Anniversary events set

As UT Martin observes the 50th anniversary of undergraduate desegregation of the campus, several events are being scheduled as part of the yearlong celebration.

The Black Student Association will sponsor “A Night of Dance/Reflection of African-American Culture,” at 8 p.m., Feb. 17, in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center. The BSA and campus 50th anniversary committee will sponsor “BSA Yesterday and Today,” at 11 a.m., March 8, also in Watkins Auditorium.

The speaker, Dr. Jesse Cannon, of Stanton, is a UT Martin alumnus and the third president of the campus BSA.

In the summer of 1961, the first African-American student enrolled at UT Martin and opened the doors for others by gaining admittance and beginning classes.

For more information and the calendar of events, contact Dr. Annie C. Jones, director of the UT Martin Office of Minority Affairs, at ext. 7282.

During the 1960s when civil rights activists faced stubborn and often violent opposition, they affirmed their commitment to winning justice and bolstered their courage with song. “Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me around” they would sing as they marched into courthouses to register to vote. Bernice Johnson Reagon, who stood at the forefront struggling for freedom, and leading the way with song, will keynote the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 11th annual Civil Rights Conference at 7 p.m., Feb. 24, in Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

As a student at Albany State College, Dr. Reagon helped jumpstart the Civil Rights movement in Albany, Ga., in the early 1960s. In one of the first civil rights actions there, Reagon was jailed. To keep their spirits up, the jailed protesters called on Reagon, the daughter of a Baptist preacher, to lead them in song. The young Bernice Johnson “flipped” a gospel hymn, “Over my head/I see trouble in the air,” substituting the word “freedom” for “trouble.” And a freedom song was born.

Reagon has served as distinguished professor of history at American University, curator emerita at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History and as the founder and artistic director of Sweet Honey in the Rock, an a cappella ensemble of African-American women. The UT Martin Collegiate Gospel Choir will perform before her address.

Opening ceremonies for the Civil Rights Conference will be from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Feb. 19, and 3-5 p.m., Feb. 20, in Boling University Center, with African-American History Month art, poetry and music, sponsored by the Ken-Tenn Homecoming and Reunion Association and Community Forum. Saturday’s event will feature readings by J. Moffett Walker, author of “The Mississippi I Love.”

Native American Civil Rights Day events will take place Feb. 21, beginning with a Native American slideshow, slated from 6:30 p.m., followed by music from 6:30-7 p.m. At 7 p.m., Native American activist Denise Picoutou Maloney will lead a discussion on the battle for justice for Annie Mae Picoutou Aquash. Aquash, a member of the American Indian Movement, was murdered during the 1970s, and Maloney is her daughter. The Native American civil rights events will be presented in Watkins Auditorium.

On Feb. 22, the Quality Education Project Workshop, slated for 9:30 a.m., will be presented in Room 206, university center. At noon, the UT Martin percussion ensemble will present “Roots of Rhythm,” a musical demonstration of how the clave rhythm traveled throughout the world through the migration of African slaves. Admission for the performance will be $5, and there will be another performance at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Henry Parker, UT Martin professor of philosophy, will present, “How German Philosophers Created the Myth of a Superior White Race” at 2 p.m. All events on Feb. 22, except the workshop, will be in Watkins Auditorium.

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Brooke Haycock, playwright and actor, will perform “Catalyst” at 10 a.m., Feb. 23, and “Dilated Pupils and the Not-So-Soft Bigotry of a Nation” at 1 p.m. With a background in student organizing, her one-woman shows have sparked dialogue and focused energies around some of the most pressing issues in American education today. At 3 p.m., “Lessons from the Mountaintop: Civil Rights and Labor Organizing in the South,” will be a panel presentation on labor and the Civil Rights Movement. All events on Feb. 23 will be presented in Watkins Auditorium.

A series of events mark conference activities on the conference’s last day, Feb. 24, taking place in Watkins Auditorium. At 9:30 a.m., Dr. Charles McKinney, assistant professor of history at Rhodes College in Memphis, will present “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around: the Civil Rights Movement’s Significance.” McKinney is the author of the critically acclaimed, “Greater Freedom: The Evolution of the Civil Rights Struggle in Wilson, North Carolina.”

Sue Thrasher, who as a young white woman hailing from Savannah, joined the Civil Rights Movement in the early 1960s. She will speak at 11 a.m. on what it meant to be “A White Southerner in the Civil Rights Movement.”

At 1 p.m., Perry Wallace, professor at Washington College of Law and first African-American varsity athlete in the Southeastern Conference, will present, “Integrating SEC Basketball.”

At 2:30 p.m., Linda Bradford, leader of a project researching the black railroad workers of the Fulton-South Fulton area, will present, “Jim Crow Trains, Civil Rights and the Creation of the Black Middle Class.”

The conference will close at 7 p.m., with the keynote address by Reagon.

For more information, complete schedule or reservations, call ext. 7465 or e-mail Dr. David Barber, conference coordinator, at dbarber@utm.edu. The conference schedule can be found at www.utm.edu/civilrights or on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92875165374.

Lunch Bunch is Feb. 17

The next Lunch Bunch will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 17, in the Chancellors’ Suite of the Dunagan Alumni Center. The price is $7. Respond to Dorothy Gillon at dgillon@utm.edu by Feb. 15.

On Feb. 3, Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, presented a percussion clinic titled “An Extreme Makeover for Your Percussion Section” to more than 100 band directors at the West Tennessee Band and Orchestra Conference in Memphis. The event was sponsored by Zildjian, Pearl/Adams, Evans, Innovative Percussion, and Amro Music in Memphis.
Finance students 6th in TVA Investment Challenge

Finance students placed sixth in the 2010 Tennessee Valley Authority Investment Challenge in competition with 23 other schools. The TVA provides cash awards to the top universities in the Investment Challenge that earn the highest return for each calendar year. UT Martin will receive approximately $8,300 for its efforts in managing a stock portfolio valued at $480,000 at the end of 2010.

For the year of 2010, UT Martin students earned a 24 percent return on their investments. The Investment Challenge program as a whole returned 17.8 percent versus 15 percent for the S&P 500 for 2010. For most of the 12 years of the Investment Challenge program, the student-managed portfolios have beaten the S&P 500. The cash award will be added to the Kelly Murray Memorial Fund, which supports the finance program’s TVA Investment Challenge Program.

The TVA Board created the Investment Challenge Program in 1998 to diversify the financial market, added Haddad. “Our students last year did outstanding work in managing the TVA portfolio, and we appreciate the efforts the students gave to the program,” said Redman. “Their work in the TVA challenge is even more impressive considering their management of the portfolio has earned returns that were better than that earned by many professional money managers.”

“The TVA challenge program represents a unique practical investment opportunity in which only selected college students are allowed to participate. The hands-on experience our students gain from the TVA portfolio class prepares them for better jobs in the financial market,” added Haddad.

The TVA Board created the Investment Challenge Program in 1998 to diversify the management of its Nuclear Decommissioning Trust Fund and give Tennessee Valley Authority students experience in managing a stock portfolio. Originally, 19 universities received investment funds of $100,000 a piece, for a total of $1.9 million. The program has expanded to include 24 public and private universities in the TVA service area, and the funds total approximately $10 million.

Friends of the Paul Meek Library welcomed two nationally-known authors to campus, Feb. 7, for a literary event in memory of longtime chancellor, the late Paul Meek. Sisters, Lauren Myracle, left, and Susan Rebecca White, have UT Martin connections as the granddaughters of the late Dr. Norman Campbell, former vice chancellor for academic affairs. Dr. Anne Meek, daughter of Paul Meek, introduced the guest authors and also made remarks about her father. Endowment by Dr. Meek of the “Paul Meek Literary Legacy Series,” which is to support bringing a nationally-known author to campus each year, was also announced.

Clicker technology being used on campus; specialist here, Feb. 17

Spring, 2011 has brought continued implementation of Turning Technologies (TT) clicker technology (student response systems) to campus. Faculty members leading the efforts in adoption report satisfaction and motivation in their classes. These faculty members include Dr. James Smart, Dr. Philip Smartt, Peggy Davis, Shirley Fry, Dr. Paula Hear Moore and Dr. Cindy West. On Feb. 17, Stephen Sheely, TT’s implementation specialist, will visit campus to provide support for the efforts and to orient any interested faculty or staff to the use of clickers. During informal sessions in the ITC Lab, 248 Paul Meek Library, anyone interested is invited to listen and learn about the benefits of using clickers and meet the Turning Technologies student intern, Jennifer Beaty. Visit the Web page on the ITC Web site: http://www.utm.edu/departments/itc/ tt_clickers.php for more information.

It’s time for 2011 Recyclemania

It is time again for Recyclemania, the annual international college and university recycling competition. This year, more than 600 schools across the United States, Canada and abroad are registered, with approximately six million students and more than one million faculty. The contest is centered on waste reduction and recycling totals per capita, collected from recycling bins on campus (not dropped off at the recycling facility). Eligible recycling includes #1 and #2 plastics (beverage bottles, milk jugs), aluminum cans, cardboard and paper products.

The competition period began Feb. 6 and continues through April 2. UT Martin administrators, faculty, staff and students are encouraged to recycle in classroom recycling cans and on-campus recycling bins and to do all they can to reduce waste.

For more information visit www.recyclemania.org. UTM Recycles! will post periodic progress reports on our Web page (www.utm.edu/organizations/recycle), orgsync page, and Facebook.

Campus departments may send recycling photos to post on the UTM Recycles Web site to hhuse@utm.edu.
Beginning Microsoft Word class starts Feb. 22

The Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering Beginning Microsoft Word from 6-9 p.m., Feb. 22 and 24, on campus. The registration fee is $85. The instructor is Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer.

The course will teach participants how to create, edit and organize documents, learn about the menu, toolbars and task panes and how to navigate the window. Students will also learn about margins, page layouts, columns, tables, headers, footers, fonts, paragraphs, editing text, undo, redo and clip art. Printing, back-ups, security, and getting help will also be covered.

For more information, contact ECOS at ext. 7082 or at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.

Exhibition is open

The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts and the Visual Arts Society are co-sponsoring the Disgruntled Artists Exhibition on the second floor of the Paul Meek Library.

The all-student exhibition was open to the entire campus. Members of the Visual Arts Society juried submissions to be included into the exhibit.

Exhibitions sponsored by the department will be located in the Paul Meek Library while the Fine Arts Building undergoes renovations. Call Paul Meek Library at ext. 7060 for information concerning regular and special library hours of operation. The exhibition will continue through March 25. It is free and open to the public.

For more information, call ext. 7400.

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The UT Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society has received a grant from the Society Committee on Chemical Education (SOCED) of ACS for the project “An IYC Focus on Green Energy and Sustainable Quality Environment.” United Nations has designated 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) being celebrated all over the world. The chapter will sponsor a speaker on new organic solar cells for harnessing solar energy, conduct a tour of the Jackson solar power facility and the solar-powered Crown Winery & HRH Vineyards in Humboldt, make videos of interviews of community leaders on sustainability and energy issues and sponsor Earth Day activities.

Chapter adviser Dr. S.K. Airee recently presented the $250 check to the SMACS co-directors, Corey L. Jones of Linden, president; Lee A. Elliott of Martin, vice president; and Paul J. Jones of Memphis, treasurer.

• New faces on campus•

The following persons were hired during January: Alton B. Coulter, professor, Department of Management, Marketing, Computer Science and Information Systems; Patricia A. Martin, assistant professor, Department of Biological Sciences; Karen Marlena Miles, counselor, Office of Student Health and Counseling Services; Claybron LyTrel Pollard, assistant head coach, football; Richard R. Schoeberl, assistant athletics director; Mallorey Anne Rogers, teaching materials assistant, Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies; adjunct instructors, Raymond Christopher Bratschi and Joyce Margaret King, Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science; Jeffery Lynn Capshaw, Donald Wayne Roe, David Wayne Webb, Department of History and Philosophy; Regina Franklin, Tina Renee Gardner, Marsha M. Thompson, Department of Educational Studies; Ayana L. Chism, Department of Behavioral Sciences; Kelly Kiser Evans, professor, Department of Management, Marketing, Computer Science and Information Systems; Linda Sue McLemore, Department of Health and Human Performance; Trista A. Snider, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; Jeannie Renae Walker, Department of Nursing.