We are optimistic about our campus direction as we prepare for the upcoming year that includes welcoming the first class admitted under our revised admission standards, the completion of several construction and renovation projects and the initiation of a comprehensive review of academic program offerings. Our enhanced admission standards should enable the university to better focus our student services and academic support ensuring even greater opportunities for our students to succeed. Although our campus is still busy with several construction projects, renovations to the Business Administration Building were completed this summer with the faculty returning to the building in June, and phase two of University Village is scheduled for completion by the beginning of fall classes. A new diagnostic laboratory for animal study was opened at the end of the spring semester. An expansion of Brehm Hall is under way, and we are involved in finalizing plans for completing a management agreement to relocate classes to the Parsons Center. In addition to a number of ongoing priorities, two areas of focus will be a major thrust for the coming year and beyond. We will continue to build capacity within our units, but also analyze essential services, including administrative and instructional programs, in order to maximize student access and our overall effectiveness.

The campus and state face fiscal challenges. Recent decreases in state appropriations reduced UT Martin’s budget by 5.8%, which equals an approximate decrease in funding of $1,926,000. A tuition increase of six percent will generate approximately $1,497,000 in revenue that will help restore a portion, but not all, of lost state appropriations. Although we have identified budget reductions in the 2008-09 budget, we are also faced with escalating fixed costs such as increases in energy, health care, maintenance contracts and minimum wage adjustments. These fixed expenses are greater than the new revenues generated by the six percent tuition increase.

We are actively engaged in study to better manage revenues and expenses. During the coming months, we will seek actions to control costs that include improved management of energy usage, adjustments in academic programming, exploring strategies to use technology to enhance services and possible outsourcing of selected operations. An important part of this process will incorporate periodic discussions among employees and students to help identify avenues through which we can realize sustainable cost savings.

In addition to strategic attention to budget management and program adjustments, we will work to more clearly align academic and student affairs programs to ensure better linkages that will capitalize upon existing strengths of our institution. For a number of years, leadership and community service outreach have been a staple within a number of our programs. This year, we will specifically develop an umbrella-type of organization to improve management of leadership, internship, community service, citizenship and service learning. We plan to blend activities and programs associated with the American Democracy Project and what was formerly LEAD Academy with the Tennessee Campus Compact to build our capacity to integrate leadership and service learning to directly improve business and community partnerships, as well as, links within our region and beyond.

We have a host of exciting athletic events scheduled this year, and of course, Homecoming is set for Oct. 2 with Martin Gras in the Quad beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by the Skyhawks vs. TSU football game at 2 p.m. We appreciate your support of UT Martin and hope that you will return soon to campus for a visit.

We are actively engaged in study to better manage revenues and expenses.
Welcome Home, ALUMNI!

Special Sections:
The Campaign for Tennessee p. 16
New Alumni Center Opens p. 26

Features

Working for Iraq’s Future p. 4
Garry and Betsy Phillips are directly involved in nurturing democracy in Iraq by working in judicial security and strategic planning.

Young Alumna Researching for the Cure p. 6
Amanda Raley Lowery, the first UT Martin engineering student to earn a Ph.D., is working on a gene therapy project for targeted delivery of genes to cancer cells.

Pull! p. 8
UT Martin student, Seth Paugh, helped to create a Clay Target Shooting Club, which has generated a great deal of interest among current and prospective students.

News Briefs p. 10

Departments

University Advancement p. 18
Athletic Communications p. 22
The Real Deal: Alumni Relations p. 28
Alumni Notes p. 30
In Memory p. 34
If it’s true that opposites attract, Garry (’77) and Betsy Phillips will tell you that they did not agree on much of anything before they married. Today, the couple agrees on one thing for sure – the United States must succeed in Iraq. Middle East stability hangs in the balance. Garry and Betsy are directly involved in nurturing a democracy in this cradle of civilization. He is developing a U.S. Marshals-type service for judicial security, while Betsy directs the Office of Joint Strategic Planning and Assessment at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

Garry began a 20-year Navy career shortly after graduating from high school, a career that included embassy assignments in Tokyo and Sri Lanka. He retired from the Navy in 1975 and graduated from UT Martin in 1977 with majors in political science and English. He taught English at Westview High School in Martin for two years and then worked in UT Martin’s Office of International Programs, where he taught English as a Second Language.

Betsy earned a political science degree and, like Garry, a master’s degree in public administration at the University of West Florida in Pensacola, where they first met. Both were selected for the Presidential Management Intern Program (now called the Presidential Management Fellowship Program), which seeks about 200 people each year who have master’s degrees to work for the federal government in mid-management positions. When they arrived in Washington, neither knew anyone
else, so they started spending a lot of time together and eventually married in 1985.

The Phillips accumulated significant federal government experience before accepting their current appointments in Iraq. They share strong, non-partisan views about what has happened — and might happen — in Iraq, and both believe they can make a difference through their service in this volatile part of the world. “I think what the United States and the multinational forces are doing in Iraq is very important to stability, in not only Iraq, but the entire Middle East,” Garry said.

Betsy’s office is unique to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, she said, in that the embassy works with the U.S. military and the other multinational forces in Iraq on long-range planning.

The plan is updated regularly in cooperation with the military, and besides managing this plan, the office’s seven-member staff engages in “red-team analysis,” a kind of devil’s advocate exercise in which assumptions are challenged. “It’s really very, very unique,” Betsy says of the process. “We take a look at a lot of the statistics and try to determine what’s happening in the country based upon what we’re seeing.”

Although the challenges in Iraq are huge, Betsy said that progress is being made. She said that the Iraqis are moving at “warp speed” to establish an effective government, considering how many years it took the United States to accomplish the same thing. Iraq is divided into 18 provinces, which are roughly the equivalent of states. The good news, Garry said, is that 16 of 18 are doing well. “We are, one by one, quote ‘turning over’ those provinces to Iraqi local governments. We’re stepping back militarily and we’ve trained up the army and police, and they’re making positive strides in maintaining order. The local governments are operating,” he said.

While some things are working well, other aspects of the fledgling democracy are not. Crucial to the new government’s success is a functional, effective judicial system, and Garry’s main focus is to establish plans for a judicial protection service. Modeled after the U.S. Marshals Service, his group has developed a plan for protecting judges, witnesses, lawyers and courthouses. Unlike U.S. courthouses, heavily armed individuals are common in Baghdad courthouses.

Security fears are well founded. More than 35 judges, along with more than 45 bodyguards, have been assassinated since 2003. Unfortunately, those currently providing protection in the judicial system are not prepared for the job. “They’re either untrained or not well trained at this point, and we’re trying to pull them together and make them a unified service,” he said.

Garry and Betsy don’t have ordinary jobs, but then life in Iraq is anything but ordinary. They live in a trailer-like “hootch” that’s about 30 feet by 10 feet with two rooms and a bathroom in the middle. They walk to work and arrive in their embassy offices by about 7 a.m. The embassy building is three stories high and was once the main Hussein palace in Baghdad. The room he shares with about 40 other people was Saddam Hussein’s “decision room,” which he said includes “a painting of scud missiles flying off into the air. It’s kind of garish.”

Personal comfort and safety are among the many sacrifices being made by the Phillips and countless others for Iraq’s future. Both are clear that the U.S. must succeed in establishing a democratic government. Betsy quoted Dr. Tony Cordesman, senior fellow with the Centre for Strategic & International Studies in Washington, D.C., in an August 2007 report in which he said, “Most certainly, while the U.S. may not be remembered for how we got into Iraq, we will most certainly be judged by how we leave it.”

Garry described Iraq as “like a linchpin or a keystone in the Middle East,” with its population of about 70 percent Shiite and 30 percent Sunni. “It is the only Arab country in the Middle East that is ruled by Shites, even where the majority is Shiite,” he said. “And, to the east is Iran, which is Persian but Shiite, so Iran has an interest in Iraq holding its own as a Shiite nation.” To the south, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are strongly Sunni, while to the west are Jordan and Syria, also Sunni. “So Iran is sitting there just boiling and bubbling. If Iraq is not stable, the Middle East is not going to be stable,” Garry said.

The Phillips won’t forecast the future, but both have ideas as to what might happen several years out. “I think five years from now, you’ll still have a struggling democracy. We will have gone through

They share strong, non-partisan views about what has happened — and might happen — in Iraq, and both believe they can make a difference...

at least one, maybe two more elections, which is an unfamiliar concept for Arab nations,” Betsy said. “You’ll probably find the provinces much more powerful than the national government as far as being able to take care of themselves.”

Garry’s work to establish a U.S. Marshal-type system will be a key to democracy and how well it works. “Without the courts and the judges being able to function, the rule of law is pretty much hopeless,” he said. “That’s what democratic or representational government is all about – being able to make laws, enforce them, and have them judged appropriately. So, if rule of law fails, it all fails.”

(Editor’s note: This interview was conducted Nov. 29, 2007. Because the situation in the Middle East is fluid, please consult recent news reports for current information about Iraq and events in this part of the world.)
Ever since Amanda Raley Lowery ('02) has been old enough to think about careers, her goal has been the same. “From day one, I’ve wanted to do cancer research,” she said. Lowery remained fixed on her goal from the early days at UT Martin through her doctorate earned at Rice University in Houston, Texas. “I grew up in Memphis. St. Jude was always there, but I’ve never known anyone who was a patient there,” said Lowery, adding that there was no “life event” that drew her to the field.

And, even though her parents are very pleased about her achievements, she admits “they’re a little baffled” about her career choice. “They’re both teachers. Her father teaches television production and her mother is a curriculum coordinator for Memphis City Schools. “They just don’t know where this bio-interest came from.”

As the first UT Martin engineering student to earn a Ph.D., Lowery became a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt University in July 2007, fulfilling that interest and realizing her dream.

Lowery began at UT Martin as a biology major. “The most exciting research was going on in bioengineering, and in order to get into a bioengineering graduate program, I needed to have an engineering degree. It could have been chemical, mechanical or electrical. I chose mechanical to get that degree.”

A University Scholar and Goldwater Scholar while at UT Martin, she graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in general engineering with an emphasis in mechanical.

She began a doctoral research position in August 2002 in Rice University Department of Bioengineering and received her doctorate in May 2007.

“I think I received a really good education here,” she said of UT Martin returning as a keynote speaker for the Department of Engineering annual banquet. “I felt very prepared in the engineering aspect. Since I went from mechanical to bio-medical, I didn’t have the biology background that I probably should have, but that was my fault. The classes were here. I just didn’t take advantage of them.”

In the end, however, Lowery got her wish. She is in a lab conducting research. “I am currently working on a gene therapy project for targeted delivery of
genes to cancer cells,” she said. “The idea in that project is that cancer cells are cancerous because they’re lacking the ability to behave normally. There is a problem in the DNA that makes the cells cancerous. With gene therapy, you deliver the gene (the DNA sequence) that restores them to their normal behavior. We use cancer targeting peptides so we only deliver the genes to the cancer cells, not all cells.”

On a typical day, Lowery feeds cells she has growing in cultures and removes the waste products. Then she sets up experiments. “Generally, my experiments consist of making nanoparticles, putting the nanoparticles on the cells and observing the effects,” she said.

She also reads a number of scientific journal articles trying to figure out what the scientific community already knows and “what the next step is that we need to be taking.”

Lowery works in a lab with two other researchers. “We have different particles, and we look at different cancers, but we use the same scientific tools to evaluate very different events. There are a lot of days that you think ‘my experiment is never going to work; why am I even bothering?’ But, when it works, it is exciting because you really feel as though what you’re doing is making a difference. You don’t feel like you are doing research just for the sake of research.”

And there are those “exciting moments.” In her presentation at the UT Martin engineering banquet, she showed data from some of the graduate work at Rice. “I showed one picture at the very end where I have a cancer cell sitting next to a normal cell – literally micrometers from each other – and I have successfully killed the cancer cell, and the healthy cell is still living. That was pretty wild!”

“When you realize an experiment works, you’re pretty happy,” she said. “You’re in a dark room with a microscope. A lot of times, you want to run and find anybody you can and say, ‘you’ve got to see this.’”

Lowery has always had good feedback at all stages. “Jennifer West (Isabel C. Cameron Professor of Bioengineering) was my thesis adviser at Rice, and she’s been wonderful. She’s very highly ranked in the field and always has great ambitions for her students.” At Vanderbilt, I work under Todd Giorgio (chair of biomedical engineering), and he’s also a great mentor.”

Jennifer was always very good at helping me figure out where I should take my project. She was always prepared with suggestions on how to proceed. Todd has more of a global approach saying, ‘Here’s your project, and that’s going great, but what else could you be doing, what other projects should you be thinking about?’”

Lowery continues considering her career options. “I still don’t know what I want to do when I grow up. I go back and forth – sometimes I think I want to go into industry and do pharmaceutical research. And then other times, I think I’d rather be a faculty member and run my own lab and have students.” She added, “I’m sitting right now at a juncture, so within the next two years, I think, I will make a move.”

While she ponders her future, she has some advice for UT Martin students. “Do what you want to do. Don’t get a degree and go do something just because your mom and dad think it’s the right choice. And, you don’t have to stick to traditional fields. Just because you’ve gotten a degree in one thing doesn’t mean you have to do that for the rest of your life.”

Lowery also touts the importance of getting research experience as an undergrad. “I cross-stitch. I’m a little old lady. I like making baby blankets,” she said. “You don’t have to think about anything. There’s already a pattern. You just follow it. If it says ‘use red,’ I’m, like, OK, red it is.”

Lowery hopes to continue finding answers in her research each day she goes to work. “Nanobiotechnology, the intersection of engineering, biology, chemistry and physics, is changing the face of medicine,” she said. “This generation of scientists must journey leaps and bounds, across many disciplines to gain the knowledge needed for these new nanoscale science applications. The interactions of scientists from different fields are enabling the emergence of new devices, new technologies and new medicines that will impact everyone.”
If the thought of clay target shooting conjures a movie scene with men in tweed jackets shooting “pull” and then firing away at a target – rethink the sport. Today, trap, skeet and sporting clays shooting is an increasingly popular sport with male and female high school and college students.

In Tennessee, participation in clay target shooting reflects the area’s love of hunting. Seth Paugh, an avid hunter since he was a youngster, pursued clay target shooting as an athletic outlet while a home-schooled high school student. The Pleasant View sophomore found he could practice his marksmanship, extend his “hunting” season and enjoy competition with his friends. Paugh brought his interest to UT Martin and quickly spread his enthusiasm for the sport.

“Seth is the primary reason we have a shotgun shooting program,” said Dr. Jim Byford (’66), UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences dean. Byford had known Seth’s father, Herb, for a long time. When Byford heard of Seth’s interest, he invited father and son on a squirrel hunt for UT Martin wildlife students. Talk during the hunt and later with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency personnel about the growing popularity of the sport among college-bound students led Byford to organize a meeting of interested parties.

Paugh recruited a number of UT Martin students as potential shooting club participants, and the club was formed in fall 2006. Dr. Phil Young, chairholder, UT Martin Hendrix Chair in Free Enterprise and an avid sporting clays shooter, signed on as the Clay Target Club adviser.

Young became involved in the clay target sports in the mid-1990s during his tenure at Southwest Missouri State University. He often was accompanied to the local shooting complex by his 12-year-old daughter, who soon was shooting targets, too. “It soon became very evident that clay target sports are a great activity for high school students and one that they could continue to pursue and enjoy well into their adult years,” said Young. “My daughter is now 25 and married, but we still enjoy meeting at the shooting complex to break a few targets.”

When Young arrived at UT Martin in 2005, he and Dr. Byford talked about how good it would be for UT Martin to have a clay target club.

“I agreed to serve as adviser because I believe it is important to offer students a form of recreation that they can continue to enjoy long after their college years,” said Young.

“We started out with 20 members and have grown to 50 male and female participants,” said Paugh, club president. A few had clay target experience, but most just have a hunting background. In a couple of cases, club members had no hunting or shooting experience and had to learn everything.

During the club formation, Byford contacted Steve Vaughn, retired Union City businessman, who agreed to be a volunteer coach. Vaughn has competed in Amateur Trapshooting Association events for more than a decade. Later, when the UT Martin Department of Health and Human Performance wanted another physical activity class, Vaughn was asked to teach a two-hour credit course, Clay Target Shooting. Since that time, he has studied teaching and coaching techniques extensively and earned certification as a shotgun coach and range safety officer.

“Being retired, I was looking for an opportunity to work with young people and have a positive influence on their lives,” said Vaughn. “I enjoy competitive shooting sports and believe that competition, when taught right, will teach positive values.”

He added, “There is a strong and growing interest in clay target shooting in the SCTP (Scholastic Clay Target Program) program.” Echoing Young’s assessment of the club’s recruiting potential, he said, “We believe that as these students start looking for a college, one of the criteria they will use is whether or not there is a competitive clay target team at the school. In fact, I’ve had several inquiries from students and parents.”

As for the initial club members, Vaughn said, “I have been very impressed with the vast majority of the students. Most came not knowing what to expect and just wanting to shoot. They didn’t realize how hard it really is to shoot targets. Then they get “bitten” by the competitive bug and want to learn competitive techniques.”

“We have a great group of students involved,” agreed Young. “Anyone who is interested in shooting is encouraged to become
involved. Women are especially encouraged and can be very successful.” Young or Vaughn can arrange for the loan of a gun to start out so a team member can learn about equipment needs before purchasing a gun.

During the 2006-07 academic year, a few members participated in ATA-registered shoots. Last summer, Tennessee hosted its first state Junior Olympic Trapshooting Championship for those 20 years old and younger. At that event, two UT Martin shooters qualified for a trip to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs to compete in the National Junior Olympics and a chance at the Olympic Development Team. “We did not win any awards, but the experience was something that cannot be measured,” said Vaughn.

“The Clay Target Club is doing very well,” said Young. The UT Martin, Murray State and Middle Tennessee State University clay target clubs competed in March, an event Young hopes becomes an annual outing. The UT Martin club brought home nine of 10 places awarded in the three-event match.

In April, Vaughn took seven students to San Antonio to the Association of College Unions International 40th Annual Intercollegiate Clay Target Championships with 295 competitors and 38 schools attending. This summer, more team members will try to qualify at the state Junior Olympics for an invitation to attend the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

“We believe that as these students start looking for a college, one of the criteria they will use is whether or not there is a competitive clay target team at the school. In fact, I’ve had several inquiries from students and parents.” - Steve Vaughn

In the past seven years, Paugh said the number of young clay target shooters in Tennessee has grown substantially. His first state competitions as a high schooler had approximately 300 shooters involved. Today, he said, those same events are attracting more than 2,000 shooters. “It’s growing in popularity.”

Speaking of potential, he added, “The potential for developing a highly competitive shotgun team is very real; however, we have some major obstacles to overcome. This is a very expensive sport if you practice enough to be competitive. To truly develop a team that can compete with the best will take a steady source of money to offset the cost of practice and competition expenses.” He noted the Office of Campus Recreation has supported the team and helped send members to the San Antonio match.

Vaughn also sees as a critical need a shooting sports facility to adequately practice. Currently, the team practices at Vaughn’s home range. “We need a UT Martin home club shotgun range that includes American and International trap and skeet, short- and long-range rifle, pistol, archery and sporting clays.” Such a facility, he said, “would support a shotgun competition as well as provide recreational shooting and training for the campus community, law enforcement and military personnel, and the general public.”

Paugh enjoys the competition with teammates and other schools, with prizes and money to be won, but mainly considers it a good pastime. “It’s a lot of fun. It helps you practice when you’re not hunting. Shooting is more of a mental than a physical thing.”

“TThe program has grown way beyond what I expected,” Vaughn said. “I enjoy working with the students very much, especially the ones who are interested in competing and are willing to put forth the extra work to reach their potential.”

“We believe that as these students start looking for a college, one of the criteria they will use is whether or not there is a competitive clay target team at the school. In fact, I’ve had several inquiries from students and parents.”

- Steve Vaughn

Seth Paugh
The opening of the UT Martin Jackson Center at Jackson State Community College was officially marked Feb. 19 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Classes offered at the UT Martin Jackson Center include selected programming in agriculture, education, counseling, nursing, ROTC and other areas. Additional courses/programs may be offered as needed. Previously, the center was located at the Tennessee Technology Center (TTC) in Jackson, and evening classes will continue to be offered at the TTC. Participating in the ceremony, organized by the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce, are Dr. Bruce Blanding, JSCC president, third from left; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, and Bethany Worley, UT Martin Jackson Center director. Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist, Madison County Mayor Jimmy Harris, chamber members and other UT Martin and JSCC faculty and staff attended.

A groundbreaking ceremony in Parsons marked construction of a new UT Martin Parsons Center. The new center will be located on Hwy. 641/Tennessee Avenue North, and construction is funded by The Ayers Foundation, the City of Parsons, Decatur County and private funds. Beginning in spring 2009, the 19,000 square foot center, will house college classes that have been offered since early 2007 at Decatur County Riverside High School and the Parsons Municipal Building. Pictured at the groundbreaking ceremony, from left, are Frank Wagster, TLM Associates, Inc.; State Sen. Roy Herron ('75); State Rep. Steve McDaniel; State Rep. Randy Rinks; UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes; UT President John Petersen; Jim Ayers, Chairman of the Board, Ayers Asset Management Inc.; Parsons Mayor Tim David Boaz; Decatur County Mayor Jason Scott; Parsons Center Director Jason Rushing ('04); and Jon Ayers, Melvin Taylor and Tom Leitch, UT Martin Parsons Center building committee members.

UT Martin Student Investment Team Rewarded in “Real World”

A team of UT Martin students who manage a stock portfolio in the Tennessee Valley Authority Investment Challenge program recently claimed a $10,000 performance award for 2007, placing second in the competition with an annual return on investments of 28 percent compared to the S&P 500 composite index return of 5.5 percent. Additionally, UT Martin is in first place in the three-year performance category with an annual return of 21 percent (versus the S&P return of 8.6 percent). The program, in its 10th year, is an innovative and unique partnership among TVA and 25 universities in its service territory that provides a real-world learning experience in portfolio management. The challenge gives students enrolled in the Finance 411 class hands-on experience in stock analysis and in managing the TVA stock portfolio.

Coming Soon ...

A new Student Recreation Center is scheduled to open in late 2009 or early 2010. The center will be approximately 100,000 square feet and will feature four basketball courts, a new fitness center and much more. The center will be located near the fitness trail, providing students living on campus and commuters easy access.
The “real world” doesn’t get any more real than the experience several UT Martin engineering students had during their senior year. The students created a motorized assistive device for a three-year-old child.

“We had an opportunity to make something for somebody. Someone can actually get use out of this,” Chris Edwards said of the motorized prone stander with an attached Sahara Slate PC created for Gracin Davidson of Martin. Currently, there is nothing like it on the market, and it already has been very beneficial to Gracin and her parents, Kevin and Stacy Davidson.

“It’s wonderful,” said Stacy. “It’s definitely beneficial, not only for her, but for us.” Stacy explained that the motorized stander will allow Gracin to move about in their home, and the unit can also be loaded in a vehicle so Gracin can accompany her family on outings and be mobile.

Gracin was born with 1p 36 deletion syndrome, which can result in seizures, congenital heart defects and developmental delays. Most children with 1p 36 walk between the ages of four and six. Gracin’s hips will not develop unless she spends time standing, something this point she has had to do in a stationary location wherever her prone stander was placed. With the motorized unit, she can move a joystick to propel the unit in any direction. Additionally, using the attached PC with touchscreen, Gracin can be entertained and master developmental skills with a variety of computer programs.

As part of graduation requirements at ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology)-accredited colleges and universities, students must complete a capstone design project. At UT Martin, that requirement is fulfilled in a year-long course that culminates in the demonstration of the project in the spring.

Edwards of Union City, was joined by Matt Jones of McKenzie, and Tugce Gokdemir of Turkey, in designing and constructing the motorized prone stander. The trio spent a total of 750 hours on the project, which was funded by the Tennessee Department of Education and directed by Drs. Jeff McCullough and Somsak Sukittanon, UT Martin assistant professors of engineering.

“I would like to thank the state of Tennessee for funding this project which allowed UT Martin engineering students to design and construct a product that directly affects Gracin’s life in a positive way,” said McCullough.

Sukittanon also expressed appreciation for the funding and added, “It significantly helps our students to use their knowledge learned in the classrooms on a real-world problem.”

From the start, it was a challenge to design and build a motorized stander that would support the weight of the batteries needed to propel it. Wheel hub motors had to be modified to fit the reconfigured unit. And, then, tires to fit the hub motors were a challenge to find. The motorized stander travels 4.5 mph, weighs 120 pounds, the weight of a light motorized wheelchair. It even comes with consumer product testing. The students used Matt’s nephew to “crash” test it and put it through the paces from a youngster’s perspective. “We wanted it to be safe,” said Edwards.

The trio was undaunted last fall when the school year began and they started work on the project. “Matt and I had worked out in industry, so we knew where we needed to start, and that it was going to work,” said Edwards.

He added that Diversified-Tamco, of McKenzie, was very helpful in bringing the project to fruition, welding and providing spare random parts that were needed during development.

Earlier this year, the motorized unit was delivered to the Davidsons’ home to try out and suggest any necessary modifications. The final delivery was made at the end of the semester.

“We are excited and grateful,” Stacy said about the motorized stander and the fact that UT Martin students chose to develop it for Gracin. “With each use, Gracie pushes the joystick even more, and she loves the breezes on her face.”

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**Engineering Students’ Design Directly Benefits Local Three-Year-Old**

Chris Edwards, of Union City, recent graduate with a degree in engineering, watches as Gracin Davidson, of Martin, tries out a motorized prone stander designed and built by Edwards, Matt Jones of McKenzie and Tugce Gokdemir of Turkey. Gracin’s mother, Stacy, offers encouragement.
New Programs Offered; Music Reaccredited

The announcement of two new online master's degrees and reaccreditation of the UT Martin Department of Music are among recent university academic highlights.

MBA Targets Bank Professionals

The UT Martin online MBA is the first University of Tennessee graduate business program offered completely online. The program, initially designed with a focus on banking and financial services professionals, also offers the convenience of an online “classroom.” The 22-month sequence of courses in the 35-hour program makes it convenient for professionals working full time to complete the degree.

As the only program in West Tennessee outside Memphis accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the UT Martin MBA is a comprehensive business degree. The program is designed to develop a range of relevant skills and knowledge including: teamwork, problem solving, business ethics, communication, leadership, financial analysis, sales and marketing, technology, human resources, strategic planning, regulation and economic trends.

Dr. Tom Payne, UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, said the new online MBA serves the needs of bank employees with different professional backgrounds, undergraduate degrees, job responsibilities and work schedules.

For more information, visit www.utm.edu/onlinemba or call 731-881-7324.

Online Master’s in Education Focuses on Counseling

An online master of science in education with a major in counseling—school or community—will be offered for the first time, beginning Aug. 25, 2008, by UT Martin.

Joining master of science in education degrees in administration and supervision, geoscience education and special education, all degree requirements for the new program may be completed online with the exception of a required four-day residency at the beginning of each semester. The residency for fall semester is Aug. 21-24; spring, Jan. 8-11; and summer, May 28-31. Candidates are admitted for each semester.

For information, call UT Online, toll-free, at 866-587-7589 or 731-881-7589, or visit http://utonline.tennessee.edu.

Music Department Reaccredited

The National Association of Schools of Music Commission on Accreditation recently reaccredited the UT Martin Department of Music. Degrees accredited include bachelor of arts in music, bachelor of music in music education and bachelor of music in performance.

NASM, an organization of schools, conservatories, colleges and universities, establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials. Institutional membership is gained only through the peer review process of accreditation.

Dr. Richard Chesteen, professor of political science, whose teaching career has spanned 45 years, was honored with a retirement dinner, highlighted by the launch of the Richard Chesteen Endowment for Government Internships. The Chesteen Endowment will focus on subsidizing governmental internships for students in multiple disciplines, with the goal of increasing internship opportunities in Washington, D.C. The endowment will be supported by contributions from corporations, alumni and the university community.

Lt. Col. Janet Kirkton (center) has recently left her position as professor of military science and head of the university’s Army ROTC Program to assist with planning efforts for the Iraq War. Kirkton leaves UT Martin with plenty of enthusiasm for her new assignment. Specific duties will evolve after she arrives in Iraq, but she does know that she will participate in strategic and contingency planning for the war effort at the highest level. For example, it won’t be unusual for her to observe discussions between the Iraqi president and commanding general. Before coming to UT Martin in fall 2005, Kirkton was an operations officer for the 1st Engineer Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. She also previously taught at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, so when the UT Martin assignment opened, the Skyhawk Battalion and Martin appeared to be a perfect fit. She is pictured above with members of the UT Martin Skyhawk Battalion before leaving for Iraq. Pictured with Kirkton are (front row, left to right) 2nd Lt. Tyler McAnally and 2nd Lt. Travis Payne, both May 2008 UT Martin graduates; and (back row, left to right) Maj. James Lacy and Capt. Donny Hebel.
UT Martin Collegiate FFA Named Top State Chapter For Fourth Consecutive Year

The UT Martin Collegiate FFA chapter was named top collegiate chapter in the state for the fourth consecutive year at the Tennessee FFA Alumni State Convention at Montgomery Bell State Park. Also, it was announced that UT Martin Collegiate FFA is the first and only FFA Alumni university affiliation in the state.

Two agriculture majors, Haley Eskew, of Bells, and Ashley Amsden, of Drummonds, received $500 Harold Lineberry Scholarships during the convention.

Dr. James N. Butler Jr., professor of agricultural education, is UT Martin Collegiate FFA adviser.
Alumni from the University of Tennessee Martin Branch (1955-64) representing the original members of Vanguard Theatre, including J. Robert Swain, the first director of Vanguard Theatre, visited the UT Martin campus during the spring, touring the campus, dining in the new Alumni Center, catching up with one another, while also catching a performance of the latest Vanguard Theatre production, *A Murder is Announced*. The former original Vanguardians visited with the current Vanguard Theatre staff, cast and crew during a picture call on Saturday afternoon. Current and former Vanguardians discussed the beginnings of Vanguard Theatre, the theatre today and the future of Vanguard Theatre. Former and current Vanguardians gathered on the set for *A Murder is Announced* for a grand curtain call photo that spanned the generations. Later that evening during the play performance intermission, Doug Cook, chair of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, spoke to the audience acknowledging the contributions of J. Robert Swain and all the former members of Vanguard Theatre to the great success of what is now an artistic and cultural tradition at UT Martin, Vanguard Theatre. From left to right are, front row, Bobby Crockett, John Mistric, Suzy Brundige Cowell, J. Robert Swain, Hadi Alradhi, Nick Mounts, Emily Welch Stewart, Anne Meek; second row, John Weber Webb, Bill Brinley, Bill Butler, Bud Demetriou, Jay Campbell, Kara Salyers, Richard Walters, Leighanne Sims, Mary Beth French, J. Douglas Chandler, Bill Clark, Natalie Horbelt, Ashlee Johnson, Megan Hollis and Karen Saldana.
West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Opens at UT Martin

Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Ken Givens joined UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and other state and local officials gathered to dedicate the new West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, May 22, on the UT Martin campus.

“The new West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory is a prime example of how the Agricultural Enhancement Program is making a positive difference for our state,” said Gov. Phil Bredesen, who was represented by Givens at the dedication.

“I want to commend UT Martin for delivering on a promise to operate a first-class facility with first-class service,” said Givens.

“This is a great day for Tennessee agriculture and particularly for the livestock industry in West Tennessee. Not only will this facility function as an integral part of a statewide animal disease network, but it will help to further diversify and support the development of our livestock industry in West Tennessee.”

The partnership between the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and UT Martin was made possible by the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program, established in 2005 by Bredesen and supported by the Tennessee General Assembly.

The laboratory opening follows an announcement in fall 2006 of a partnership between the TDA and UT Martin to improve cattle management and health in West Tennessee with a mobile, high-tech trailer funded by the TAEP that is being used as a tool to educate and demonstrate proper cattle management and care. In fiscal year 2006, a total of $750,000 from TAEP funded renovations and equipment for the new laboratory.

University of Tennessee President John Petersen was represented by Dr. Joseph DiPietro, UT vice president for agriculture.

“With the establishment of the West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab at UT Martin, each region of the state is now equipped to identify and monitor animal health concerns such as foreign animal disease, herd disease outbreaks, secure the safety of the food supply, maximize animal health and assure public health,” said DiPietro.

“This is a great example of our continuing partnership with the state to ensure an increased level of special services to those within our region,” said Chancellor Rakes. “We are fortunate to have this unique laboratory facility located in West Tennessee.”

For more information about the West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, contact Dr. Janet Bailey, facilities manager, at 731-881-1071.
On May 3, the University of Tennessee at Martin officially launched its portion of the $1 billion University of Tennessee fund-raising campaign to enhance programs of excellence at all of the university’s campuses and institutes. The program included speakers, Chancellor Tom Rakes, President John Petersen and Dr. Anne Meek (’59), and concluded with “coaching” by Lady Vols Coach Pat Summitt (’74).

UT Martin has raised $30.5 million, or 77 percent of its $40 million goal, the largest goal attainment percentage of any UT campus or unit. Also, UT Martin achieved 56 percent participation in its Family Campaign, the largest percentage of any UT campus.

“While we are grateful and pleased with extraordinary leadership gifts given to date in The Campaign for Tennessee, there is still much work to be done,” said Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement. “The ultimate success of this effort will depend upon the generosity and involvement of loyal alumni and friends throughout the region. As the university publicly launches the most ambitious fund-raising effort in UT and UT Martin’s history, every gift makes a difference. During the next three years of the capital campaign, we will need larger numbers of gifts of varying sizes to reach our goal and ensure success.”
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN CAMPAIGN FOR TENNESSEE LEADERSHIP

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS
Mr. James W. Ayers
Mr. J. Houston Gordon ('68), Esq.

CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS
Dr. Lew Dougherty
Mr. Ray Smith

CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE
Mr. Bill Blankenship ('56)
Mr. Crawford Gallimore ('71)
Mrs. Bettie Graham
Mr. R. Newell Graham
Dr. Ron Kirkland ('70)
Mr. Charles E. Moore
Dr. Margaret Perry ('61)

FAMILY CAMPAIGN CHAIRS
Mr. Charley Deal ('92, '96)
Ms. Bettye Giles
Dr. Jerald Ogg ('76)

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE ADMINISTRATION
Dr. John Petersen, President
Mr. Henry Nemcik, Vice President for Alumni and Development

UT MARTIN ADMINISTRATION
Dr. Thomas Rakes, Chancellor
Mrs. Len P. Solomons, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

CAMPAIGN GOAL $40 million

Academic Programs $15,500,000
Athletics $4,500,000
Scholarships $13,500,000
Student Life $4,750,000
Campus Enhancement $1,750,000
Altruism in Action

Benefactors to UT Martin’s Campaign for Tennessee are leading by example in every way. Not only are these alumni and friends serving in campaign leadership roles, they have made extraordinary seven-figure gifts that will impact UT Martin faculty, students and university-wide initiatives for generations to come.

Philanthropy begins in the heart – with a sense of gratitude and a willingness to “give back.” These three couples have given time, talent and treasure to UT Martin, and each has a story rooted in the Tennessee volunteer spirit.

J. Houston Gordon (’68) serves as honorary chair for UT Martin in The Campaign for Tennessee. He and his wife, Debbie, have supported the university, including endowing several UT Martin University Scholars and making gifts to the UT Knoxville Law School over the past 20 years. Houston is a third-generation UT Martin alumnus. Houston’s grandmother, Ava Darnall Gordon, came to the campus on horseback when it was Hall-Moody Institute. His father, H.D. Gordon, attended UT Martin Junior College before graduating from UT Knoxville. His three siblings graduated and then obtained post graduate degrees, one from UT Health Science Center in pharmacy, one from Clemson, and one from the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. Two nephews graduated from UT Martin. His niece is a sophomore at UT Martin. Houston hitchhiked from Covington, his hometown, to UT Martin during his first two years. He had a sign on his suitcase that read, UTMB Student Needs a Ride.

Houston attributes his desire to invest in the next generation to his parents who valued education and believed in giving back and helping others and to the positive impact of his college experience at UT Martin. Houston and Debbie are investing an additional $600,000 in the UT Martin Paul Meek Library and the American Democracy Project.

Their campaign commitment not only will provide access to information that encourages service-learning and civic engagement, but also will instill knowledge about the importance of preserving and participating in a democratic society. The Gordons are passionate about assisting and encouraging young people to become active in the everyday life of our country; economically, politically and socially.

“As a student of history, I feel there has been no time since our nation’s founding that the active acceptance of individual and collective responsibility by an educated citizenry is more important than now. The very underpinnings of our free society are at stake.”

- Houston Gordon

“Giving is the highest level of living.”

— John Maxwell, author and leadership guru
This self-proclaimed “country lawyer” gained national prominence as a captain in the U.S. Army when he was appointed to represent Lt. William Calley during the appeals of Calley’s conviction arising out of the infamous “My Lai Massacre.” The resulting media attention in the early 1970s catapulted him into politics and a life of service. Although he has been elected as a member of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates and listed in Best Lawyers in America in civil practice every year since 1984, he has served as chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party, and made a run for the U.S. Senate, Houston has never forgotten his roots or his alma mater.

He and Debbie are also actively involved in the historic preservation and renovation of downtown Covington, including his law offices housed in the historic Lindo Hotel building (1901), plus a four-star restaurant, Marlo’s Down Under, Debbie’s up-scale dress shop called Le Chic Boutique, and three luxury loft apartments with designer kitchens, all located in what was originally known as the Olive Block, home of the first Naifeh Grocery Store, the Walker Hardware Store and numerous professional and business offices beginning in the late 1800s.

Debbie, a pharmacist (UT Memphis ’75), currently serves on the UTAA Women’s Council and the Alliance of Women Philanthropists. Houston has served on the UT Board of Trustees, UT College of Law Dean’s Alumni Advisory Council, the UT Development Council and the UT Martin Development Committee. In his spare time, he authored a novel, The Plains of Abraham, and is currently writing a nonfiction historical account of the My Lai incident and the Vietnam War.

Bill and Roberta Blankenship both attended the University of Tennessee at Martin Branch, where they first met. Bill earned his B.S. in agriculture in 1956, and Roberta graduated with a home economics degree in 1955. They returned to UT Martin for the first time in 50 years to attend their Golden Grad Reunion in August 2005. Shortly afterward, Bill became a member of the UT Martin Development Committee and now serves on The Campaign for Tennessee Steering Committee and the UT Development Council. Their great-nephew, Joel Howard, graduated from UT Martin in December 2005, and, at that time, they made the first of several undesignated six-figure gifts to UT Martin. “We have confidence in the leadership of the university and believe they can best determine the needs and priorities for the use of private dollars.”

As a result of those annual gifts, the Blankenship Undergraduate Research Endowment in the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences was established. Matched by support from the university, collaborative faculty/student research activities are nurtured and encouraged. Income from the endowment provides faculty incentives and student stipends for “real-world” learning opportunities in a close mentoring environment. Other private gifts from the Blankenships have purchased much-needed equipment in the chemistry department; specifically a nuclear magnetic resonance machine that enables students in the pre-health sciences to conduct experiments with state-of-the-art instrumentation, equipping them for graduate and professional school.

Bill was born and reared in Covington and was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. After obtaining his UT Martin degree, he was accepted in the Navy Officer Candidate School and, on receiving his commission, was assigned to the Commander In Chief Pacific Fleet Staff. He started his business career with Buckeye, a division of Procter & Gamble. P & G sold the cellulose business in the early 1990s to an investment group which formed Buckeye Technologies, and Bill was vice president of cotton manufacturing. Roberta, originally from Memphis, was editor of the yearbook and a campus beauty at UT Martin. Both played tennis as students and were coached by former UT Martin women’s athletic director, Bettye Giles. Giles, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, Len Solomons, UT Martin vice chancellor for university advancement, and Charley Deal, UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations, recently attended an alumni reception hosted by Bill and Roberta in their Sandestin, Fla., home. Following the successful event, the Blankenships presented the university with a $2 million bequest for The Campaign for Tennessee.

When asked why they have committed such extraordinary support to the Martin campus, Bill said, “It’s just the right thing to do! It took us a while to get involved again with our alma mater, but we are passionate about UT Martin and what it means to the economic growth and development of the region. UT Martin is truly preparing the next generation of leadership.”
Ray and Wilma Smith have long recognized the importance of education and the impact UT Martin makes on West Tennessee and beyond. They have two children, Jan Kizer and Brent Smith, as well as a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, many of whom are UT Martin alumni. Ray currently serves as UT Martin co-chair of The Campaign for Tennessee and was also the West Tennessee co-chair of the Tennessee Tomorrow Campaign, UT’s first-ever national fund-raising effort. He is a past chair of the UT Martin Development Committee, a former member of the UT Development Council, and received the UT Martin Chancellor’s Award for University Service during Homecoming 2005.

In 2004, the Smiths made a generous contribution to the Agricultural Teaching Complex. In recognition of their leadership of the project, UT Martin named the UT Martin Ray and Wilma Smith Livestock Merchandising Facility in their honor. Most recently, they made a remarkable seven-figure commitment to fund professorships in each of the five academic colleges at UT Martin. “We believe in investing in people, and the faculty at UT Martin are among the finest anywhere. The university must be competitive in recruiting and keeping top-notch professors. Our support is intended to provide recognition for excellence and incentives to attract and retain the very best in their fields.”

“We want UT Martin to be competitive. We want to attract the best teachers in their fields. We want to retain and train faculty. Then, when you’ve got teachers who need to study in Europe or Japan, for instance, you’re in good shape for that to happen.”

Ray Smith is married to the former Wilma Crider. Making their home in Huntingdon, Smith owns and operates Ray Smith Chevrolet-Buick-Pontiac, Inc., in Camden, Tenn., with his son and grandson. He also holds interests in radio stations, farms, real estate and insurance firms. He serves as chair of Mountain Life Insurance, is a past member of First Bank board of directors, a past member of the Tennessee Bankers Association board of directors and past president of the Tennessee Automobile Dealers Association. He has been a Phillips 66 jobber since 1966 and served as a member of the National Board of the American Heart Association and as the Tennessee Heart Association state fund-raising chair. Smith is chair of the Industrial Development Board of Huntingdon, moderator of Southwestern District Baptist Association, and president of the West Tennessee Public Utilities District, serving as a board member for 39 years.

Ray is a past member of the board of directors of the Woodman of the World Insurance Company. He has served under three governors on the Tennessee Utilities Management Review Board and as a Baptist Hospital advisory board member. He is a member of Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church, serving as a deacon, Sunday School superintendent and Sunday School teacher for more than 50 years. In 2003, Ray was named Huntingdon Outstanding Citizen. He has served as Lions Club president, chair of the Bank of Huntingdon, and was mayor of Camden for 12 years. Ray and Wilma have invested their lives in service to others, and with this transformational campaign commitment, they are investing in our best natural resource – human capital and human potential.

“UT Martin is more important than the average person might think and very important to West Tennessee,” Ray said. “It’s given all of us a better way of life.”

“We believe in investing in people, and the faculty at UT Martin are among the finest anywhere.”

- Ray Smith
The University of Tennessee Foundation Charitable Gift Annuity Information

How does a gift annuity work? In return for your contribution, and pursuant to a signed agreement, the UT Foundation agrees to make fixed payments for life. Payments will be made quarterly—in March, June, September and December.

Who may receive payments from the annuity? Payments may be made to up to two beneficiaries (also called annuitants). While typically donors name themselves, an annuity also can be established to benefit others such as a spouse, parent or sibling.

What will the amount of my payments be? Annuity payments will be determined at the time the annuity is established and will be based on the age(s) of the annuitant(s) at that time. The University of Tennessee is committed to following the recommended annuity rates as directed by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA).

How does a gift annuity benefit the University of Tennessee at Martin? At the end of the annuitant’s life (or, with a two-life annuity, the end of both lives), the remainder of the principal transferred will be used to support the work of the university.

Are there tax advantages with a gift annuity? Yes. You receive a charitable deduction in the year the gift. In addition, a portion of the annuity payments will be tax-free, representing a return of the principal contributed.

Can I contribute securities for a gift annuity? Yes. In fact, contributing highly appreciated securities, which you have held for more than 12 months, offers additional tax savings. You pay no tax on the capital gain attributable to the charitable gift portion of the contribution. If you are an annuitant, the gain attributable to the annuity payments does not need to be recognized in the year of the gift but can be apportioned according to your life expectancy.

How can I request more information? We can provide you with an analysis showing the payments and tax benefits for your situation. You also may complete and submit the form online at www.plannedgiving.tennessee.edu or call 731-881-7620 for more information.

Let us know what you’re up to!
Please also use this form to update your address if it has changed.

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

Years Attended: __________ through __________ School/College of: __________________

Degree(s): _______________________ Major: _________________________________

Home Address: ________________________________ City/State/Zip: ________________

Home Phone: __________________ Business Phone: _____________________________

Occupation: __________________ Business Name or Employer: ____________________

Business Address: __________________ City/State/Zip: __________________________

Your Email Address: __________________________

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

Full Name of spouse: ________________________________________________________

Did your spouse attend UT Martin? Yes No

Years Attended: __________ through __________ School/College of: ________________

Degree(s): _______________________ Major: _________________________________

Occupation: __________________ Business Name or Employer: ____________________

Business Address: __________________ City/State/Zip: __________________________

Spouse’s Email Address: __________________________

Names and Ages of Children:

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

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

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

List your current hobbies:

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

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

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

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

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

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

Fill out, clip and return this form to: Office of Alumni Relations
University of Tennessee at Martin
1900 Alumni Way
Martin, TN 38238
alumni@utm.edu
Lester Hudson, a junior on the UT Martin men’s basketball team, was named the Ohio Valley Conference’s Male Athlete of the Year.

The league’s top honor was awarded to Hudson, May 30, at the OVC’s annual spring meetings at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville.

Hudson was unable to accept the award because he was participating in NBA pre-draft camp in Florida. Although Hudson declared himself eligible for the June 26 draft, he later withdrew his name and will return to school for his senior season.

Hudson put together one of the best all-around seasons in Ohio Valley Conference history in 2007-08 and helped his team make a six-game improvement in its league record. The Skyhawks were picked last (11th) in a preseason poll but finished fourth and qualified for the OVC Tournament.

Hudson made school, conference and NCAA history during the season, including becoming the first Division I men’s player to record a quadruple-double (25 points, 12 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 steals vs. Central Baptist College) in a college game. He also had a triple-double, eight additional double-doubles and cracked the 30-point plateau 11 times during his rookie season in the league. He finished the season ranked fifth nationally in points per game (25.7), fourth in steals (2.8) and 10th in 3-pointers made per game (3.8). He also ranked among the top 90 nationally in rebounding (79th, 7.8/game), assists (88th, 4.5/game), 3-point percentage (72nd, 38.8%) and free throw percentage (67th, 83.4%).

Hudson knocked down a school record 124 3-pointers and set the OVC single-season record. A native of Memphis, who transferred from Southwest Tennessee Community College, Hudson is the first UT Martin player to receive the OVC Player of the Year award. He was also named to the OVC All-Newcomer squad, became just the fourth Skyhawk ever named to the All-OVC first-team and was named UT Martin’s Bob Carroll Male Athlete of the Year. Hudson became the first player in school history to claim All-American honors from the Associated Press and collegeinsider.com, since the school started playing in Division I.

For more information about Lester Hudson, see the Feb. 4 issue of Sports Illustrated magazine.
UT Martin celebrated its 40th anniversary of intercollegiate rodeo action in April. UT Martin senior Ty Atchison won the Ozark Region All-Around buckle and his second consecutive Ozark Region Saddle Bronc championship. Both the UT Martin men and women advanced to the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) in Casper, Wyo., where the men’s team finished third in the nation. The UT Martin rodeo team has won 28 Ozark Region titles since joining the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) in 1973. The team has advanced to the CNFR 34 consecutive years.
Former UT Martin baseball player Hideaki Sato (‘07) is waiting for his call to the show – the Big Leagues.

Sato’s call up won’t be based on the stellar numbers he posted as a second baseman at UT Martin for head coach Bubba Cates. If the native of Nagasaki, Japan, makes it to the big leagues it will be as a translator.

Sato currently is working for the Seattle Mariners Rookie League team, the Peoria (Ariz.) Mariners, who are in extended spring training through Aug. 9. Sato is translating for 18-year-old Kenta Suda, a right-handed pitcher.

“I really like this job, and I enjoy it,” Sato said. “It’s a 24/7 job because I am helping Suda on and off the field, and I am also teaching him English.”

Sato said Suda started his first season in the Rookie League with Peoria, but thinks the young pitcher has a good chance to move up to the Single-A team.

Sato says his future in the Major Leagues is promising if teams continue to get players from Japan. “This is a great opportunity for me to start my career. I hope when this season is over I can find the next opportunity.”

**Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions**

Five former UT Martin athletes and chancellor emeritus Nick Dunagan will be inducted into the University’s Athletics Hall of Fame, Oct. 4, at the annual Letter Winners Breakfast and Hall of Fame Inductions set for 7:30 a.m. at the Student Life and Leadership Center.

Among the athletes to be inducted are Romel “Zeek” Andrews (‘88) (football), Deslone Collins (‘65, ‘71) (football), Randy Horn (‘71) (baseball), Eric Kugler (‘87) (rifle) and Angela Olsen (‘97) (tennis).

**Dr. Nick Dunagan** (‘68) led the university to several significant athletics milestones. As acting chancellor in 1986, he initiated efforts to secure UT Martin’s membership in the Ohio Valley Conference and continued in his executive vice chancellor role to work with Chancellor Margaret Perry on both the OVC membership application and the move from NCAA Division II to Division I. After becoming chancellor in April 2001, he supported athletics facilities improvements, including construction of the Bob Carroll Football Building, new seating in Skyhawk Arena and the installation of a new artificial playing surface in Hardy M. Graham Stadium. OVC championships in volleyball, women’s tennis and football marked high points in the athletics program during his administration. He officially retired in July 2007, leaving a lasting legacy for UT Martin athletics.

Andrews played football from 1982-85. He played linebacker and defensive line. The Ripley native recorded 108 total tackles as a sophomore and junior. Andrews signed a free agent contract with the Hamilton TigerCats in 1986. He spent nine years in the Canadian Football League and played for two Grey Cup championship teams. He also played for the Winnipeg Bluebombers and retired from the TigerCats in 1994.

Collins, from Milan, played football from 1962-64. He played center and linebacker and served as captain of the 1964 team. He has been active in the Ghosts of the Gridiron Club and attends most UT Martin home games.

Horn played baseball from 1968-71. He was an outfielder, and he posted a .320 career batting average. He played on the 1968 and 1971 Volunteer Scholastic Athletic Conference championship teams and earned All-VSAC honors in 1970. He was also a member of the 1971 team that advanced to the NCAA Mideast Regional Tournament.

Kugler was a member of the UT Martin rifle team from 1982-86. He was the first UT Martin athlete to qualify for the NCAA Rifle Championship. He led the former Pacers to their first top-20 finish in 1984. He was a two-time All-Gulf South Conference selection and a three-time qualifier for the NCAA championship.

Olsen played tennis from 1994-97. She posted a 35-3 Ohio Valley Conference singles record and a 36-2 OVC doubles worksheet. She was a four-time All-OVC selection, and she led her team to a pair of conference championships. She was named the OVC’s Player of the Year and Scholar Athlete in 1996.
Skyhawks Face Two Football Bowl Teams, Host Six Home Games

The UT Martin Skyhawks will play two Football Bowl Subdivision teams and host four Ohio Valley Conference powerhouses this season at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

The 12-game schedule includes six road games, including visits to the University of South Florida in Tampa (Aug. 30) and to perennial Southeastern Conference power Auburn University (Nov. 8).

“We will play one of the toughest schedules ever this season,” said Jason Simpson, the Skyhawks third-year head coach. “Our road games at South Florida and Auburn will be exciting for our players and our entire program. Our players will have a chance to play in front of a lot of people, and they will have the opportunity to play in outstanding facilities. Our program will obviously benefit financially from both games for a long time.”

The Skyhawks open the home portion of their schedule with back-to-back games in Hardy M. Graham Stadium. The Skyhawks will host Baker University, Sept. 6, and Concordia, Sept. 11.

The road to the Ohio Valley Conference championship begins in Clarksville, when the Skyhawks meet Austin Peay, Sept. 20. The Skyhawks will travel to rival Murray State on Sept. 27 and then return home for homecoming on Oct. 4 against Tennessee State.

Eastern Illinois will invade Martin on Oct. 11, and then the Skyhawks travel to Cookeville for a Thursday night battle against instate rival Tennessee Tech. Sandwiched between Tech and Auburn is a home game against Jacksonville State on Thursday, Oct. 23 (scheduled to be televised on ESPNU).

The Skyhawks will wrap up their regular season with OVC games at Southeast Missouri State, Nov. 15, and at home, Nov. 22, against defending OVC champion Eastern Kentucky.

Football Anniversary Planned

The 1988 UT Martin football team will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its stellar season, Nov. 21-22, in Martin. A reception is planned from 4:30-6 p.m., Nov. 21, at the Hampton Inn in Martin. Dinner at the hotel is set from 6-8 p.m. The team will also have a hospitality tent at the game Nov. 22. UT Martin will host Eastern Kentucky, and kickoff is set for noon at Hardy M. Graham Stadium. The 1988 UT Martin football team won the Gulf South Conference and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division II Playoffs. UT Martin defeated Butler, 23-6, in the first round and then suffered a 34-0 loss to Texas A&I in the second round. The team finished the season with an 11-2 overall record and a 7-1 worksheet in the Gulf South Conference.
Located at 1900 Alumni Way, just west of Hardy M. Graham Stadium, UT Martin’s new Alumni Center will provide a welcoming gateway to campus and will project the inviting atmosphere UT Martin alumni and friends know and love. The building will reflect the personality of UT Martin, providing a warm, comfortable place that will evoke many fond memories for our guests. The on-campus center will give UT Martin an opportunity to familiarize students with the UT Alumni Association, the Office of Alumni Relations programs, preparing them for future involvement and support of the association and university as loyal alumni. The location makes it convenient for alumni and friends to visit campus when they return to UT Martin for alumni and university events.

But, the Alumni Center is just the beginning. Alumni involvement will only be enhanced by the realization that, as an alum, you have a place to call “home” when you return to your alma mater, the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Accepting the keys from Chancellor Tom Rakes to the new Alumni Center on behalf of alumni and current students are l-r, Erin Chambers (’08), 2007-08 student government president; Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations; Tom Rakes, chancellor; Tim Taylor, UT Martin Alumni Council president; Len Solomons, vice chancellor for university advancement; and Johnny Richwine, 2008 Undergraduate Alumni Council president.

Chancellor Rakes hands over the keys to the new center to Tim Taylor (’84, ’85) after formally recognizing the repurposing of the chancellor’s residence to the new Alumni Center in accordance with a recommendation approved by the UT Board of Trustees. Taylor serves as the president of the UT Martin Alumni Council and lives in Dyersburg.

Sarae Seratt (’77), longtime alumni staff member, is shown giving a tour during the alumni weekend activities.

The former Chancellor’s Residence is now the Alumni Center, located at 1900 Alumni Way.
Today, I am writing to you from the Alumni Center, a place that you can call “your” home. The alumni staff truly loves the new space, and we encourage you to visit with us any time you are in the area. I am pleased to also introduce a new member of our alumni family, Kelley Trevathan. Kelley joined our office in March and will oversee the online community, special reunions and events. She joins the veteran alumni staff member, Sarae Seratt ('77).

When I watch the commencement program, I get choked up listening to the commencement march. I find myself thinking back to my college days. It is always a pleasant trip down memory lane. One that leads me to recall the faculty who teach, not preach – a memory of staff who care, not just working to draw a check. This is our university, our alma mater!

As I witnessed my nephew walking across the stage at commencement, I could not help but smile. He has a whole new life ahead of him. He gets out of it what he puts into it. And that’s what UT Martin teaches – you can be successful if you work toward your goal.

How many of us can say we are successful? How many of us can help others with no obligation of repayment or recognition? As UT Martin continues to make giant leaps in reaching its $40 million campaign goal, your help is needed. Not only does your financial support encourage others to give back, but you are helping this generation of students achieve higher goals. We are not looking for armchair quarterbacks during this remarkable era for alumni; we are looking for alumni to be active and involved. We need you to visit campus. We need you to host events in your area for students and alumni. We need your financial support. We need you! Alumni like Bill Hoy ('77), who purchased a large tent for outdoor functions at the center, know the importance of supporting UT Martin and our mission; alumni like Tim Taylor ('84, '85) and Jean Phebus ('92) and countless others, who give so freely of their time to volunteer for leadership roles within our organization. If you are like me, you might be waiting for someone to ask you to help. I am asking for your help and support.

I close this article with a sincere “thank you” to everyone who has taken time to visit with us since we changed locations. I also would like to thank Chancellor Tom Rakes and Len Solomons for their support in our mission in providing services to UT Martin alumni. These are monumental times for alumni of UT Martin. I hope you, too, are proud to call the University of Tennessee at Martin your alma mater.

Stay in Touch
with your university by updating your information and providing us with your Email address. It is fast, free and allows UT Martin to better serve you while saving money on postage.

Alumni and friends in the Destin, Fla., area recently gathered at the home of Bill ('56) and Roberta ('55) Blankenship. On hand for the event was Chancellor Tom Rakes and his wife, Glenda.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday, Oct. 3
9 a.m.  Golf Tournament  Sharon
3:15 p.m.  Rope Pull Championships
6 p.m.  Alumni Dinner and Awards  Student Life and Leadership Center
8:30 p.m.  Pyramid and Pep Rally  Elam Center

Saturday, Oct. 4
7:30 a.m.  Letter Winner’s Breakfast  Student Life and Leadership Center and Hall of Fame Inductions
9:30 a.m.  Chancellor’s Brunch  Chancellor’s Suite, Alumni Center
10:30 a.m.  QUAD CITY OPENS – “Martin Gras”
  Celebrating 5 years of Quad City
  Special activities planned throughout the event
11 a.m.  Football Team Hawk Walk  Quad by Meek Library
2 p.m.  Football Game vs. Tennessee State  Graham Stadium
7:30 p.m.  NPHC Greek Step Show  Elam Center

Sunday, Oct. 14
10 a.m.  Walk in the Quad
10:30 a.m.  Homecoming Brunch  University Center

RESERVATION FORM FOR HOMECOMING 2008

Name __________________________________________
Class year ______________________________________
Address ________________________________________
City, State, Zip __________________________________
Email address __________________________________

Golf Tournament Pay at course
Alumni Dinner and Awards Program  ____ x $20= $_____
Quad City Luncheon  ____ x $6= $_____
Football General Admission Ticket  ____ x $10= $_____
Homecoming Brunch  ____ x $9= $_____
Total Enclosed: $__________________

SUMMER/FALL 2008  29
1947

Harold T. (Hank) Spikes ('47) lives in Martin. He has three children: Pam, 61; Judy, 59; and David, 58. Email: haroldspikes@hotmail.com

Joe R. Taylor ('47) lives with his wife, Nell Taylor, in Murfreesboro. He is retired after working almost 30 years with Tennessee Farmers Co-op.

1952

J. Cordell Hatch ('52) lives with his wife, Nancy Hardin, in Boalsburg, Pa. He is professor emeritus at Penn State University and has completed 10 years as treasurer of the Retired Faculty/Staff Association there. Email: jch5@psu.edu

1959

William M. (Bill) Clark ('59) lives with his wife, Alta Louise (Cobb) Clark, in Stilwell, Kan. He is a retired federal agent and was a founding student member of the Vanguard Theatre in 1955. They have three children: Pamela Ann Clark, 50; Timothy Shawn Clark, 49; and Traci Michele (Clark) Seaman, 46. Email: wclark21@K.C.RR.com

1962

Bill Brinley ('62) lives with his wife, Karen R. Brinley, in Heber Springs, Ark. He is retired. They have three children: Melissa, 44; Kathryn, 42; and Rebecca, 29.

1964

James Larry Elgin ('64) lives in Trenton. He is a semi-retired senior vice president at Reelfoot Bank in Martin. He has two children: Jim, 43; and Charles, 37. Email: larryelgin@aol.com

1966

Bill Springer ('66) lives in Cape Girardeau, Mo. He is an adjunct professor of English and teaches classes in the Department of Elementary Education at Southeast Missouri State University. Email: bspringer@semo.edu

1967

Carl G. “Butch” Newby ('67), above, lives in Knoxville with his wife, Judy Hansford Newby ('70). He is self-employed as a security consultant and was recently selected as treasurer of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council. He has also been granted a lifetime membership in the American Society for Industrial Security, Int., and received a lifetime certification as a Certified Protection Professional. Judy works in marketing with the Apartment Association of Greater Knoxville. Email: cgncpp@charter.net

1973

Stephanie Methvin Harmon ('73) lives in Murfreesboro. She is a Rutherford County School District English teacher for grades 10 and 12. She has three children: Rachel, 31; Caroline, 28; and Bryce, 22. Email: sam-harmon123@yahoo.com

Maj. Jack Usrey ('91), received an unexpected Christmas present – a UT Martin Skyhawk banner – to display over his desk while serving at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait. Usrey’s present was the result of a request by Maj. Kurt Mueller, who is serving with Usrey and noticed that other work spaces were adorned with all sorts of sports and alma mater memorabilia. Maj. James Lacy, former recruiting operations officer for the Department of Military Science and Leadership, and Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations, made sure the banner made its way to Usrey, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Usrey, of Martin.
1975

Gladys Marshall McGowan (’75) lives in Memphis. She works for Value Acquisition Fund as an office manager/research analyst and is senior care pastor at World Overcomers Outreach Ministries Church. Email: gladysmcgowan@aol.com

Michael L. Smith (’76) lives with his wife, Beverly A. Smith, in Branchburg, N.J. He works for L’Oreal/ Maybelline in research and development of cosmetics in Clark, N.J. He recently had another cosmetic patent published/granted for “Transfer Resistant Anhydrous Cosmetic Composition” (compact crème makeup). They have two children, Maegan Smith, 22; and Micah Smith, 16.

Arthur L. Sparks Jr. (’76), CPA, above, a partner with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs, was recognized as one of Tennessee’s 25 top accountants by Business Tennessee Magazine. The announcement was made in the magazine’s March 2008 issue. The list was compiled with the input of Tennessee businesses and lawyers, who utilize accounting services and accountants. Sparks is the past president of Rotary Club and is a Paul Harris Fellow. He’s a board member for the Community Foundation of Obion County and serves on the University of Tennessee Development Council. He has received the UT Martin Distinguished Service Award and serves on the UT Martin Alumni Council. He is also UT Martin’s Skyhawk Club president. An active member of the Obion County Chamber of Commerce, he serves as the chamber’s board president.

Rachel Cashion Young (’76) lives in Brighton with her husband, Robert M. (Bobby) Young Jr., a Memphis police officer. She is a registered nurse. They have two children, Ashley Elisabeth Scott, 26; and Robert Young III, 22. Email: rcy54@aol.com

1976

Betty Doyle Hicks (’76), above, lives with her husband, Nickie Hicks (’76), in St. Lucie, Fla. She works for St. Lucie County School District as a writing specialist. Nickie works for Aloha Homes as a home inspector. They have two children, Jonathan, 28; and Kevin, 26. Email: blhicks1@yahoo.com

1977

Mark Hagler (’77) lives with his wife, Debbie Hagler, in Gleason. He works for the Bank of Gleason and has recently been promoted to president.

1978

Kenneth Michael Draffin (’77) lives with his wife, Barbara Battle Draffin, in Germantown. He works for Package Supply and Design in Memphis and was recently promoted to president and chief operating officer. They have three children: Lauren, 21; Reed, 18; and Caroline, 10. Email: kdraffin@package-supply.com

1979

Dr. Charles Andrew “Andy” Jordan (’83) lives with his wife, C. Lynette Jordan, in Lebanon. He is a pediatrician and chief of staff at the University Medical Center Hospital in Lebanon. They have three children: Taylor, 19; Witt, 16; and Trey, 14. Email: md_ajordan5@yahoo.com

1980

Malinda (Forbess) Manzo (’81) lives with her husband, Mike Manzo, in Oakland. She works at Ped Medical in Oakland as a nurse practitioner. She is also an adjunct professor of nursing at the University of Memphis. They have two children: Philip Manzo, 10; and James Manzo, 8.

Nikki Hartsell Saltmarsh (’81) has moved home to central Arkansas after more than 20 years in North Pole, Alaska. She is organist at Village United Methodist Church, Hot Springs, and accompanied the Village Chorale for its spring concert. She earned degrees in music from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has two adult daughters.

1981

Sally Gentry (’83) lives in Arlington. She works for Northwest Airlines as a flight attendant. She has one son, Jack, 10. Email: sallygentry@comcast.net

1982

Thomas Hyde (’86), above, featured in the Winter 2008 issue of Campus Scene (see “A Succession of Rewarding Experiences”) and president of Management Recruiters Japanese in Murfreesboro, delivered a lecture, Japan, Our Forgotten Partner, on Feb. 27, at UT Martin. Hyde emphasized how much travel and study abroad can enhance a standard undergraduate education. While pursuing a bachelor’s degree in business at UT Martin, Hyde took advantage of university programs in Spain, Japan, Israel and China to broaden his

Correction

Lt. Gen. John “Glad” Castellaw (’72) was incorrectly identified as a member of the U.S. Army in the 2006-2007 Chancellor’s Annual Report, released earlier this spring by the Office of University Relations. Lt. Gen. Castellaw is a U.S. Marine. We regret the error.
perspectives on the world and to become proficient in Spanish, Japanese, and Mandarin Chinese. His experiences as an exchange student were especially rewarding, and Hyde credits them with setting the course of his later professional life. In his business career, Hyde has reaped dividends from his many years of living and studying abroad: his firm, MRA, has a long and successful track record of placing professionals with competence in Japanese and English U.S. and Japanese companies needing bilingual employees.

1988
Dawn Doran Wilsey (‘88) lives with her husband, Dr. David E. Wilsey, in Alexandria, Va. She works for the U.S. Department of Justice as a deputy director in Washington, D.C. They have three children: Grace, 7; Sarah, 5; and Emily, 3.

1990
Van Jones (‘90), above, was the featured guest on The Colbert Report, April 1, 2008, and was featured in the Dec. 3, 2007, issue of Time magazine. He is co-founder of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and has started Green for All, a nonprofit campaign to develop green-collar jobs.

1992
Gamble Howard Snyder (‘92) lives in Ridgely with her husband, Jimmy. She is a special education supervisor with the Lake County School System and has 45 hours above her master’s. They have three children: Taylor, 9; Tanner, 6; and Ella Blair, 2. Email: snyderg@k12tn.net

1994
Kellie Beasley Cavitt (‘94) lives with her husband, Jeremiah Cavitt, in Jackson. She works for the Jackson-Madison County Board of Education as a math teacher. They have three children: Knox, Sy and Grace. Email: kbcavitt@jmcss.org

1995
Kevin Dewayne Rogers (‘95, ‘00) lives in Santa Fe with his wife, Leslie Denise Rogers. He is the coordinator of the Young Adult Academy at The King’s Daughters School in Columbia. They have two children: Cannon Rogers, 2; and Reed Brady, 12. Email: krogers@tkds.org

1996
Andrew L. Douglas (‘96) lives with his wife, Amy (Rochell) Douglas (‘99), in Dubuque, Iowa. He was recently promoted at Dubuque Bank and Trust to chief investment officer of the wealth management group. They have one child, Sophie Elizabeth, 3, and a baby due in August. Email: andrew.douglas@mchsi.com

1999
Christopher L. Kelley (‘96) and his wife, Teresa, live in Memphis. He is with ServiceMaster Clean in Memphis. They have two children: Stephen, 8; and Logan, 4. Email: ckelley9369@yahoo.com

2000
Kelly Dunavent McCanless (‘99) lives with her husband, Brian McCanless, in Friendship. She works for Lauderdale County Board of Education and recently was awarded Teacher of the Year at Halls Elementary School. They have two children: Preston Robert, 4; and James Brian, 5 months.

2001
Brian Howard Allen (‘01) and his wife, Brook Garner Allen (‘01), live in Martin. Brian is a teacher, assistant football coach and head baseball coach at Westview High School. Brook is a stay-at-home mom. They have one child, Jack Hays Allen, 1. Email: allenb6@k12tn.net and brookgarner@hotmail.com

2002
Kevin Watson Barron (‘02) lives in Jackson. He works for West Tennessee Healthcare and recently was appointed vice president of physician services. He is responsible for physician recruitment, retention, practice administration and network development activities.

2004
Kyle Brandon Harris (‘04) lives with his wife, Miranda Leigh (Casteel) Harris (‘04), in Leesville, La. He is an army officer, EN Branch, in Fort Polk, La. He is also a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, served as a convoy security team leader and recently was promoted to captain. Miranda works as a youth sports services/dance instructor. They have one child, Josalyn Reanne Harris, 5 months. Email: kyle.b.harris@us.army.mil or mirandacharris@msn.com

2003
Amy Cohea Castro (‘02) lives with her husband, Danilo Castro (‘03), in Nashville. She works for the Nashville Airport as an accountant. Danilo works for Volunteer State Community College as a teacher and is a tennis pro. Email: amy_castro@nashintl.com

2004
Holly Lyn Pullias (‘02) lives in Murfreesboro. She works for ESIS Nissan North America in Smyrna as a worker’s compensation insurance investigator and adjuster. Email: holly.karnes@nmma.com

2005
Ruth Nutter Stevenson (‘01), in China. He works for Southern Patio as an import/export manager. Ruth is working on her doctorate and is doing ethnographic research while in China.
The UT Alumni Association will launch a campaign this summer to collect updated alumni contact information in an effort to ensure graduates from all UT campuses are receiving alumni communications.

One of the goals of the promotion is to gather accurate Email addresses as the association continues to move toward Email communication and limited use of costly direct mail. The project will enable the association and all of the campus alumni offices to maximize resources and bring more programs and events to our alumni as well as get the word out to alums in a timely fashion.

The survey will confirm and update basic data to include address, phone number, Email address, graduation year, etc.

Based on feedback from alums, the association and campuses have found that our communication efforts, especially by electronic means, as well as other services, have improved dramatically. Since then, we have seen more graduates attend events on all campuses and keep in touch with us.

The campaign will include a grand prize drawing (TBD). The UT Alumni Association and the campus alumni offices would like to encourage alums to be on the lookout for an Email or mailer that includes a detailed list of prizes. Alums must return the survey in order to be eligible to win.

A local couple won the National Young Farmer and Rancher Excellence in Agriculture competition announced at the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 89th annual meeting in New Orleans in January. UT Martin alums, John (’00) and Mary Margaret (’02) Chester, of Martin, won the national competition and bested other young farmers from around the nation to win a 2008 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup truck, plus free registration to the 2008 YF&R Leadership Conference.

The excellence in agriculture award recognizes young farmers and ranchers who do not derive the majority of their income from their agricultural operation, but who actively contribute and grow through their involvement in Farm Bureau and the agriculture community.

Participants were judged on their involvement in agriculture, their leadership ability, and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations. The Chesters and their 2-year old daughter, Maryanna, and infant son, Lake, are co-managers of C&P Baling, a custom hay operation near Martin. John is employed full-time as a farm manager for Fowler Farms, while Mary Margaret is a full-time homemaker and helps out with the farming operation.

Article courtesy of the Tennessee Farm Bureau.
Martha Moss Armstrong, 82, of Memphis, died Oct. 7, 2007. She attended UT Junior College and later earned a bachelor’s degree from UT Knoxville. She served as a county home demonstration agent in Dyer County and later worked as director of the MINI College for adult education at the University of Memphis. She retired from the university in 1991. (Courtesy The Commercial Appeal.)

George R. (Bob) Brengle, 84, associate professor emeritus of English, died March 27, 2008, at Volunteer Community Hospital in Martin. He held degrees from Duke University and Middlebury College and joined the UT Martin faculty in 1966. He taught English and speech and participated in the university’s Vanguard Theatre. He was a member of Bible Union Baptist Church. (Courtesy Murphy Funeral Home & Florist.)

Dr. Thomas V. Greer, of Martin, former associate professor of agribusiness, died April 2, at Volunteer Community Hospital in Martin. He was 63. Greer joined the UT Martin faculty in 1993 after serving as a Department of Agricultural Economics research assistant at Purdue University. Prior to that, he was director of sugar and corn analysis for Connell Commodities, a subsidiary of Connell Rice and Sugar Corporation, Westfield, N.J. He also was a commodity/industry analyst with the Agriculture Division of the U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. He received bachelor of arts and master of science degrees at the University of Nebraska and a doctorate in agricultural economics at Purdue University. He also served in the U.S. Army.

Dr. Harry M. Hutson, UT Martin professor emeritus of history, died April 14, 2008, at his home in Durham, N.C. He was born Dec. 14, 1920, in Cumberland, Md., was a U.S. Army veteran, and held degrees from the University of Maryland and the University of Iowa. He taught at UT Martin from 1969 until his retirement in 1989, during which time he also served as chair of the history and political science department. He was a member of the Epworth United Methodist Church. Survivors include his wife, Betty Rose, and four children. (Courtesy Weakley County Press.)

Dolph Owen Larimer (’64), of Benton, Ky., died Dec. 11, 2007, at Calvert City Convalescent Center in Calvert City, Ky. Mr. Larimer was a member of the 1959 North Marshall Jets State Championship Basketball Team. He was inducted in 1987 into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame.

Bob Parkins, 78, editor, publisher, owner and journalist with the Milan Mirror-Exchange newspaper, died April 17 in Milan. Mr. Parkins was born in Bolivar, lived in seven West Tennessee communities during his childhood, graduated from Milan High School in 1947, served four years in the U.S. Air Force, and entered UT Martin Branch in 1952 on a football scholarship. He earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture and went on to earn a master’s degree in dairy science from UT Knoxville. He started his journalism career as a West Tennessee area reporter for the Commercial Appeal and Nashville Tennessean. In June 1965, he and his wife, Donna, a UT Knoxville graduate, started the Milan Mirror newspaper, which was a competitor to the long-established Milan Exchange. In 1977, the Mirror purchased the Exchange, merging to form the award-winning Mirror-Exchange. He was active in many civic affairs and earned numerous recognitions for his community service work. Five of the Parkins’ eight children earned degrees at either UT Martin or UT Knoxville. (Courtesy Milan Mirror-Exchange.)

Mary Lake Pritchett, 80, died March 25, 2008, at her home in Martin. She was a graduate of UT Junior College and a member of Martin First United Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Holt Pritchett, and is survived by sons, Lee and Jon, both of Martin, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. (Courtesy Murphy Funeral Home & Florist.)

Mary J. (Floersch) Scileppi, 56, of Tallahassee, Fla., died Oct. 9, 2007. Born in Chicago, Ill., she lived in Milan before making Tallahassee her home in the early 1980s. She earned her nursing diploma from UT Martin in 1980. A registered nurse, she was in charge of staff development at Capital Health Care Center.

Bill Snyder, New York actor, playwright, producer, director and UT Martin professor emeritus of theatre, died March 12, at his home in Oregon of complications from Alzheimer’s Disease. He was 78. Snyder, longtime director of UT Martin Vanguard Theatre who also spent 32 years teaching, took his final curtain call at the opening of “The Boys Next Door” in 1996. It was estimated at the time that he directed from 150-200 shows while at UT Martin. He also was named a University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Distinguished Professor in 1990, the highest honor bestowed on a faculty member in the UT system. He retired in 1996.

Snyder received a master of fine arts degree in playwriting at the Yale School of Drama, one of the most highly respected graduate schools of theatre in the country. His extensive list of writing credits includes stage, film and television. The William Snyder Theatre Scholarship Endowment was established in 1996. The scholarship is an annual award given to an advanced student for demonstrated excellence in theatre.

J. Frank Taylor, a charter member of the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame, died Nov. 19, 2007, at the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Huntingdon. He was 96. He was named UTJC’s “most prominent football player” following the 1929 season and served as an assistant coach in 1931 at UTJC under H.K. Grantham.

Taylor was a three-sport standout. He returned kicks and played running back in football from 1928-30, guard in basketball in 1929, and shortstop in baseball in 1929 and 1930. Known as “Little Duffy,” Taylor graduated from the University of Tennessee and later served as principal at Dresden High School and at Martin High School. He served on the State Board of Education and was a member of the State Board of Regents.

He was a veteran World War II lieutenant commander of the U.S. Navy. He taught and coached in Carroll County, where he also was the school superintendent. Taylor was the first state director of physical education. He was owner of a Pure Oil Distributorship and a member of the Huntingdon First Baptist Church. He also was a charter member of the Rotary Club.

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The University of Tennessee at Martin is an Equal Opportunity Institution. The University of Tennessee at Martin does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or Vietnam veteran status in provision of educational opportunities or employment opportunities and benefits. UT Martin does not discriminate on the basis of gender or disability in the education programs and activities which it operates pursuant to requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as codified in 42 U.S.C. 2000d; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Public Law 92-318; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336; and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. This policy extends to both employment by and admission to the university. Inquiries concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity, 240 Gooch Hall, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238-5402, 731-881-7202. Charges of violation of the above policy also should be directed to the Equity and Diversity Office.
Leave your mark and pave the way for the future.

JUST AS BRICKS ARE A BUILDING’S FOUNDATION, THE FOUNDATION OF LEARNING ON AN ACADEMIC CAMPUS SUCH AS UT MARTIN IS THE LIBRARY COLLECTION. Because the Paul Meek Library is used by all students, keeping the collection current and of the highest quality is a top funding priority.

To strengthen that foundation, income from the general Alumni Library Endowment provides books, professional journals and electronic resources supporting students in their classwork. Contributions, represented by commemorative bricks, enrich the Alumni Library Endowment, increasing not merely the library budget but also the educational value of UT Martin.

For contributions of $50, a book in the library collection will be plated in your graduate’s honor. For $100 or more, a brick inscribed with your words will join others in a walkway outside the library. (You may wish to have your name, the name of an organization, or the name of a graduate cast into this brick.) Either gift will continue giving through the years. In a very real way you will be paving the way for future students to earn an education with the best resources possible.

For more information, please contact the Office of Development at 731-881-7634.
Calendar of Events for Alumni

Aug. 8-9 ......................................................... Golden Grad Reunion
Aug. 20 .............................................................. Legacy Luncheon
Sept. 29-Oct. 5 ................................................ Homecoming 2008
Nov. 8 ................................................ UT Martin Alumni Tailgate Party at Auburn University
Nov. 21-22 ..................................................... 1988 Football Team Reunion