional lives.”

Judy also enjoys her time in the classroom and working with students. “I hope I have been some help to them in their lives.” The big difference she notes in students today is the balance they have to strike in their lives with many working full time, taking a full course load, being married and raising a family.

She wants to be remembered as a “teacher who did her best to explain the subject matter and make it relevant, while assessing student performance fairly.” She added, “One time a number of years ago, a boy saw his grade posted on the door and gave me a big hug. He said he had never made such a good grade in math.” This and other positive student reactions “make it all worthwhile.”

Ann was drawn back to UT Martin because the “job was a perfect fit for me in terms of courses, class schedules and opportunities.” And, it is her alma mater. “I loved it then, and I love it now. I literally grew up on campus. Being at home and among family in the workplace is a rare opportunity.”

In terms of the family legacy, Ann is in the fledgling stage of her career. But she maintains the same aspirations as those who have gone before her. “I hope people find me to be enthusiastic about teaching and learning and concerned about the lives and the successes of my students and co-workers.”

“I loved it then, and I love it now. I literally grew up on campus. Being at home and among family in the workplace is a rare opportunity.”

Editor’s note: Following the completion of this article and the time Campus Scene went to press, James Harbison passed away. In tribute to his memory, we run the story with the family’s permission.
A ppreciation for the arts and cutting-edge surgery skills seem worlds apart. But, Dr. David LaVelle (UTM '75, UTHSC '79) easily connects the dots. Once a cast member on UT Martin’s Vanguard Theatre stage, this talented orthopaedic surgeon is equally as comfortable discussing plays as he is describing an innovative surgical hip procedure that he now performs at Campbell Clinic in Memphis. Besides bringing joint-pain relief to his patients, LaVelle is teaching the next generation of surgeons at one of the world’s foremost orthopaedic clinics.

LaVelle, whose father is Dr. Herman LaVelle (UTHSC ’51), a retired Memphis ear, nose and throat physician, was destined for a medical career. He entered UT Martin focused on academics, but at the urging of others, he soon pursued new interests that continue to impact his life. At least two professors, William Snyder and Ted James, became unlikely mentors as LaVelle explored college life beyond the classroom.

Snyder, longtime Vanguard Theatre director, encouraged LaVelle’s participation in plays and creative writing. Although he never held a major role in a play, the experience changed his life. “I was a science-oriented guy, but he (Snyder) helped encourage me to look at the world through the eyes of a writer or an actor or an artist, and it was just awesome,” LaVelle said.

The late Dr. Ted James of the biological sciences faculty made his own impression on LaVelle. “He (James) also looked at the students and was interested in developing more than just the one-dimensional side of their lives,” LaVelle added. “He was interested in pre-med students getting a taste of the arts, and he encouraged me to become involved in Vanguard and to get involved with the English program and so forth. I actually had as many English hours as I did biology hours when I graduated.”

This broad educational experience has paid dividends for LaVelle in unexpected ways. “It’s enriched my life greatly, because I still appreciate reading literature and a good book, but it also helped my ability to communicate,” he said.

LaVelle became interested in orthopaedics while attending UT-Memphis (now the UT Health Science Center). As he worked in emergency rooms, he noticed that orthopaedic surgeons “universally seemed to enjoy what they were doing.” He saw people arrive in great pain and gain immediate relief after treatment. Also, orthopaedic tools resembled the hand and power tools that he learned to use in his dad’s woodworking shop, so his affinity for “fixing things” fit perfectly with the specialty.

LaVelle graduated from medical school in 1979 and entered a residency at Campbell Clinic, which serves as the UT College of Medicine Department of Orthopaedics. Specializing in adult reconstructive and trauma surgery, he was asked to join the clinic staff in

From the Stage to the Operating Room

By Bud Grimes
The result is a metal-on-metal bearing surface that
simplifies any future surgery. LaVelle said that the new
procedure also offers advantages for mobility compared
to traditional hip replacement. The new surface is more
durable, and the larger ball used with the Birmingham
hip offers a wider range of motion and is less likely to
pop out of socket, the major complication of traditional
surgery.

Permanent restrictions exist with standard hip replace-
ment, he added. For example, patients can no longer
squat; also, the leg cannot be turned inward after
surgery, a motion that can cause the ball to pop out of
the socket. But, with the new implant, there are few
restrictions because of the ball’s size. The procedure is
so promising that professional cyclist, Floyd Landis, had
the procedure performed last October at another clinic.

As with most any medical procedure, LaVelle
noted some cautions for potential patients
to consider. For example, the best can-
didates are persons less than 60 years
old, who have hard bone and are
highly active. And, he advises that
tear occurs no matter what mate-
rial is used in the replacement
joint. “When a metal-on-metal
bearing surface wears, it releases
metal ions,” LaVelle said, adding
that metal ions released into the
bloodstream, especially chrome
and cobalt, elevate over time.
“We don’t think that that causes
any problems, but for that reason,
we don’t recommend this surgery in
women of childbearing years, and we
don’t recommend this surgery in people
who have ... kidney disease.”

Then there’s the question of cost. Several large
insurance companies have not approved the surgery
although the Federal Drug Administration has. The
reason, in his opinion, is the expense: the new implant
costs up to three times more than the traditional
implant.

This issue aside, LaVelle remains enthusiastic about the
new procedure and his work in general. He says that
experience has made him a better surgeon, which he
shares with others through teaching. His workload in-
cludes six to eight “big cases” per week, and he always
teaches as he operates.

“My operating room is what the Europeans would call
a teaching theatre,” he said. “I’ve traded a Vanguard
Theatre for a teaching theatre in an operating room.”

David LaVelle’s acting days might have ended, but his
outstanding performance in the operating room contin-
ues. For this, expect rave reviews from future patients
and the next generation of orthopaedic surgeons. 

“Experience has made him a better surgeon, which
he shares with others through teaching.”
He may not be able to tell you if the X-Files really exist, if there are aliens in Area 51 or who shot JFK, but Trey Halterman ('96) thinks he has been successful during his two and a half years as an FBI special agent. “I have arrested drug dealers, protected the U.S. from people who want to cause harm to the country, assisted Hurricane Katrina victims and managed major cases that will lead to arrests and prosecutions,” he said.

Halterman, a UT Martin alumnus, first thought about becoming an FBI agent when he was in college. “I was told the FBI liked to hire accountants and lawyers,” he said. But it wasn’t until he completed stints as a public and corporate accountant that he seriously pursued the idea.

He’s now an FBI special agent in the Washington Field Office and conducts national security investigations. Currently, he is the case agent for two major investigations that require coordination with six other governmental agencies.

“On any given day, I am in direct contact with representatives from these agencies. I have a couple of other investigations going, as well, but my main focus is the two major cases.” He added, “Lately, I am almost in daily contact with the Department of Justice attorney. We are reviewing evidence that has been collected to determine whether federal charges can be brought against the subjects of my investigations. The ultimate goal is an arrest and prosecution. We are getting closer and closer every day.”

The Washington Field Office is the second largest, behind New York, with approximately 750 of the 12,000 total special agents.

Halterman, a Maryville, Tenn., native, graduated in 1996 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a major in accounting. While at UT Martin, he was a founding father and original member of the Tennessee Kappa Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He has a master’s degree with a concentration in finance from UT Chattanooga. He is a certified public accountant, who tried public and corporate accounting to gain experience, and then, in late 2002, “I remembered that I once had the ambition to become an FBI agent. I went online and applied.”

A few months later, he was called to a local FBI office for the first testing phase, a written exam. “Somehow, I passed and moved on to the next phase,” he said. “Things got stalled for awhile, but picked back up in May 2004. He completed the second phase—another written exam and a panel interview—in August 2004. “After that, I was subjected to a background check, a medical examination, polygraph examination and a physical-fitness test. The fitness test scores your level of fitness with situps, pushups, 300-meter sprint and a timed 1.5-mile run. All events are done back to back. Each event has a minimum acceptable score, and if you fail any of the four events, you are done.”

Next, he was given a date to report to the Marine Corps Base at Quantico. He reported to the FBI Academy in September 2004 and remained there for 17 weeks. “Throughout my time at the academy, I was put through numerous grueling tests of physical and mental fitness.” Halterman had many sessions of legal, firearms and defensive tactics training.
“I had my head bashed in (boxing), was wrapped up like a pretzel (groundfighting), was pepper sprayed and was shot, at close range, with semunition (soap pellets),” he said. “None of this was very fun.

“On a typical day, of which very few are, I get to the office at 6:15 a.m., and I usually don’t return home until 6 p.m. Most of the time, I only have enough time to eat lunch at my desk so I can continue working. The longest span I have worked without stopping is about 34 hours.”

Halterman said two or three days a week he leaves his desk long enough for a run – to the mall area and then to the Lincoln Memorial and back – about a 4.5-5-mile trek. He also lifts weights a couple of days a week and saves long runs for the weekends.

“Physical fitness is an absolute must in my job,” he said. “We are expected to stay physically fit.”

Most of his current work takes place in D.C., but there are some chances to work elsewhere. “My most memorable trip was in 2005, when I volunteered to travel to Louisiana in support of Hurricane Katrina relief,” he said. “My first foreign adventure is planned in the near future.”

When most people think of FBI agents, they imagine men in black with dark sunglasses and guns in shoulder holsters. Halterman confirms that special agents in the FBI Washington Field Office are expected to wear business attire to work every day. “We have a lot of interaction with the public, so we are expected to dress and act professionally,” he said.

“I almost always wear a suit to work, but not all of my suits are black. The bureau has changed since the Hoover days when all special agents were expected to wear a black suit and white shirt. I do wear dark Oakley sunglasses, though, and I always carry a gun (.40 caliber Glock). You never know when you are going to need it.”

Just like other businesses, the FBI has its own vernacular – a jargon that’s used by the professionals. “Bucar” or “Buride” is an FBI vehicle issued to a special agent. “EC” is electronic communication – the report that an agent usually writes when something needs to be documented. “OPR” is Office of Professional Responsibility. Halterman describes this term as “the three letters you never want to hear mentioned after someone says your name. This usually means you have done something wrong when you are told that you are being ‘OPR’ed’.”

Occasionally, Halterman is in the company of famous people, but he can’t name many names. “Last New Year’s Eve, I was in Times Square in New York City. I helped my wife’s brother (he is a New York Police Department officer) escort (singer) Toni Braxton to the stage, where she performed. She is a very pretty and tiny.” Also, he met President Bush while training at the academy. He was there a month before re-election to go for a bike ride.

While Halterman can speak in general terms about his work, “When total strangers ask me what I do, I usually just make something up. I am cordial with them, but sometimes I don’t feel like having ‘that’ conversation with people. They will ask a million questions and won’t leave me alone. Sometimes people don’t believe me when I tell them what I do. When they do finally believe me, most of them tell me that I am the first one they have ever met.” Then come the questions about the X-Files, Area 51 and JFK, he added.

“It is hard to socialize and find things to talk about when I am doing things with people outside of the bureau. There is so much about my job that I can’t talk about,” he said.

Most of his work assignments he cannot discuss with anyone except those who have a “need to know.” “There are a lot of things I can’t even talk about with my wife, Sandy, and she is also a special agent in the New York office. The job is very stressful, and I have been put in dangerous situations. But I love my job, so it is all worth it,” he said. “I always make sure I let my wife and other family members know when I am doing something dangerous, and they are my first phone call once I am out of the dangerous situation.” That includes his mother, Judy Halterman, and stepfather, Bob Gilbert, (UT alumnus and longtime journalist) of Maryville, and father, S.E. Halterman Jr., of Spring, Texas.

“I intend to be a special agent for at least 20 years,” he said. “I will be eligible for retirement at age 50, and the mandatory retirement age is 57. I’m not sure if I will stay until I am 57, though. I’m also not sure what I want to do after my bureau career is over. I am still having fun with what I am doing, so I can’t imagine another career right now.”

UTM
Read through information on the E.T. Reavis and Son Web site, and you'll notice that the fourth generation owners of the "dry goods" store have a firm grasp on the past and the future.

Tom Reavis ('81) and his sisters, Carol Moore ('76) and Martha Killebrew ('74), all UT Martin alums, have taken what was best about the 117-year-old, court square store in Dresden, Tenn., and successfully meshed it with today's business practices.

What was best about the past—exceptional service, quality merchandise and a genuine interest in customer satisfaction—is offered online via a Web site, www.etreavis.com. Today's Reavis customers can not only browse selections, but order and pay for the merchandise with the most current e-commerce software.

What may be a little out of the ordinary in today's business world is the small-town hospitality and folksy tone the trio has maintained in their operation. Where else can you find clothing sizing information indicating that when buying coveralls, for instance, you select a size or two larger than normal, "depending on the size of your stomach"?

And, where else could you find privacy policy information and feel like it's your mother cautioning you not to send your credit card number by e-mail when ordering online! Instead, using the store's 800 number is suggested. They also accept personal checks.

Finally, how many businesses offer, "If you are ever in the Northwest Tennessee area, please stop in and say 'hello'"?

"We were like all small-town department stores in that we were losing lots of business to the malls and even catalog and online sales," Tom said. "Was it destined to close completely? Probably so."

All three agree that would have been a sad ending to such a strong family legacy. "We grew up in this business," said Martha. "We have this tradition."

That tradition began in 1895, when their great-grandfather, E.T. "Pap" Reavis, founded the business as Reavis and Mayo. Every generation since "Pap" has been involved in the business. Their grandfather, Loyd L. Reavis Sr., their father, Loyd L. Reavis Jr., and mother, Dorothy Reavis, were part of the daily store operations. They set the tone for how business would be conducted and customers would be treated.

Tom joined the store not long after he graduated from UT Martin in 1981. Martha, the eldest, graduated in 1974 and Carol, in 1976. They both teach at Dresden Middle School. Running the store is a full-time job for Tom. Carol and Martha go to the store for a couple of hours each day after school to do their part.

By Rita Mitchell
Having spent a career at the store, Tom realized, “There was just not enough local business to support a store like this any more. You almost have to have a niche to survive.”

The E.T. Reavis niche was born Christmas of 1998 when Tom and his wife were searching for specific baseball cards as a gift for their son. After searching online, they located a source to buy the cards. Incredibly, the store was located on Lindell Street in Martin, Tenn.

“That changed everything,” Tom said.

At first, they looked at online sales as a sideline. Soon, the E.T. Reavis niche of providing hard-to-find sizes and specialty items became apparent. “That’s what we try to service,” Carol said. “What we carry are the things mom and pop stores had,” Martha added.

The trio had no idea how to begin an online operation. Initially, they offered merchandise they carried in their store. Then, they became more sophisticated in their online approach and savvy at anticipating trends. “It’s a fluid environment with constant change,” Carol said.

“Since I was so used to doing business the traditional way, I was surprised at how easy it was to process and ship orders,” said Tom. E.T. Reavis ships to all 50 states, but does the bulk of business in the Midsouth, Midwest and Northeast.

If their great-grandfather could see his business today, he would hardly recognize the process or the lingo. What he would recognize is the same high-quality merchandise and attentive customer service offered with the same Southern hospitality. That hasn’t changed.

Many people take advantage of ordering online, they said. Others check out the merchandise online, but still want to talk to someone and will call and place an order. “We get a lot of calls from older people or their children,” said Carol. They are looking for very specific items and are having a hard time finding them. “They can’t believe you’ll stop and help them. And helping them could mean finding a piece of clothing in a box on the showroom floor and then using a tape measure to get the exact width of the garment to make sure it fits.

One of those hard-to-find items is called a “snuggie.” It’s long-legged underwear for women. Another item is snapfront boxer shorts. Men who have been accustomed to wearing them have found the item increasingly difficult to find. After ordering some, one customer told Tom, “Uncle Joe is going to be so happy.”

Still another example is short-sleeved, short-legged men’s pajamas. Short-sleeved coveralls are popular items, as well. Overalls in all sizes are a staple to their customers. “We carry jeans up through size 80 waist.”

E.T. Reavis also has tapped into adaptive clothing for persons with disabilities. “People are really tickled we have that,” Carol said, of full elastic and snap clothing for persons who have had a stroke or are physically handicapped and have difficulty getting dressed. “People who call us are desperate for those items,” Martha added.

In addition to paying close attention to changes in general online business trends, Carol, Martha and Tom also note when large chain stores discontinue certain clothing items.

And, Tom prefers having the items in stock. “I like to touch it and check the quality before it goes out.”

Shipping is another detail that gets attention. “We pride ourselves in getting out an order the same day it comes in,” said Carol. “People appreciate that.”

Just as in traditional business, they have to track sales, inventory and restock. “My online catalog software is pretty amazing,” said Tom. “I ‘load’ my inventory on the Web site . . . and I write orders for fill-in inventory directly off my inventory list there. We still do it the old-fashioned way sometimes — just go ‘eyeball it’ in the store and call in what we think we need.”

One of the most unusual quick turnaround orders involved union suits — another name for one-piece men’s long underwear. History Channel personnel called frantic to find one and have it the next day for a documentary that was being shot. “The suit cost $20 — but it took $30 more to get it there overnight,” said Tom. The store also gets a lot of online and phone queries about costume items for plays, musicals and dance recitals, and a professional basketball team once wanted coveralls for the entire cheerleading squad for a halftime show.

Sometimes, customers send them photos of themselves wearing the item they’ve purchased. And, occasionally customers accept the online invitation and stop in the store enroute somewhere. “One fellow was from New York City. He stopped by on his way to Texas to pick up his boxer shorts. We got our picture made together,” Tom said. “I kidded him about driving all that way to save on the shipping cost.”

“We grew up knowing we always helped the customer,” said Martha. “That was one of daddy’s things.” Tom added, “That’s the way it was back then.” Then, speaking like a man who knows marketing, he added, “Individualized and attentive customer service is a nostalgic thing of our youth. It’s a feel-good thing. We treat all our online and phone customers just like they walked in the door. It’s just a different door.”

“The difference is that a front-door customer probably buys a popular size while an online customer is looking for something hard to find.”
Family Campaign Update

Usually, when I’m asked to contribute to this great publication, I have to think long and hard which generous gift or exciting program I should showcase. However, this time was easy.

As you read in the last issue of Campus Scene, UT Martin kicked off the Family Campaign in spring, 2007, as a part of the upcoming UT Capital Campaign. All faculty and staff were provided the opportunity to give back to UT Martin. In addition, many retirees were asked to participate under the leadership of Bettye Giles.

We are proud to announce the Family Campaign was a resounding success. This is due greatly to the leadership of Bettye, Dr. Jerald Ogg, Charley Deal and the area captains from all academic, administrative and athletic departments. Ultimately, the campaign’s success is due to the overwhelming number of faculty, staff and retirees who showed their support in a very tangible way. I feel fortunate to have been involved in this effort and to have had the opportunity to work with these great folks!

The Family Campaign Celebration was held May 2, 2007. Dr. Joe Johnson, UT president emeritus and UT Family Campaign chair, and Dr. Nick Dunagan, retired chancellor, announced gifts and pledges totaling $1,083,090.20. More importantly, 53 percent of the UT Martin family contributed to this effort.

Our Family Campaign theme, “The UTMost Loyalty,” came from a framed needlepoint picture in retired Chancellor Nick Dunagan’s office that was handcrafted and given to him by Dr. Kay Durden, professor emeritus, years ago. The UT Martin family certainly lived up to that expectation.

This effort will not only show alumni and friends that our faculty and staff are willing to give monetarily to our upcoming campaign, but that we believe in this university and its important programs. Thank you.
If you are age 70 ½ or older, new legislation allows you to make cash gifts totaling up to $100,000 a year from your traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charities without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. This is good news for people who want to make a charitable gift during their lifetime from their retirement assets, but have been discouraged from doing so because of the income tax penalty. The provision is effective for tax years 2006 and 2007 only, so you must act by Dec. 31 to take full advantage.

On Aug. 17, 2006, President Bush signed H.R. 4, the Pension Protection Act of 2006, into law. This bill contains a two-year IRA Charitable Rollover provision that allows people age 70 ½ or older to exclude up to $100,000 from their gross income in tax years 2006 and 2007 for cash gifts made directly to a qualified charity.

The new provision permits distributions from traditional IRAs or Roth IRAs to qualified public charities and private operating foundations as described in IRC 170 (b)(1)(A). Whereas such distributions were previously income taxable, they are now excludable from gross income, eliminating the income tax penalty for such charitable gifts. The following limitations and restrictions apply:

- The individual for whose benefit the plan is maintained must be age 70 ½ or older at the time of the gift.
- Qualified charitable distributions may not exceed $100,000 in the aggregate in any taxable year.
- The provision applies to tax years 2006 and 2007 only. Qualified distributions must be made by Dec. 31 of each year.
- Qualified distributions must be made directly to the charity by the plan trustee. Contact your plan trustee for information on how to initiate a transfer.
- Qualified charitable distributions may be excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. However, no federal income tax deduction is available. Certain states may not exclude gift amounts withdrawn from an IRA for state income tax purposes.
- Only outright gifts are eligible. Distributions to charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, pooled income funds and other split-interest arrangements do not qualify for special tax treatment.
- Qualified contributions may be counted toward the Minimum Required Distribution (MRD) for a donor’s IRA accounts.
- Qualified contributions are not subject to the deductibility ceiling (50% of AGI) or the 2% rule that requires that itemized deductions be reduced by 2% of AGI in excess of $150,500 for tax year 2006.
- Gifts from retirement accounts other than IRAs—such as 401k, 403b and SEP accounts—are not eligible. Donors may be able to make qualified transfers of money from other accounts to their IRA, and then make a charitable gift from their IRA. Check with your tax adviser.
- Distributions to Supporting Organizations as described in IRC 503(a)(3) and Donor Advised Funds as described in IRC 4966(d)(2) are specifically excluded.
- Donors who do not itemize their federal income tax returns may make qualified IRA gifts and exclude such gifts from their reportable income.

Who is most likely to benefit?

- Individuals who take mandatory minimum withdrawals, but don’t need additional income.
- Individuals who wish to give more than the deductibility ceiling (50% of AGI).
- Individuals who are subject to the 2% rule that reduces their itemized deductions.
- Individuals whose major assets reside in their IRAs and who wish to make a charitable gift during their lifetime.
- Individuals who intend to leave the balance of their IRA to charity at death anyway.

Please note: This summary is an educational service and is not intended as legal or tax advice. Consult your own legal or tax adviser before making any decision based on this information.

Anne Meek and her husband, Gil Kraine, hosted a reception for area alumni at their home in Norfolk, Va. “The reception was like ‘old home week,’ as people arrived and filled the house with happy chatter,” she said. “When I delivered the commencement address May 12, 2007, the graduates numbered more than total enrollment back in the ’50s when I was a student and my dad was chancellor. That makes me so proud of our extended family.” Meek serves as chair of the UT Martin Development Committee.

Meek is the daughter of Paul and Martha Meek; Paul Meek was the UT Martin chancellor from 1934-1967. Anne Meek recently established the Martha Meek Literature Endowment in memory of her mother.
Seven Set For Induction Into Athletics Hall Of Fame

Five former UT Martin athletes, a former football coach and a pioneer in women’s basketball officiating will be inducted into the university’s Athletics Hall of Fame this fall. The inductees include: Jody Fuller (baseball); Michael Hart (men’s basketball); Chris Pierce (men’s golf); the late Jimmy Willing (men’s tennis); Dana Witten (football); George MacIntyre (former head football coach); and Dennis Suiter (women’s basketball official and administrator).

The 2007 Hall of Fame induction is scheduled for Oct. 13, in conjunction with the annual Letter Winners Breakfast and Homecoming activities. For more information, contact Robin Munkel at (731) 881-7664 or Carmen Washburn at (731) 881-7660.

Fuller, a right-handed pitcher, played baseball from 1994-98 for head coach Vernon Prather. He holds the UT Martin career record for most strikeouts (267). Fuller, from Huntingdon, was drafted in 1998 in the 42nd round by the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Hart played basketball from 1994-95. He was named the Ohio Valley Conference Newcomer of the Year for his efforts during the 1994 season. He averaged 18.6 points and 7.6 rebounds per game. In his senior year, he averaged 22.8 points and 9.2 rebounds per game. He holds four career records.

Pierce played golf from 1986-90 for head coach Grover Page. He was a six-time all-tournament team selection, and he helped the UT Martin golfers advance to the NCAA Division II championship tournament three times. He was the 1989 Gulf South Conference Championship medalist.

Willing played tennis for head coach Dennis Bussard from 1982-85. He is UT Martin’s all-time career singles winner with a 92-32 record. He also had an impressive doubles mark at 78-28. Willing won Gulf South Conference singles titles all four years. He also won three doubles titles and helped the team advance to the NCAA Division II national championship.

Witten played football from 1969-72 for head coach Bob Carroll. He earned All-Gulf South honors and All-District NAIA first team recognition in 1971. He held 15 pass receiving records for at least 15 years in a run-oriented offensive system. He signed a free-agent contract with the NFL’s Pittsburgh Steelers in 1973.

MacIntyre served as the head football coach from 1975-77. He sports a .560 winning percentage, and he was the first head coach since Bob Carroll to record back-to-back winning seasons. MacIntyre’s 1976 team posted an 8-3 win-loss record as did his 1977 team.

Suiter, who now serves as the director of Martin Parks and Recreation Department, taught health and human performance classes at UT Martin. He was the first head official for the UT Martin women’s basketball program, and, in 1974, he became the first National Association for Girls and Women’s Sports (NAGWS) state-rated official. Suiter was the first Tennessee official to call a national tournament (1978) and was the first official basketball coordinator for the Tennessee College Women’s Sports Federation (TCWSF) for both small and large colleges.

Members of the 2006 UT Martin football team received their Ohio Valley Conference Championship rings April 28 in Skyhawk Fieldhouse. Head coach Jason Simpson also presented the team achievement awards. The Skyhawks posted a 9-3 record and advanced to the Football Championship Subdivision first round. The team finished the season ranked 13th in the nation by The Sports Network and by CSN Coaches. Twelve players earned All-OVC honors, while Simpson was named the league’s Coach of the Year. Running back Don Chapman was named the OVC’s Co-Offensive Player of the Year, while offensive lineman Alex Atkins and return specialist Jessie Burton claimed postseason All-American honors. All certificates and plaques for the banquet were sponsored by Alexander Thompson Arnold of Union City. The City of Martin sponsored the banquet.

Annual Faculty Honors

Four UT Martin faculty members were honored with awards for outstanding achievements in scholarship, citizenship, teaching and advising during the recent Honors Day program.

Dr. Norman S. Lillegard, professor of philosophy, received the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award. The Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award of $5,000 was established in 1993 by James R. Cunningham, who attended UT Junior College in the 1930s. It is awarded annually to faculty members who have demonstrated strength in teaching and made a contribution to the teaching profession through scholarly activities, extracurricular achievements and leadership responsibilities.

Richard C. Robinson, instructor of communications, received the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association (UTNAA) Outstanding Teacher Award. The UTNAA presents annual awards of $2,000 to selected faculty members on each of the UT campuses. Students, alumni and faculty nominate teachers, who are evaluated on classroom performance, scholarship and service.

NCAA Certifies UT Martin

The NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification announced its decision, June 29, to certify UT Martin, a Division I member institution.

UT Martin recently completed the association’s second cycle of athletics certification. A designation of “certified” means that an institution operates its athletics program in substantial conformity with operating principles adopted by the Division I membership.

“NCAA Certification represents an affirmation of the integrity of our intercollegiate athletics program,” said Dr. Nell Gullett, the university’s faculty athletics representative. “The UT Martin athletics staff, coaches and student-athletes are to be congratulated on this significant recognition.”
Dr. Fred P. Spano, assistant professor of music, received the Outstanding Adviser Award. The Outstanding Adviser Award of $1,000 and a plaque are presented to the faculty member selected for demonstrating a caring attitude toward advisees, the ability to engage in developmental advising and other distinctive characteristics.

Dr. Daniel L. Tracy, assistant professor of management, received the Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award. The Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award of $5,000 was established in 1998 by Mai and Charlie Coffey and is awarded annually to a faculty member who demonstrates strength in teaching and contributes to the teaching profession through extracurricular achievements, leadership qualities and scholarly activities.

Above: A groundbreaking ceremony April 25 marked the official start of construction on Phase II of the apartment-style housing at UT Martin, located on the former site of McCord Residence Hall. The new complex is scheduled to open fall 2008. The complex was designed by TLM Associates, Inc., of Jackson, and Lyle, Cook, Martin, of Clarksville, in a joint venture. Total project cost is $28 million. Helping to "break ground" are, from left, Mark White, vice president of A & K Construction, Inc., Paducah, Ky.; Lane Lyle, president of Lyle, Cook, Martin, of Clarksville; Frank Wagster, vice president of TLM Associates, Inc., of Jackson; Tim Nipp, UT Martin director of physical plant; James Orr, Student Government Association president; Dr. Nick Dunagan, retired UT Martin chancellor; Dr. John Petersen, University of Tennessee president; Randy Brundige, Martin mayor; Earl Wright, UT Martin director of student housing; Dr. John Schommer, UT Martin Faculty Senate president; and Howard Carman, engineer with UT Facilities Administration.
Having a deadline looming over your head will often ruin a weekend. However, I wanted to wait to the very last second to write this article so I could describe some of the feelings on our campus. Being the alumni director, I have the opportunity to speak to student groups, alumni groups and community groups about what is taking place on campus. You have read articles on Nick and Cathy Dunagan’s impact on our university. You can read in this Campus Scene about the vision new UT Martin chancellor, Dr. Tom Rakes, has for the campus. But what does all this mean to you, our alumni?

Anytime a campus has a change in leadership, people begin to worry about the future. Folks, I am here to tell you the future for the University of Tennessee at Martin has never been brighter! With unprecedented growth, scholarly activities, conference championships, renovations to current facilities and a new apartment-style residence, no wonder these are exciting times for UT Martin.

Office of Alumni Relations is proud of what we have been able to do to foster the relationships among student, faculty, staff and administrators. In May, during the Grand Finale Celebration, we started a tradition of lighting a “Candle of Service” for our graduates. One of the comments after the ceremony was, “It is really happening, I am going to graduate.” The ceremony was short, but the words from the event hold true for all of us:

“Our university is deeply enriched by campus traditions. They unite the university community as we share both our heritage and our hopes for the future. One such tradition is the acknowledgment of seniors as they conclude their studies. Today, the candle of service will be passed to the members of the graduating class. The candle of service is symbolic of the experience one has gained while at UT Martin, and also serves as a symbol of the spirit of this university.

“It encourages graduates to continue to display the Skyhawk Spirit after they have received their degrees and to contribute to their university and their community. Beginning fall 2007, first-year students at UT Martin will symbolically receive the candle of preparation at a special ceremony.”

As we continue to build new traditions on our campus, we reflect on the past with great passion and embrace the future with open minds. Alumni of UT Martin, let people know you are proud of UT Martin. Order a shirt, buy a license plate, recruit a student, host a reception, donate to your university, speak to legislators about the value of higher education and be a catalyst for change in your community.

I hope to see you back on campus in October for Homecoming 2007. We welcome back several special groups this year and will be honoring three outstanding individuals at our awards dinner. Come back home!
Office of Alumni Relations
Mission Statement

The mission of the Office of Alumni Relations is to serve as the primary vehicle for those who have attended UT Martin and desire to maintain an affiliation with the university. Participation in on-campus advisory boards, the UT National Alumni Association, chapter activities, annual giving programs and in various off-campus events that promote UT Martin are all opportunities for alumni involvement.

Alumni Council Members 2007-08

Mr. Tim Taylor, President
Mrs. Jean Phebus, President-Elect
Dr. Michael Bobo, Past President

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Mr. Will Lewis
Mr. Matt Fennel

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Mr. Joseph Brasher
Mr. Alan Chase
Mr. LeMoyne Robinson
Mrs. Pam Mayberry Loos

Nomination form for
UTNAA Outstanding Teacher Award

Richard Robinson was this year’s recipient.
(Please see page 20.)

Each year, the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association recognizes the outstanding achievements of teachers on each of the four main UT campuses. Nominations are sought for the 2007-08 Outstanding Teacher Awards.

Name of teacher: ____________________________________________
Department: ______________________________________________________
Why this individual should be considered: ____________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Please return to
Office of Alumni Relations
314 Admin. Building
Martin, TN 38238

Career Services
Attention Alumni: Have your life’s plans changed? Do you find yourself looking for a new career path? UT Martin alumni are welcome to use the Office of Employment Information Services. Need help with resumes? Need to brush up on your interview skills? Visit with the staff and get valuable information pertaining to your career choices, whether you are just graduating or you are planning to retire and begin a different career. Employment Information Services is located in Room 215, Boling University Center.

The Grand Finale

The semi-annual Grand Finale Celebration and Senior Walk took place on the UT Martin campus, and more than 500 spring and summer graduates participated in the event (above and right). A special candlelight ceremony highlighted the celebration (left).
1940

Claude Williams, (’40), lives in Cookeville and is a retired physician. He and his wife, Patricia, have three children: Claudia, 54; Craig, 52; and Kenneth, 49. Email: berlin44@charter.net

Herbert Grodemange Jr., (’50), lives in Albany, Ga., and is a retired engineering manager. In 1997, he received the Volunteer of the Year Award. He serves on the board of directors for YMCA and Girls, Inc. He has two children: Ronald, 49; and Robert, 47. Email: grodemange@bellsouth.net.

John D. Norton Sr., (’50), lives with his wife, Virginia, in Germantown. He retired from the Postal Service Regional Office as a budget manager. He and his wife have three children: Terry, 52; John, 50; and Dennis, 47. Email: norton25@bellsouth.net.

Connie Pat Freeman Mauney, (’50), lives in Harare, Zimbabwe. She and her husband have two children: Mark L. Mauney, 48; and Karen M. Mauney, 45. Email: mauneyco@comcast.net.

1955

Harry Long, (’55), is a retired dentist and lives in Rockmart, Ga., with his wife, Frances. They have three children: Randy, 45; Stephen, 43; and Marcos, 34. Email: hlong@bellsouth.net.

William “Bill” Clark, (’59), is a retired federal law enforcement agent and lives with his wife, Louise, in Stilwell, Kan. He was a member of the founding group of UT Martin’s Vanguard Theatre and was in Who’s Who in Law Enforcement in 1980. He and his wife have three children: Pamela, 49; Timothy, 48; and Traci, 44. Email: wcClark7@kc.rr.com

1966

Ida Newman, (’66), is a retired teacher and lives with her husband, Saber, in Lexington. She enjoys sewing and Cardinals baseball.

Bill Springer, (’66), is a teacher at Central High School in Cape Girardeau, Mo. He was Chamber Teacher of the Year in 2000 and VFW Teacher of the Year in 2006. He has a daughter, Susan Springer Ayers, 31. Email: springer@cape.k12.mo.us

1967

Carl G. “Butch” Newby, (’67), is a security director and lives with his wife, Judy Hansford Newby, (’70), in Knoxville. Judy is employed by the Apartment Association for the Greater Knoxville area. Email: cgnewby@charter.net; judy@agak.org.

1969

Jerry L. Morgan, (’69), is a defense contractor at Northrop Grumman. He and his wife, Donna Richards Morgan, (’69), live in Leavenworth, Kan. Donna works as a home decorator. They have three children: Nathan, deceased; Chris, 35; and Greg, 32. Email: jerry.morgan@us.army.mil; jndm3@earthlink.net

Jack N. O’Hearn Jr., (’69), is a business development and marketing research consultant. He has served as president of Insights, Inc., since 1991. He and his wife, Dawn O’Hearn, live in Jensen Beach, Fla. They have two children: Michael, 32; and Raymond, 27. Email: ohearnj@bellsouth.net.

1970

Ronald W. Johns, (’70), is a physician at Family Wellness Clinic in Marble Falls, Texas. He and his wife, Polly Johns, have two children: Ashleigh, 18; and Justin, 11. Email: rwj_48@peolepc.com.

1971

Gary Householder, (’71), is a teacher at Presentation Academy in Louisville, Ky. Between 2001 and 2005, he led mission trips to Kenya. Also, he has taught English at Vietnam National University. He and his wife, Janet, have two children: Cindy, 27; and Brian, 23. Email: g.householder@insightbb.com.

1972

Jack H. Harlow, (’72), is retired from education and lives in Tullahoma with his wife, Susan and their child, Regan, 8. Email: jsharlow@cafe.net.

Carol Williams Shanklin, (’72), is an administrator at Kansas State University. She and her husband, Larry Duane Shanklin, (’71), live in Manhattan, Kan. They have one child: William, 30. Email: shanklin@ksu.edu

1973

John Derrick Marvin, (’73), is a highway patrol officer with the Tennessee Department of Safety. He and his wife, Mary Louise Murray Marvin, (’73), live in Friendship. Mary is principal of Friendship Elementary School. They have two children: Michael, (’00), 30; and Jeffrey, deceased. Email: marvin@crockettinet.com1978.

1974

Mary D. Williams, (’74), is an English teacher with Tipton County Schools. She lives in Arlington. In 2004, she was voted Tipton County Teacher of the Year. Email: marywilliams2001@yahoo.com1980.

1975

James Chester Baxter, (’75), owns his own business, Dynamic Systems, LLC, in Jackson. He and his wife, Deborah Ann, have three children: Sara, 32; Megan, 28; and Adam, 24. Email: jimbaxter@charter.net.

James David Earhart, (’75), works in financial services at Guardian Life Insurance Company. He and his wife, Deborah Rhodes Earhart, (’76), live in Dyersburg. Deborah is a teacher for Dyersburg...
City Schools. They have five children: Courtney, 28; Lance, 27; Brad, 23; Lauren, 21; and Ben, 19. Email: dearhart@bellsouth.net.

Thomas Robert Griffin, (‘75), lives in Hot Springs, Ark., with his wife, Jeanne. He is a history teacher with Cutter Morning Star School District. Email: griffin38122@yahoo.com

Roy Brasfield Herron, (‘75), is an attorney at Herron Law Offices and Volunteer Businesses. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Dresden. They have three children: John and Rick, 16; and Ben, 13. Email: roy@royherron.com.

Gary Hutchison, (‘75), works as a senior analyst in software applications for Retalix, Ltd. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Bellbrook, Ohio. They have two children: Cole, 22; and Grant, 12. Email: grole@earthlink.net.

Greg Williams, (‘75), retired from the State of Tennessee Department of Health in January 2007 after 30 years of service.

1976

James King, M.D., (‘76), a family physician in Selmer, Tenn., is president-elect of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). King is in private practice in Selmer and serves as volunteer faculty at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis. He is also on the medical staff of the McNairy Regional Hospital in Selmer and serves as medical director of Chester County Healthcare Services. King received the Outstanding Model Office Teaching Award from the University of Tennessee Family Medicine Residency, Jackson, in 1990 and the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians’ Family Physician of the Year Award in 1997. King is an AAFP fellow, awarded to family physicians for distinguished service and continuing medical education.

John Van Dyck (UTM ‘66, UTCHS ‘73) made many people see more clearly during his successful career as an ophthalmologist. Now retired, the Paris, Tenn., native and former city mayor donates his surgical skills to restore vision for children and adults in underdeveloped countries. He and other physicians pay their own expenses and provide medical equipment as they perform surgical missions through the World Cataract Foundation.

Besides offering his time, medical expertise and equipment for the missions, Van Dyck also is a member of the foundation’s executive board. His commitment reached another level in March as he organized a fund-raiser in Paris, the smallest community ever to host such an event for the foundation. The program featured artists from UT Martin’s Department of Music, with all proceeds directed toward supplies and medical personnel to support the foundation’s surgical teams.

Van Dyck’s journey began in Paris where he was raised and attended high school. He chose to attend UT Martin because it was close and “Martin was just the right place to be.” Professors such as Dr. Bill Nelson, professor emeritus of biology, had a profound influence on Van Dyck, both personally and in his career. Evidence of his professional success endures even today as Van Dyck Eye Centers still bear his name.

Van Dyck retired in January 2001, but in his words “felt a bit lost in retirement,” so he became a part-time medical missionary. Just as his medical practice improved vision for thousands through the years, the World Cataract Foundation is reaching out to many times more by bringing “functional vision” to those who otherwise would have no chance to see clearly.

In addition to performing surgeries, he and other colleagues also teach others how to perform the procedures. He travels annually to Ometepe,

1977

Richard Scott Kirby, (‘77), is an insurance representative for Resiert & Associates, Inc. He and his wife, Charlotte, live in LaGrange, Ky. They have two children: Nicole, 11; and Eric, 7. Email: rickk Kirby@peoplepc.com.

William Allen Robinson, (‘77), is a scientist at NIOSH. He and his wife, Janet, live in Atlanta, Ga. They have two children: Daniel, 23; and Thomas, 19.

Dr. Robert Earl Saunders Jr., (‘77), lives in Floresville, Texas, with his wife, Lisa. He is a social worker and will retire from the U.S. Army after 26 years active duty. Beginning in August 2007, he and Lisa will reside in Washburn. Email: saundersrob@earthlink.net

Dr. Robert Earl Saunders Jr., (‘77), lives in Floresville, Texas, with his wife, Lisa. He is a social worker and will retire from the U.S. Army after 26 years active duty. Beginning in August 2007, he and Lisa will reside in Washburn. Email: saundersrob@earthlink.net
Dollar General Corp. recently promoted Lee Downing, ('94), to vice president, division manager. Previously, Downing served as division manager. In this role, Downing will continue to oversee Dollar General’s operations in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas.

Downing joined Dollar General in June 2005. He previously served as regional vice president of Family Dollar. Prior to that, he worked in various management roles for Peebles department stores.

“Lee’s previous retail experience and his proven track record at Dollar General have prepared him well for this role,” said Tom Mitchell, Dollar General senior vice president of store operations. “We are looking forward to his continued success here at Dollar General.”

1978
Charles Michael Godsey, ('78), is an IT professional at Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, Ohio. He has a daughter: Vivian, 21. Email: mgo@columbus.rr.com.1988.

1979
John Argo, ('79), is a real estate developer in Montgomery, Ala. He and his wife, Glenda, have four children: Emily, 23; Andrew, 21; Allyson, 14; and Sadie, 9. Email: jcaro1957@aol.com.us.army.mil.

1980
David K. Bell, ('80), is a security executive with the U.S. Department of Commerce. He and his wife, Pamela S. Bell, ('81), live in Nokesville, Va. Email: myemarshal@aol.com.

Sherry Roberts Grant, ('80), lives in Covington with her husband, Joseph M. Grant, ('77, '05). They both work for Joe Grant State Farm Insurance. They have two children: Laura, 16; and Beau Jr., 12. Email: lltvol@coingttones.com.

1981
Terry L. Markle, ('81), is the director of the mental health treatment program at Peabody Residential Treatment Center. He currently serves as the medical operations officer of the 230th Sustainment Brigade of the Tennessee Army National Guard. He has also served two tours overseas in hostile fire zones with prior units. He and his wife, Belinda, live in Williston, Tenn. They have one daughter: Lori, 23. Email: terry.markle@us.army.mil.

1982
R.A. “Andy” Wilson, ('82), is president of Wilson and Turner, Inc. He is a certified fraud examiner and has worked as an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis. He and his wife, Susan Green Wilson, ('80), live in Collierville. Susan is a teacher for Shelby County Schools. They have one son: Christopher, 21. Email: raw@wilson-tuner.com.

Jerry Dean Wimberly, ('82), and his wife, Cindy, live in Union City. He is a retired engineer. Email: jdyacht@aol.com.

1983
Sally Slayden-Berry, ('83), owns her own business, Sally’s Merle Norman Cosmetics and Day Spa. In 2007 and 2002, she received The New Entrepreneur Award. She and her husband, Thomas K. Berry, ('84), live in Nashville. Thomas is a sales manager. They have one daughter: Sarah, 20. Email: sallysmerle@peoplepc.com; tomberr@gmail.com.

Marion Lisa Fryer, ('83, '95), lives in Cordova and works as a teacher in Shelby County Schools. She has a daughter: Kimel, 19. Email: lffryer@bellsouth.net.

1984
Eddie L. Heaston Jr., ('83), lives in Memphis with his wife, Elaine. He is a police dispatcher for the city of Memphis. They have two children: Andrea, 16; and Brandon, 7. Email: eheast1276@msn.com.

Deborah Lynn Coble Wise, ('84), is a United Methodist Church pastor. She will be commissioned as a probationary elder in the United Methodist Church. Beginning in July, she will serve as an associate pastor at Spirit Lake United Methodist Church. She and her husband, Steven, live in Apple River, Ill., and they have four children: Lauren, 18; Hannah, 14; Ethan, 11; and Justin, 8. Email: debwise@mchsli.com.

1986
Christina Bielaszka-DuVernay, ('86), is an editor at Harvard Business School Publishing. She and her husband, Frederick, live in Massachusetts. In April 2006, she was named editor of Harvard Management Update. They have two children: Maxine, 4; and James, 8. They are expecting a girl this summer. Email: cmd6@columbia.edu.

Lynn Welch Ferguson, ('86), is a nurse-practitioner at Vanderbilt Hospital. She and her husband, Clint, live in Franklin. They also own and operate a children’s consignment store, Kid to Kid. They have two children: Shelby, 10; and Jacob, 8. Email: nashlynn@yahoo.com.

Kathy Barnhardt Hindman, ('86), and her husband, Jeff, live in Collierville, where she is a homemaker. They have one son: Matthew Daulton Hindman, ('01). Email: khindman@midsouth.rr.com.

Debrah Faye Hawkins, ('86), is lieutenant supervisor of basic training at the Memphis Police Training Academy. She has been employed with the police department since 1989 and lives in Cordova. Email: debrah.hawkins@memphistn.gov.

1989
Ponsella Henry-Whitehurst, ('89), is a government contractor at PL Whitehurst & Associates. She and her husband, Vincent, live in Lorton, Va. They have two children: Zachary, 9; and Alley, 7. Email: ponsellaw@hotmail.com.

1990
Mary Beth Barnes, ('90), is an administrative assistant at Central Baptist Church in Hixson. She has two children: Ben, 14; and Rachel, 13. Email: marybethb@abbashouse.com.

Wellingon “Willie” KonSin Ng Jr., ('90), is a science teacher and coach in the Commerce Public School System. He and his wife, Kary Turner Ng, ('90), live in Miami, Okla. Kary is a Commerce High School counselor. They have two children: Kasey, 14; and Kyler, 12. Email: wng@commercetigers.net; cng@commercetigers.net.

David White, ('90), is district sales director at Coors Brewing Co. He and his wife, Caren, live in Burns. They have one son: Hugh, 14 months. Email: david.white2@coors.com.
Elizabeth “Anne” Blair Williams, ('90), is a real estate investment broker. She and her husband, Terry, live in Germantown. She is active in the Junior League of Memphis and in the Memphis Soil and Power Squadrons, a boating organization. Email: ablair090367@yahoo.com.

1991

Myra Gammon, ('91), is a senior marketing associate at Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals in Indianapolis, Ind. Email: mgammon273@aol.com.

Ted Lawson, ('91), is an associate director of neuroscience training at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. He and his wife, Stacie Ann Lawson, ('93), live in Collegeville, Pa. Stacie is senior executive clinical specialist for Glaxo Smith Kline Pharmaceuticals. They have one son: James, 23 months. Email: lawson3@yahoo.com.

Norman Maxwell, ('91), is a project manager for the State of Tennessee. He and his wife, Erica, live in Mount Juliet. Norman teaches computer networking courses at ITT Technical Institute in Nashville. They have one son: Nathan, 5. Email: norman.maxwell@gmail.com.

Jack Lee Usrey ('91), and his wife, Cynthia “Cindy” Rena Usrey, ('91), live in Kailua, Hawaii, where Jack is a military officer for Special Operations Command Pacific. Cynthia is a teacher. Jack is returning to Iraq as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. They have three children: Chance, 12; Garrett, 9; and Roselean, 4. Email: jack.usrey@us.army.mil; jackandcindyusrey@hotmail.com.

Kent “Marty” Martin, ('92), is a police officer in Charleston, Ill., on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. He also has served as chief for the Lincoln Fire Protection District, Breach Team Leader for Coles County SWAT Team, police field training officer and as a certified arson investigator. Email: kdmartin@eiu.edu.

Scott Robbins, ('92), is the director of public safety for UT Martin. He has a daughter, Sydney, 10. Email: sdrobbins@utm.edu.

Andrea English Smothers, ('92), is administrator of elections for Haywood County. She and her husband, Mike, live in Brownsville. They have two children: Alain, 18, who will be attending UT Martin in the fall; and Hunter, 6. Email: a_smothers@hotmail.com.

1993

Scott W. Gilmer, ('93), works in public policy research for the Tennessee House Republican Caucus and lives in Nashville. Recently, he was named research analyst for the Republican Caucus of the Tennessee House of Representatives and as an aide to caucus chairman, Glen Casada. Email: scottgilmer@legislature.state.tn.us.

Dr. Carol Ratliff Minton, ('93), and her husband, Adam, live in Milan. Carol is an optometrist at the Milan Eye Clinic, and she recently purchased half of this private practice to become a full partner. They have two children: Nathan, 4; and Courtney, 1.

1994

Melissa L. Bolton, ('94), is a registered nurse at the Jackson Clinic. She and her husband, Patrick, live in Henderson. In August 2007, Melissa will graduate from Vanderbilt School of Nursing. They have two children: Alex, 3; and Anna, 2. Email: ml Bolton@bell-south.net; psbolton@hotmail.com.

Above: Robinson at the induction ceremony. With him at the ceremony are, Dr. Thomas A. Rakes, left, chancellor, and Lt. Col. Janet Kirkton, professor of military science.

Mag. Gen. Fred “Doug” Robinson Jr., ('76) Bolivar native, was inducted into the UT Martin ROTC Hall of Fame.

“A shining example of what UT Martin graduates can accomplish, Major General Robinson was an inspiration to us all,” said Lt. Col. Janet Kirkton, professor of military science. “Articulate, candid and pragmatic, Major General Robinson spent several hours with the cadets answering their questions and talking about officership, character and the current Army culture. He is exactly the type of leader, mentor and role model I would want cadets and cadre alike to emulate.”

Over the course of his career, his assignments have included commander, A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division, U.S. Army Europe; executive officer, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; commander, 3rd Battalion, 64th Armor, 3rd Infantry Division, USA-REUR; commander, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.; deputy director for Operations, National Military Command Center; commanding general, United States Army Operation Test Command, Fort Hood, Texas; assistant division commander for maneuver, 1st Armored Division and director of operations, readiness and mobilization, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7; and most recently served as commanding general of the 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army Europe. Maj. Gen. Robinson is enroute to become the commanding general of the Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and Aberdeen Proving Ground at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Robinson’s awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters; the Bronze Star Medal; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters; the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster; the National Defense Service Medal; the Southwest Asia Service Medal; the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia); the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait); the Parachutist Badge; the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

He and his wife, Reva (who also is from Bolivar), have two children; Megan Robinson Smith, a graduate of the University of Kansas and now living in Kansas City; and Matt, who is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, majoring in engineering.
**The UT Martin Eternal Flame**, provided by UT Martin alumni upon the campus’s 60th anniversary and extinguished in 2000, has found a resting place in the Paul Meek Library, thanks to the efforts of Larry Holder (’81), retired Chancellor Nick Dunagan, the UT Martin carpentry team of Rick Bradberry, Noel Arant, and Richard Stallings and under the direction of Tim Nipp. The beautiful display houses the roof and bowl of the flame as well as the torch that originally lit it. The base of the display shows the two commemorative plaques presented by alumni in 1986 and 1994.

**Cindy Kelley Davis,** (’94), is a teacher at Frank Hughes School in Clifton. In May 2007, Cindy received her degree as an educational specialist from Middle Tennessee State University. Her husband, **Byron Thomas Davis,** (’95), is a loan officer for People’s Bank. They have two children: Claire, 9; and Avery, 7. Email: cindydavis_4@hotmail.com; bdavis@ppbanking.com.

**Martin Porter,** (’94), is the owner of Golf Etc. in Murfreesboro. He received the “Rookie Store of the Year Award” at the National Golf Merchandising Show. He and his wife, **Stephanie Shelton Porter,** (’93), live in LaVergne. They have three children: Drew and David, 4; and Rachel, 6 months. Email: golfete_1@bellsouth.net; stephport@peoplepc.com.

**Doug Sims,** (’94), works in sales and marketing at Thomapple Brokerage. He and his wife, **Kellie McElhiney Sims,** (’94), live in Martin, where Kellie is a social worker for Weakley County Schools. They have two children: Jacey, 13; and Kaylan, 8 months. Email: simsk8@k12tn.net.

**Pamela J. Sisson,** (’94), is attending law school at Duke University and working part-time as a patent agent. She and her husband, Eric I. Park, live in Durham, N.C. They have one child: Nolan, 3. Email: pjsiss@yahoo.com.

**1995**

**Michael “Scott” Hughes,** (’95), is employed with Absolute Ink in Franklin. He and his wife, Donna, have two children: Brooke, 4; and Michael, 2. Email: mshughes@comcast.net

**Kathryn Crone,** (95), is a national recruiter for clinical research and regulatory medical writing for the pharmaceutical and biotech firm of Smith Hanley Associates, LLC. Email: kcrone@smithhanley.com.

**Chun-Hung Arthur Lai,** (’95), and his wife, Shin-Yin Hsu, have twin boys: Pin-Jun and Pin-Chen, 8. Email: aiai92002@yahoo.com.

**David Simmons,** (’95), is marketing and programs manager for FLW Outdoors, a fishing tournament organization. David manages their partnership with the Bass Federation, a national service organization that works with youth, conservation and tournaments. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Benton, Ky. Email: mybrushpile@yahoo.com.

**1996**

**Amy Henson Armstrong,** (’96), lives with her husband, David, and daughter, Jenna Claire, 2, in Dyersburg. She is a homemaker and makes children’s clothes.

**1997**

**Shad Adams,** (’97), is a sponsorship sales professional for the Nashville Predators hockey team. He and his wife, Trisha Jeanne Bastin Adams, (’98), live in Fairview. Trisha is an administrative assistant for Crosslin, Vaden and Associates. They have a son: Beckam Chase, 5 months. Email: shad_adams@hotmail.com; trish_adams@hotmail.com.

**Chad Brewer,** (’97), and **Kristy Jones Brewer,** (’97) live in Cleveland, Tenn., where he works as a teacher and coach for the Whitfield County School System. Kristy is an exercise physiologist. They have two children: Logan, 12; and Avary, 3 months. Email: ccbrewsky3@aol.com.

**Angela Dawn Gibson Carr,** (’97), is an advertising and promotions manager for E.W. James & Sons Supermarkets. She and her husband, Jarod, live in Union City. They have a son: Peyton, 6. Email: angie.carr@ewjames.com.

**Melissa Kellough Darby,** (’97), is an auditor for the State of Tennessee Division of County Audit. She and her husband, Lee, live in Medina. They have a child: Aidan, 7 months. Email: thedarbys@click1.net.

**Resa Reed Martin,** (’97), and her husband, Jason, live in Christiana, where Resa is a stay-at-home mother for their children: Claire, 3; and Julia, 9 months. Email: resaandjason@yahoo.com.

**1998**

**Julie Lindsey Bagdonas,** (’98), and her husband, Matthew, have three children: Chloe, 4; Madeleine, 2; and Georgia, 6 weeks. Email: julieilindsey@hotmail.com.

**Kori Allison Hampton Burkhed,** (’98), lives in Dyersburg, where she owns Kori Burkhed Photography. Kori was featured in 2007 as an Upcoming Artist of the Year at the National Photography Convention. She and her husband, Jeff, have two children: Josiah, 15; and Tate, 4. Email: info@burkhed.com.

**Tammy Harris Crayne,** (’98), and her husband, Jason Crayne, (’98), live in Rogersville, where Jason works as a plant manager. They have three children: Sydney, 5; Tate, 2; and Shams, 8 months Email: tmcrayne3@hotmail.com; jdawg@j-dawg.com.

**Andrew Carl Ledford,** (’98), is a customs and border protection officer. He and his wife, Hilda Eva, live in Spring, Texas. He is enrolled in the master’s of public administration program at Texas A&M International University. They have four children: Vanessa, 19; Kelsey and Ellena, 10; and Bonnie, 9. Email: aledford@students.tamu.edu; henuurse2@hotmail.com.

**1999**

**David Elijah Dowdy,** (’99), is deputy sheriff for Henderson County Sheriff’s Department. He and his wife, **Kimberly Ann Dowdy,** (’99), live in Lexington. Kimberly is employed by Wal-Mart. They have two children: Sean, 5; and Taylor, 4. Email: dowdy510@hotmail.com; dowdydgmom@hotmail.com.

**Sunday Sesler Greer,** (’99), lives in Ashland City with her husband, Shawn. She works as an insurance agent for Farm Bureau. Email: sundaygreer@yahoo.com.

**James T. Harris,** (’99) lives in Jackson. He graduated from the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine in Chicago, Ill. He completed residency in podiatric medicine and surgery at Gunderson Lutheran Medical Center in LaCrosse, Wis., and now works as a physician at Gibson County Podiatry. Email: buniondoc28@yahoo.com.

**Brent Michael Hinson,** (’99), is a commercial producer for WPSD-TV, News Channel 6 in Paducah, Ky., where he and his wife, **Amanda Hinson,** (’00), live. Kristine is employed by News Channel 6 as a news producer. They have a son: Xavier. Email: bhinson@wpsdtv.com; ahinson@wpsdtv.com.

**DeAnn Lynn Christian Killion,** (’99), works with Bradford
Miller Thrives as Director of Center for Autism

Choosing teaching as a profession is a tough assignment today. Now, more than ever, teachers across the country are asked to fill many roles in addition to instructional leader. They also look out at the students in their classrooms and see faces that represent a much more diverse group than ever before.

It’s a given that not everyone is suited to teach. The field narrows when talking about individuals who can teach special needs children, such as those with autism.

Jody Miller (‘02), not only fell in love with all students she had in her first physical education class, she knew she wanted to devote her career to providing quality educational services to students.

What she did not know as she began her career was the fulfillment she would get in return for teaching special needs children, especially those with autism. “I chose to work with children with disabilities because I truly wanted to make a difference in children’s lives,” said Miller.

She accepted a physical education position at King’s Daughters’ School in Columbia, Tenn., a private non-profit, residential program for individuals with mental retardation that was founded in 1955. Current enrollment is 108 from 19 states.

After teaching for a year, she became assistant principal. “While in this position, I was mentored by a wonderful principal, who taught me the value of special education and how important school administration is to a student’s success.”

During this time, Miller said it became evident that statistically the rate of diagnosed autism was on the rise within the general population, as well as the school. This led to a branch dedicated to serving children with autism. Miller became the director when it opened in January 2006.

To prepare, Miller completed training via the University of North Carolina Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication-handicapped Children (TEACCH) division of the UNC Department of Psychiatry. Also, prior to the opening of the center, she began researching products, furnishings, curriculum – everything it took to fill the new center educationally and physically.

Miller directs a staff of 35 in delivering a highly structured co-educational program to provide individualized attention so students with autism can learn to communicate, master self-help skills and manage behavioral, social, sensory and transitioning challenges.

“I was definitely a little scared when I took the position as director,” said Miller. “I knew there would be an increase in responsibility, time on the job and some uncomfortable situations. However, these things are far outweighed by the amazing fun I have every day when I go to work.

“The most fulfilling part of my job is watching the progression of these students behaviorally, communicatively and socially, and knowing this progression will give them a chance to live a more independent life.”

Miller avoids burnout by taking off time periodically to pursue activities she enjoys – camping, hiking or working in the yard. “This allows me much needed time to rejuvenate and avoid major burnout.”

She added, “In all areas of my work over the last several years, it was evident that UT Martin had a great deal to do with preparing me.” She cites Department of Health and Human Performance faculty as having a profound impact on her. “Many of these professors were inspirations to me, and I will always be indebted to the university for the great education I received.”

Five years into her career, Miller already feels successful. “I gauge that by continuing to develop a program that offers top-quality education to students.

Jody Miller, Parsons, Tenn., native, had a full athletic scholarship to play basketball at UT Martin from 1997-2002. She returned from a career-ending injury her junior year to play the remaining two years of her eligibility.

“I will never forget the UT Martin- MTSU game my first year when we beat MTSU for the first time in many, many years. I scored 16 points that game. It was one of the most thrilling games of my entire basketball career.”
It Helps to Remember

By Bud Grimes

This was a good day for Mike and Molly Morel. Any day in which their son, Brent, is remembered, is a good day for the Morels. Marine Capt. Brent Morel (‘99) died in combat April 7, 2004, near Fallujah, Iraq, while attacking an insurgent position. For those who knew him, his actions spoke volumes about a life lived in service to others and to his country.

The Morels live in a remodeled, turn-of-the-century home in Martin. In contrast to the structure’s white-painted brick exterior is a flagpole near the front porch displaying the American flag on top and the Marine Corps flag directly underneath. At the flagpole’s base is a simple stone marker offering a permanent tribute to their son. Inside, the Morels answer questions about their son as they sit together on a couch in a perfectly furnished living room. A painting of Brent attired in Marine dress blues keeps silent watch over the space. To the portrait’s left, a shadow box in a recessed bookshelf near the living room entrance displays a Navy Cross and other military decorations.

The Morels describe a red-haired, freckle-faced, energetic boy who was born in Nashville and raised in Memphis. He was a good athlete who loved to hunt and fish. However, his involvement in Tae Kwon Do appealed to his love for discipline and added a measure of self-confidence that followed him through life. Brent graduated in 1994 from Bartlett High School, entered the University of Memphis and joined the Marine Corps Reserves during his first year.

Brent quickly became enthusiastic about the Marines. “He came back from boot camp determined to drop out of college and go active duty,” Molly remembered.

But, Mike and Molly encouraged him to finish college first and then return to the Marines as an officer, an appealing prospect for their ambitious son.

Seeking a fresh start academically, Brent transferred to UT Martin and graduated in 1999 with a history degree. After receiving his officer’s commission, Brent initially was assigned to ground intelligence but later applied to Recon School. Estimates vary, but a low percentage of Marines become Reconnaissance Marines. Still, Brent completed the training and became a member of this selective fighting force.

When Brent’s assignment to Iraq finally came in late 2003, he was ready to go. “He was excited,” said Mike. “As parents, we were, …” he paused, and Molly finished the sentence, “ … fearful.” Still, even with the news of Brent’s deployment, there was reason to be optimistic. Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi dictator, had been captured, images of celebration emerged from Iraq – their minds were put somewhat at ease. Knowing that their son was doing what he wanted to do, they traveled to San Diego to see him off.

A significant conversation with Brent occurred weeks later when he called his parents the day four American contractors were killed in Fallujah. Brent was already in Fallujah, and he wanted them to know that he was OK. His Marine unit had been assigned to take over for the Army, and a short time later came a day that forever changed life for the Morels.

Remembering April 7, 2007, events as described to them, Molly said that Brent’s convoy was on patrol when it pulled onto a road and couldn’t move forward — the convoy had driven into a trap. A rocket-propelled grenade fired by insurgents hit the lead Humvee, injuring all of the occupants, including one Marine who lost both hands. Brent was in the second Humvee and positioned it to protect the disabled vehicle. Suddenly, an RPG hit his Humvee, injuring no one but leaving his men in a kill zone in a disabled vehicle, so he had to make a decision.

“ … And the training that he had was, in that situation, he had to assault forward, which meant he had to run and attack the insurgents, or the guys in the kill zone would have been killed,” Molly said. “Their only hope was for him to assault the enemy, and the words that his guys have used (were), ‘It changed the momentum of the battle.’” Brent and several of his men ran across open terrain, shooting as they ran.

Brent was killed in the assault. “ … We’ve been told his actions saved a lot of lives that day, and it did change the momentum. In fact, he was the only American killed,” said Mike.

For his actions, Brent received the Purple Heart and the Navy Cross, the second highest military recognition next to the Medal of Honor. Also, a Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation scholarship in Brent’s memory was totally funded before the first anniversary of his death. More recently in May, a classroom where he attended Ground Intelligence School in Virginia Beach, Va., was named in his memory, and the outstanding graduate of this school will now receive the Capt. Brent Morel Achievement Award.

Time has brought some healing to the Morels, and they rely on their faith for comfort. Their son continues to be remembered by grateful Americans. Remembering Brent always makes it a good day for Mike and Molly Morel. Then again, it’s hard for anyone to forget a true American hero.
Brinkley Honored For Community Service

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission honored Chris Brinkley (‘00), communications coordinator in the UT Martin Office of Sports Information, April 26, in Nashville. Brinkley received a Love Community Service Award after being selected from a group of Tennessee college and university nominees.

Brinkley has broadcasted UT Martin Skyhawk football and basketball games for the past five years and is longtime co-host with Paul Tinkle (‘76) for the popular “Good Times in the Morning” radio show on WCMT-AM/FM in Martin. He was honored for his work with the Weakley County Reading Railroad and other community service activities.

“I am really surprised that I was selected for the award,” said Brinkley, who also received the Reading Railroad’s 2006 Volunteer of the Year Award. “My motives for doing volunteer work in the community certainly don’t involve being awarded with a wonderful honor like this. I am grateful and appreciative to have been selected.”

The Weakley County Reading Railroad provides a new, age-appropriate, hardcover book each month to children from birth to age five at no cost to the family, regardless of income.

2001

Kyla Marie Green Kelly, (‘01), is a financial adviser for Compass Bank. She and her husband, Matthew, married in August 2006. They live in Huntsville, Ala. Email: bama_gator@hotmail.com.

David J. Roe, (‘01), is a structural bridge engineer for T.Y. Lin International. He recently became a licensed professional engineer. Email: droe@tlyin.com.

2002

Dr. Casey W. Bevis, (‘02), lives in Savannah and works as a chiropractor at Grimes Chiropractic and Sports Injury Clinic. He and his wife, Holly, are expecting their first child. Email: caseybevis@yahoo.com.

Michael F. Cates, (‘02), works as a school counselor for South Pemiscot High School in Steele, Mo. When he is not teaching, Michael performs with the Germantown Symphony Orchestra and the Dyersburg Community Orchestra. He has a daughter: Chloe, 7. Email: mcates@southpem.k12.mo.us.

2003

Deborah Williams Arnold, (‘03), is a Henry County High School counselor. Deborah received her master’s in education in school counseling at Murray State University. She and her husband, Kenneth Arnold, (‘70), live in Paris. Kenneth works a regional supervisor for the State of Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation. They have three children: Will, 26; Ashley, 24; and Ty, 17.

Matthew Bryant Crouch, (03) lives in Auburn, Ala., where he is assistant director of media relations for the Auburn University Athletic Department. He completed a master’s degree in education at Southern Illinois University in May 2007. Email: mbrcrouch@gmail.com.

SimQuita R. McGill-Ford, (‘03), lives in Antioch and works as a call center team leader for Asurion Insurance Services. Email: simford@hotmail.com.

Ginny Boyd Hatch, (‘03), lives in Jackson with her husband, Tim. Ginny works as a registered dietitian for Humboldt Schools. Email: boydginny@yahoo.com.

Melissa Nichole Goodrum Hardin, (‘03), lives in Henderson with her husband, Aaron. She is a teacher. Email: missa311@hotmail.com.

2004

Cassie Burnham, (‘04), lives and works in Ripley, where she is a teller supervisor for Regions Bank. Email: cassie.burnham@regions.com.

Robert Kevin Canaday, (‘04), works as a commercial portfolio manager for Fifth Third Bank in Evansville, Ind. Email: kcanaday@myway.com.

Jarrad K. Robinson, (‘04), is a high school history teacher for Tishomingo County Schools. He and his wife, Selena, live in Luka, Miss. Email: jkrobinson@tishomingo.k12.ms.us.

Shenika S. Turner, (‘04), lives in Tallahassee, Fla., and is attending graduate school. Email: shenika_turner@yahoo.com.

Joshua Ryan Warren, (‘04), works as a loan officer for the Bank of Perry County. He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Linden. Email: jwarren4bopc@yahoo.com.

2005

Sarah Daws, (‘05), is a teacher in Lawrenceville, Ga. Email: sarahmo12@hotmail.com.

“Bo” John Quentin Mantooth, (‘05), works as assistant director of Greek life at Auburn University. He and his wife, Loni Ann Gezley, (‘06), live in Auburn, Ala. Loni works as an account manager for Omega Financial, Inc. They were married June 9, 2007. Email: bomantooth@hotmail.com; loniann22@hotmail.com.

Kara Nicole Mattice Smith, (‘05), works as a teacher and lives with her husband, Robert Jason Smith, (‘06), in Columbus, Ga. Robert is an officer in the U.S. Army. Email: infantrywife1217@yahoo.com; jasonnutm25@yahoo.com.
Wesley Brasher, died April 3, 2007, at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. Wesley was a 2000 graduate of Riverside High School, a student at UT Martin, member of Kappa Alpha Order fraternity and member of Trinity Assembly of God.


James Randall “Randy” Daily, (‘76), 52, formerly of Savannah, died July 18, 2006, from an automobile accident near his home in Westminster, Md. He was the husband of Victoria Drysdale Daily (‘76). Randy attended UT Martin from 1972-1976, leaving to join the U.S. Air Force. He later completed his degree at the Medical University of South Carolina. He served in the Air Force from 1976–1982. He was with the USAF Reserve until 1986 when he became a commissioned officer with the United States Public Health Service as a medical records consultant.

Harry Dixon, (‘43,’49), died Jan. 5, 2007. He was an engineer, gentleman farmer, author and poet. He was a veteran of World War II (U.S. Navy) in the Pacific Theatre and a former employee of Marr and Holman, Taylor and Crabtree, and Turner Engineering Co. He served as president of the American Society of Civil Engineers and was named Engineer of the Year in 1977. He also was president of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and a member of Belle Meade United Methodist Church more than 40 years.

Marcus Glass, (‘86), a 1993 UT Martin Hall of Fame inductee, played for head coach Tom Hancock from 1984–86. He was a consensus All-Gulf South Conference performer and a third-team All-American in his senior year. In 57 games, Glass is among the university’s top-10 scorers and rebounders. He established a record for most points (615) and rebounds (320) in a season. He also holds five single-season records. Glass averaged 22.3 points and 11.4 rebounds per game.

Hardy M. Graham, longtime supporter of UT Martin, died June 16, 2007, in Union City. The former Union City mayor, businessman, veteran, farmer, philanthropist and attorney was 94. Services were June 19, at Union City First Baptist Church. Entombment was in East View Cemetery in Union City. Graham was honored for his lifetime contributions to education and athletics with the naming of the UT Martin football stadium in 2001. Also, he served as president of the UT Martin Development Committee and as a member of the UT Knoxville Development Council. He received the UT Martin Distinguished Service Award in 1989. A graduate of the University of Mississippi, he was a past member of the University of Mississippi Foundation board of directors and received the university’s Hall of Fame Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Ray Mears, former UT Martin director of intercollegiate athletics, died June 11, 2007, in Knoxville after years of declining health. Mears served as athletics director from 1980-89. He came to UT Martin following his legendary basketball coaching career at UT Knoxville. During Mears’ tenure at UT Martin, the school won its first Gulf South Conference championship, and several of the teams enjoyed national rankings. In Mears’ first two years in Martin, the men’s basketball team ranked among the top-10 Division II schools in attendance. Mears was credited with commissioning a horse (a “Pacer”) and rider to circle the field when the football team scored a touchdown. He was inducted into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame in February 1990.

Lisa Thompson, (‘05), is an engineer for Lochinvar Corp. in Lebanon. She lives in Martin. Email: lisathom1851@hotmail.com.

Sara Ann Thompson, (‘05), lives in Wateska, Ill., and works as director of marketing for Embassy Care Center. She has a daughter: Megan, 6. Email: sara8200@yahoo.com.

Tiffany L. Trice, (‘05), works in the Office of Equity and Diversity at UT Health Science Center as an administrative specialist. She lives in Bartlett and is working on her CPS certification. In fall 2007, she will attend the University of Memphis to attain a master’s degree in speech pathology. Email: trice@utmem.edu.

Jamie C. Watkins, (‘05), is associate director of athletics in Gainesville, Fla. He directs softball, golf, cheerleading and girls’ weightlifting. Email: jwatkins@fnssa.org.

Tina Williams, (‘05), works as a registered nurse for Methodist South and lives in Memphis. She has been accepted into ASU-Jonesboro FNP and is a member of the National Black Nurse Association. In November 2006, she became a travel nurse and worked in Redding, Calif., for three months. Email: tina_gal_98@hotmail.com.

2006

Jacob Corey Cross, (‘06), is a teacher at Union City High School. He and his wife, Emily London Cross, (‘03), live in Union City. Emily is a teacher at Lake Road Elementary School. Email: jacobcross7@yahoo.com.

Melissa Daniel, (‘06), lives in Manhattan, Kan., and is a graduate student at Kansas State University. Email: mjdanile@ksu.edu.
Come to Homecoming 2007!

Friday, Oct. 12

9:30 a.m.  Golf Tournament and Golf Team Reunion
3:30 p.m.  Rope Pull Championship
6:00 p.m.  Chancellor’s Dinner and Alumni Awards
8:30 p.m.  Pyramid and Pep Rally

Saturday, Oct. 13

7:30 a.m.  Letter Winner’s Breakfast and Hall of Fame
9:30 a.m.  Chancellor’s Brunch
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  Quad City
10:30  SGA Statue unveiling
11:00  Allegro Marinade Petting Zoo
Reunion tents open
11:00  Live music on the Pepsi Music Stage
11:00 a.m.  Volleyball game: Skyhawks vs. Morehead State
2:00 p.m.  Football game: Skyhawks vs. Samford
5:30 p.m.  College Dinners
6:00 p.m.  Black Alumni Association Scholarship Dinner
8:00 p.m.  NPHC Greek Step Show

Sunday, Oct. 14

10:00 a.m.  Walk in the Quad
10:30 a.m.  Homecoming Brunch

Special Reunions

1965-1970 Reunion
1957 Bob Carroll First-Year Players Reunion
A Farewell to Chancellor

A farewell dinner for Nick and Cathy was held in the Duncan Ballroom.
Nick and Cathy Dunagan

room on May 11, 2007. More than 400 people were in attendance.
Show your pride by wearing your school colors! Visit the UT Martin Bookstore for the latest fashions and merchandise, all proudly displaying your university's name. While in the bookstore, stop by the alumni section to see apparel and other items for alumni. Need something quick, but can’t make the trip? Visit the bookstore on the Web at www.utm.edu/bookstore.

Calendar of Events for Alumni

July 21 ..........UT Martin Alumni Council Meeting
Aug. 10-11 .....Golden Grad Weekend
Aug. 14-17 .....Campus Connection Tour
14th Nashville evening reception
15th Knoxville evening reception
16th Selmer evening reception
17th Memphis evening reception
Aug. 22 ..........Legacy Luncheon
Oct. 8-14 ..........Homecoming 2007