Cherokee junior honored for winning state 4-H land judging contest

January 1st, 2014 8:55 pm by JEFF BOBO

Cherokee junior honored for winning state 4-H land judging contest

ROGERSVILLE — Cherokee High School junior Haley Leann Webb was honored recently by the Hawkins County Commission for winning the statewide 4-H Land Judging Contest held at the University of Tennessee at Martin earlier this school year.

Haley Webb is vice president of the Future Farmers of America and president of the Tennessee Junior Sheep Producers Association.

The proclamation states that the commission recognizes the dedication and commitment of the county's young people who distinguish themselves through excellence in the classroom and the community.

"Showmanship provides an opportunity for students to exhibit their practical skills to an audience, thereby giving them a sense of pride in their hard work and efforts," the proclamation states. "One such noteworthy person is Haley Leann Webb of Rogersville. ... Ms. Haley Webb recently took first place as the high individual in the State 4-H Land Judging Contest held at the University of Tennessee at Martin."

The proclamation further states, "Ms. Webb also led her team to victory as Hawkins County took first place in the team category and will proudly represent Tennessee next spring at the National Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma City. Haley Webb is a shining example of dedication and commitment that is deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body."

Following the reading of the proclamation, the full commission, as well as the meeting audience, gave Webb a standing ovation.

Webb is the daughter of Roy and Jackie Webb.

During the Dec. 16 Hawkins County Commission meeting, Haley Webb and her mother were called before the full commission, where Commissioner Gary Hicks read a proclamation commending her accomplishments.
The Southern Association for Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges today reaffirmed the University of Tennessee at Martin for accreditation. The action was announced during the annual SACS Commission on Colleges meeting in Atlanta. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes was among several university officials who attended the meeting that included approximately 4,500 participants.

The announcement Tuesday follows a SACS team visit to UT Martin in February as part of the university’s 10-year review.

"We are pleased with this positive report and acknowledge the successful outcome of the reaffirmation process, which reflects the hard work and dedication of many faculty and staff members who guided UT Martin through this critical process," Rakes said. "This review makes us a better university and keeps our focus on providing students with a value-added education."

The SACS Commission on Colleges requires a five-year interim report before the next 10-year review.

The College Database used the following methodology to identify the top college shaping the next generation: must be fully accredited; four-year colleges; U.S. colleges only; minimum of 10 graduates from education or teaching programs in 2012.

UT Martin had nearly 300 education majors in 2012 and 212 licensure students.

"We are pleased that our ongoing commitment to prepare good, high-quality teachers to work in West Tennessee and beyond has been recognized by the College Database," said Dr. R. Mark Kelley, dean of the college of education, health, and behavioral sciences.

The University of Tennessee at Martin was recognized for excellence in teacher education by the College Database, the most current and comprehensive source for U.S. college and university data.

The new list titled "Top Colleges in Tennessee: Shaping the Next Generation," highlights the post-secondary institutions in the state that produced the most education graduates during the 2012 school year.

"It is rewarding to see an external rating group rate our teacher-education program in the top 25 percent of programs in the state," UT Martin chancellor Tom Rakes said.

"We are pleased to be designated as a top college for teacher education. Such recognition reflects an external validation of our teacher-education programs, and the hard work of our faculty and staff to produce outstanding teachers," he said.

Dr. Renee Bailey Iacona quoted writer Charles Dickens, actress Gloria Swanson and singer Justin Bieber while encouraging UT Martin graduates to, “never say never,” as she provided the December commencement address for University of Tennessee at Martin. Iacona, of Philadelphia, Pa., works for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals and returned to her alma mater as she spoke to a capacity crowd Saturday in the Kathleen and Tom Blam Center. More than 500 graduates from summer and fall were scheduled to receive diplomas.

Commencement Speaker Urges Graduates to Never Say Never

UT Martin Reaffirmed for Accreditation by Southern Association for Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

UT Martin Recognized for Excellence in Teacher Education
Students Receive Leadership Awards from UT Martin

Three Paul and Martha Meek Awards were presented at the recent commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs, announced the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement. All other awards are presented during honors day. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Pictured with Toston (from left) are Robert Reeves, of Trenton; Jonathan Nunley, of Martin; and Kara Kidwell, of Dresden. Reeves has distinguished himself as a leader in several areas of campus life: as chair of the Student Chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; as the captain of the UT Martin Robotics team; as vice-chair of the Student Chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers; and as chairman of the Academic Affairs committee in SGA. Reeves has been active with internships and practical experience at The Center for Nanoscale Materials and Biotechnology; the Weakley County Municipal Electric System; and at UT Martin where he was a supplemental instructor, a teaching assistant and a member of the Peer Enabling Program. Nunley has distinguished himself as a leader in several areas of campus life: in the area of multicultural affairs, where he directed faculty, staff and students to appropriate locations for assistance; and in the office of admissions where he administered tours of the UT Martin campus to high school juniors and seniors. Nunley has been active and involved in leadership positions within his fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi, professional business fraternity; a delegate in fraternal leadership academies and conferences; and as the director of advertisement and promotion in the Black Student Association. Kidwell has distinguished herself as a leader among her peers. Some of the highlights include: senior leadership positions in the Non-Tradition Student Association, leadership positions in the Public Relations Student Society of America and in Women in Communications. She served in various positions of The Pacer, the student newspaper; and she served as the planning committee and assisted in the execution of the Southeast Journalism Conference as the student president. She distinguished herself and helped bring credit to UT Martin through the successful 2012 Southeast Journalism Conference and the largest mock disaster in West Tennessee.
The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Public Safety earned its accreditation recently from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation (TLEA) Program. Participating in the award presentation was Nancy Yarbrough, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; David Moore, Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police and Martin police chief; Scott Robbins, director of the department of public safety; Cpl. Jerry Garcia, a member of the department of public safety; and Cpt. Ray Coleman, with the department of public safety.

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UTM students win leadership awards

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The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin, according to a news release. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek.

Kidwell has held senior leadership positions in the Non-Tradition Student Association, the Public Relations Student Society of America and Women in Communications, the release said.

Kidwell has held various positions on the staff of The Pacer, the student newspaper, and she served on the planning committee and assisted in the execution of the 2012 Southeast Journalism Conference as the student president. She helped bring credit to UT Martin through the successful Southeast Journalism Conference and the largest mock disaster in West Tennessee.

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Nunley has been active in leadership positions within Alpha Kappa Psi, a professional business fraternity; as a delegate in fraternal leadership academies and conferences; and as the director of advertisement and promotion in the Black Student Association.

Reeves has distinguished himself as a leader in several areas of campus life: As chairman of the student chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; as captain of the UT Martin Robotics team; as vice chairman of the student chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers; and as chairman of the Academic Affairs committee in SGA.

Reeves has held internships and gained practical experience at The Center for Nanoscale Materials and Biointergration; the Weakley County Municipal Electric System; and at UT Martin, where he was a supplemental instructor, a teaching assistant and a member of the Peer Enabling Program, the release said.

UT Martin reaffirmed by SACS

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By Beth Byrd
kmsonth@jacksonsun.com

The University of Tennessee at Martin's World Percussion Ensemble will explore a variety of cultures musically at the "Roots of Rhythm" concert Monday at the Latta Theater of the McNairy County Visitor's and Cultural Center in Selmer.

Julie Hill, associate professor of music and director of percussion studies, said the goal of the performance is to help elevate cultural awareness while providing a unique musical experience.

"The ensemble's mission is to encourage cultural diversity both on the UT Martin campus and within the greater West and Middle Tennessee community," Hill said. "The 'Roots of Rhythm' presentation includes interdisciplinary subjects such as history, geography and, of course, music that coincides with the National Standards for Arts Education that can be used in a variety of subject matters relating to the live concert being performed."

The multi-sensory perfor-
Musical cultures

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Photo by REMINGTON THOMAS, University Relations
Music

Continued from Page C1

mance will include instruments such as the steel drums and tamboo bamboo instruments from Trinidad; Shona marimbas from Zimbabwe; traditional dundun drums from Guinea and Brazilian samba instruments, Hill said.

With the performance is focusing on the cultures of Africa, Cuba, Brazil, the Caribbean and the United States, Hill said that attendees can experience how societies are created and interact musically.

"Much more than an exciting concert, this complete program allows audiences to gather information through listening, participating, observing and visualizing," Hill said.

"Through the UT Martin World Percussion Ensemble's 'Roots of Rhythm' presentation, the possibility for community and student enrichment within the context of multicultural education is limitless."

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale at 6:30 p.m. at the Latta on the night of the performance. Admission is $5 for adults and $3 for students.

To make advanced reservations for groups of 10 or more, contact Paige Holmes, managing director of Arts in McNairy, at (731) 439-2891.

For more information about "Roots of Rhythm," visit utm.edu/departments/percussion/rootsofrhythm.php.
UT Martin honor roll named

The University of Tennessee at Martin has named its fall 2013 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

- Joshua W. McKoon, Bell Buckle, Honors
- Tawlyandra R. Richardson, Lewisburg, Honors
- Remington A. Chapman, Shelbyville, Highest Honors
- Cayla N. Comstock, Shelbyville, Honors
- Noah K. Friedman, Unionville, Highest Honors

http://www.parispi.net

PARIS TN: 'Roots of Rhythm' show at Krider Performing Arts Center canceled

A University of Tennessee at Martin program called “Roots of Rhythm” that had been scheduled for a Paris performance has been indefinitely postponed.

Kat Tolley, executive director of the Paris-Henry County Arts Council, said this morning the show’s organizers had decided to call off the show because of the inclement weather.

The show had been scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Krider Performing Arts Center.

Tolley said people who had bought advance tickets for the show will get a refund. They can contact the person who sold them the ticket or call Tolley at the Arts Council office at 642-3955.

http://www.wbbjtv.com/

UT Martin's "Roots of Rhythm" Hits The Road

Story Updated: Jan 6, 2014

MCNAIRY COUNTY -- UT Martin's "Roots of Rhythm" is hitting the road, this week. The percussion ensemble will begin its 2014 tour of schools Monday in McNairy County. Attendees can experience world geography, world history, live music demonstrations and authentic world percussion instruments. Copy and paste this link into your browser to learn more about the tour:
http://www.utm.edu/departments/percussion/rootsofrhythm.php
Young adult readers are constantly enjoying an influx of new material. However, a recently-launched paranormal/supernatural series by Misty Watts promises to top them all, offering a compelling new take on the workings of the Universe. ‘Walking Among Them’ has three volumes currently on the market, ‘Reap’ is the perfect start to what promises to be a bestselling and memorable series, followed by ‘Harvest’ and the grand finale ‘Yield.’

As the author explains, her sole aim was to breathe fresh new blood into a popular literary genre. The Walking Among Them series is a fresh look at popular young adult paranormal and fantasy books. With a new look at the way the universe works in regards to immortal beings, time, reincarnation, signs of the zodiac, loss and friendship, this series aims to bring an exciting new twist to a genre that young readers around the world are falling in love with.

Since its release, the series has garnered a consistent string of rave reviews. Reap: “This story is so different from everything I have read lately! I had no idea what to expect, but once I started reading, I couldn’t put it down. It’s a love story that transcends time. Fantastic characters! I hope there’s a sequel in the works!” says Leah A McCrosky, reviewing the book on Amazon.

Harvest: “This book is such a fun read — even better than the first. Let Misty Watts take you on a teenage adventure in Hickman, KY with a supernatural twist! And I seriously can not wait for the third installment. This one will leave you wanting more.” Alison Hitch, Amazon reviewer.

Yield, the final installment in the series is now available.

Watts will be promoting and signing the new book from 10 a.m. until noon on Jan. 11 at The Looking Glass in Martin with two other promising authors, TK Carter and Micah D. Gardner. Watts and Gardner are both UT Martin graduates.

With more books in the works, Watts promises many upcoming adventures.
University of Tennessee Martin graduates Drew and Ashley Freeman are traveling nurses who currently work at Bert Fish Medical Center in Florida. SUBMITTED PHOTO

MANY STOPS ON HEALTH CAREER PATH

Husband and wife traveling nurses complete RN-to-BSN degrees through UT Martin
That went through nursing as a career. As traveling registered nurses, moving to another hospital somewhere far away is always a possibility.

Their journey now brings new possibilities as both were recognized with bachelor of science in nursing degrees Dec. 14 from the University of Tennessee Martin. Although the couple was unable to attend commencement, a private celebration worked just fine from their home in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., located south of Daytona Beach.

The Freemans reported a temperature of 80 degrees as they talked by phone on a day off in December. Bert Fish Medical Center, their third stop in three years as traveling nurses, is minutes from the Atlantic Ocean. Drew is on contract and oversees the heart catheterization lab, while Ashley is a pool employee of the hospital and works in the emergency department full time.

The road might lead them back to West Tennessee someday, but for now, working in the Sunshine State and preparing for the next step in their shared educational journey keeps them focused.

Ashley was born in Akron, Ohio, and at age 4 moved to Medon. She attended Trinity Christian Academy until the 10th grade, when she decided to complete high school early.

“My freshman year out of high school, one of my really good friends, she passed away from bacterial meningitis,” she said, citing one factor that prompted her to complete high school early through Gateway Christian Schools. She enrolled fall 2007 in Jackson State Community College’s associate degree program in nursing after receiving her high school diploma.

Drew, a Jackson native, graduated in 1999 from Jackson Christian School. He attended Jackson State for three semesters after high school but lacked direction and quit school to work in various jobs, including his family’s construction business. In 2004 at age 23, he decided to pursue a longtime interest in health care and returned to Jackson State to complete an associate degree in nursing.

“So when you go for nursing,” Drew said of his career choice, “you have a specific job that you’re qualified to do that only people that went through nursing are able to do. And that gave me a sense of accomplishment and a direction also.”

But restaurant work, not health care, brought Drew and Ashley together. He waited tables at Red Lobster in Jackson for four years while completing his nursing prerequisites and pursuing his degree. She was hired as a hostess; they met, married and continued work toward their degrees.

“We spent the first three years of our relationship in nursing school pretty much,” Ashley remembered.

The two had much in common, including a desire to see and experience new things.

“One of our goals the whole time was to travel as nurses, not only for the financial benefits but for the excitement of wanting to see new places and see how different people do different things,” Drew said. “But you have to have a year of experience before they’ll let you travel, so we got her through nursing school, let her get her a year of experience in the emergency room, which is where she still works when we travel, and we hit the road.”

Both worked at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital until they accepted their first travel positions in April 2011 in Atlanta. In Georgia, Ashley worked at WellStar Cobb Hospital and Drew worked at Southern Regional Medical Center.

“Sometimes we’ve been lucky and have gotten jobs at the exact same hospital, and sometimes we have to find them as close as we can together, you know, within 30 or 45 minutes of each other,” Drew said.

Their journey continued nine months later as they moved to Salisbury, N.C., near Charlotte, and then six months after that to their current positions at Bert Fish Medical Center, “which is our favorite stop obviously, because we’ve almost been here two years now,” Drew said.

Moving is never easy, but in the world of traveling nurses, recruiting companies work directly with the hospitals. Positions are advertised by the hospitals, prospects can have the recruiting company submit information, and the hospital has the option to call for an interview. If an offer is extended and accepted, “Usually we have a week or two to get there, and then it’s a three-month contract,” Drew said.

All moving arrangements are made by the recruiting agency, which also provides housing and hospital information.

“They help you with housing, and they give you all the information for the hospital, so really before we get there, we really don’t have anything to do with the actual hospital until our first day,” Ashley said.

Contracts can be extended, and the Freemans normally have been offered an extension. “Kind of once you get settled, it’s nice to stay a little bit longer than three months,” Ashley said. “But then if you don’t like it, it’s nice to be able to leave as well.”

Even as they moved and worked, the Freemans wanted to complete bachelor’s degrees and considered different schools. UT Martin’s RN-to-BSN program surfaced as the best fit.

“We knew we needed something with a little bit of flexibility,” Ashley said. “We both wanted to continue working full time, and we knew we were going to be traveling, but we still wanted to get

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the degree from somewhere close to home.”

The Freemans credit Dr. Nancy Warren, UT Martin professor of nursing, with getting them started and encouraging them through the program.

“Dr. Warren was absolutely wonderful,” Ashley said. “She really understood, as far as just nursing students, our situation trying to work full time while going to school, and it just was set up perfect for us.”

Both were accepted into the program and began classes in spring 2011. Most courses were offered online, and Ashley estimates that they took 90 percent of their classes together. The only time they came to campus as students was to test out of a pharmacology class previously taken at Jackson State.

“Thankfully we both passed it, so we didn’t have to take the class,” Ashley said as they both laughed. “It was the last thing we had to do before we got our degree.”

They finished their courses in the summer, but because UT Martin does not hold summer commencement, their degrees were conferred Dec. 14.

“Ashley and Drew were very successful in the UTM online nursing program, because they were goal oriented and knew they wanted to obtain a BSN degree,” Warren said in email comments about the couple.

She added, “They are successful nurses because they are invested in a career that they both love. They care about people and their health and want to be a part of that healing process that takes place between a nurse and their patients.”

Even as the Freemans celebrate earning another degree, both are ready to pursue more education. They are applying to nurse practitioner programs, focusing primarily on Union University’s accelerated program.

Drew’s contract extends through April, so returning to Tennessee would happen after his contract is up. Always looking down the road, they’ve maintained a home in Jackson during their three years of traveling.

Classes would begin in August if accepted to Union, but they’re also considering online programs at other schools.

“We’ve got a couple of different backup plans just in case,” Ashley said. “Without a doubt, though, we know for sure we want to go ahead and get our master’s program started in the fall one way or the other.”

Whatever is next in their journey, the Freemans will do it as a team.

“We do everything together. Our days off we spend together,” Ashley said. “We pretty much are tied to each other when it comes down to it with us moving around so much.”

She added, “But it makes our relationship strong, and we have plenty of stories and different experiences from it for sure.”

“One of our goals the whole time was to travel as nurses, not only for the financial benefits but for the excitement of wanting to see new places and see how different people do different things.” DREW FREEMAN, who is a traveling nurse along with his wife, Ashley
IT'S COLD! — UT Martin students (from left) Erica Burton, Angel Estrada and Danielle Dalton braved the frigid temperature and gusting wind Monday afternoon to get a cup of coffee in downtown Martin. Weakley County is experiencing some of the coldest air in years. Monday's high reached 7 degrees, with an overnight low of 3 degrees. Today's temperature is expected to reach into the low 20s. Warmer temperatures are on the way, with a forecast high Wednesday of 38 degrees and a high Thursday of 41 degrees. Weakley County schools are closed today.

SASSY IN THE KITCHEN — Rebecca Russell Jones, a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, signed her new cookbook "Sassy in the Kitchen" recently at Kirkland's Antiques Interiors & Lighting on Lindell Street in Martin. Jones, a 1973 alumna of UT Martin, is currently a university supervisor and an instructor for online and distance learning courses. She taught at Milan High School for more than 40 years.
Tom Eskew and the UT Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics go above and beyond the call of duty to support “Citizen Warriors.” For this, they received a Patriot Award in December from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

According to the ESGR, Eskew and other department members “reflect the efforts made to support Citizen Warriors through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off before and after deployment, caring for families and granting leaves of absence if needed.”

While Dr. Steve Elliott, associate professor, nominated Eskew for the Patriot Award, Eskew said he did not act alone in covering classes for the Army National Guard lieutenant colonel. “It was all of us,” said Eskew, an instructor and acting department chairman.

Elliott, who has been deployed twice since he has been at UT Martin, said his colleagues in the department are like a family for his family.

“This institutional support is nice, but it is the individuals in my department who held a baby shower for my wife, called to ask if she and my sons were OK, and shouldered my work while I was gone. “When I am away for a three-day drill or for a conference, they cover my classes,” Elliott said. “When I return from deployments, they welcome me back with no resentment. The entire department is good to me.”

Elliott was last deployed with the Army from June 2012 until June 2013.

Lt. Terry Buckley with the ESGR presented Eskew with the award.
UTM's Eskew wins award

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Go stargazing with astrophysicist on Friday at Discovery Park

Join Dr. Lionel Crews, astrophysicist, for a unique ‘star gazing’ experience on Friday, Jan. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Discovery Park of America. The event is free and open to the public as part of Discovery Park’s Space and Flight month. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own telescope and meet in the lobby of the Discovery Center between 5:30 and 6 p.m. At 6 p.m. stargazers will be escorted out to the great lawn to view the winter sky. Dr. Crews will help you identify fascinating objects, stars, constellations and bright planets.

Discovery Park of America is located at 830 Everett Blvd. in Union City. For more information please visit Discovery Park’s website at www.discoveryparkofamerica.com.

Dr. Lionel Crews, astrophysicist and professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is leading the stargazing event at Discovery Park on Friday, Jan. 10. Area residents are invited to bring their own telescope and join Crews on the great lawn at Discovery Park from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday.
Skyhawks’ Butler gets ‘Medal’ shot

Former UT Martin record-setting wide receiver Jeremy Butler has been chosen to take part in the Medal of Honor Bowl, a premier all-star game featuring some of the nation’s top draft-eligible college football players. Executive director Brian Woods determines invitations through on-campus scouting trips, film evaluations and through consultation with NFL scouts and general managers.

Measuring in at 6-2 and 208 pounds, Butler will wear jersey No. 14 for the American squad, led by longtime former University of Maryland head coach Ralph Friedgen. Butler will be joined by players from Football Bowl Subdivision conferences such as the SEC, Big 12, ACC, American Athletic and Pac-12.

Butler projects to be a key component of an offense that features Tennessee running back Rajon Neal and Ohio quarterback Tyler Teitelman.

Butler will look to lead the American team to a victory over the National team, which is coached by former Dallas Cowboys, Buffalo Bills and Georgia Tech frontman Chan Gailey.

The Bradenton, Fla., native earned Sports Network All-American team honors, Associated Press second team All-American and College Sports Madness second team All-American accolades in 2013.

Despite playing only two seasons, Butler etched his name into the Skyhawk record book as one of the most dynamic playmakers in school history.

Butler concluded his career ranking in UT Martin’s top-five lists in 100-yard receiving games (eight, first), touchdown receptions (20, second), receptions (141, third) and receiving yards (1,953, fifth).

He also became the second player in program history to post back-to-back seasons of double-digit touchdown receptions (10 in both 2012 and 2013), racking up six multi-touchdown performances in 22 career games at UT Martin.

This past fall, Butler hauled in 90 catches for 1,203 yards (sixth in FCS ranks) — both of which rank as the best UT Martin single-season totals in those respective categories.

Butler ranked in the top-five in the OVC with 10 touchdown catches (fourth) and 106.67 all-purpose yards per game (fifth) and accounted for at least 90 receiving yards in nine games — seven of which came in OVC play.

He recorded 100 or more yards receiving in five contests and registered three multi-touchdown performances against league opposition (Jacksonville State, Austin Peay and Murray State).

Butler tallied season-highs in receptions (11) and receiving yards (171) in the road victory over Austin Peay on Oct. 26.

BUTLER’S ‘HONOR’ — Past UT Martin wide receiver Jeremy Butler gets some extra yards after a catch against Central Arkansas this past season. Butler has been chosen to play in the Medal of Honor Bowl, slated for 1 p.m. Saturday in Charleston, S.C. The Florida native pulled down 90 catches for 1,203 yards this past season, earning several All-America selections.
Skyhawk WR Butler gets shot at ‘Medal’

Former UT Martin record-setting wide receiver Jeremy Butler has been chosen to take part in the Medal of Honor Bowl, slated for 1 p.m. Saturday at Johnson Hagood Stadium in Charleston, S.C.

Butler is the only player from the Ohio Valley Conference and is one of 15 wide receivers invited to the inaugural Medal of Honor Bowl, a premier all-star game featuring some of the nation’s top draft-eligible college football players. Executive director Brian Woods determines invitations through on-campus scouting trips, film evaluations and through consultation with NFL scouts and general managers.

Measuring in at 6-2 and 208 pounds, Butler will wear jersey No. 14 for the American squad, led by longtime former University of Maryland head coach Ralph Friedgen. Butler will be joined by players from Football Bowl Subdivision conferences such as the SEC, Big 12, ACC, American Athletic and Pac-12. Butler projects to be a key component of an offense that features Tennessee running back Rajion Neal and Ohio quarterback Tyler Tettleton.

Butler will look to lead the American team to a victory over the National team, which is coached by former Dallas Cowboys, Buffalo Bills and Georgia Tech frontman Chan Gailey.

The Bradenton, Fla., native earned Sports Network All-American second team honors, Associated Press second team All-American and College Sports Madness second team All-American accolades in 2013.

Despite playing only two seasons, Butler etched his name into the Skyhawk record book as one of the most dynamic playmakers in school history. He concluded his career ranking in UT Martin’s top-five lists in 100-yard receiving games (eight, first), touchdown receptions (20, second), receptions (141, third) and receiving yards (1,953, fifth).

He also became the second player in program history to post back-to-back seasons of double-digit touchdown receptions (10 in both 2012 and 2013), racking up six multi-touchdown performances in 22 career games at UT Martin.

This past fall, Butler hauled in 90 catches (seventh in Football Championship Subdivision) for 1,203 yards (sixth in FCS ranks) — both of which rank as the best UT Martin single-season totals in those respective categories.

Butler ranked in the top-five in the OVC with 10 touchdown catches (fourth) and 106.67 all-purpose yards per game (fifth) and accounted for at least 90 receiving yards in nine games — seven of which came in OVC play.

He recorded 100 or more yards receiving in five contests and registered three multi-touchdown performances against league opposition (Jacksonville State, Austin Peay and Murray State).

Butler tallied season-highs in receptions (11) and receiving yards (171) in the road victory over Austin Peay on Oct. 26.
RECEIVE AWARDS — Three Paul and Martha Meek Awards were presented at the recent commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs, announced the awards, which are the only awards presented during commencement. All other awards are presented during honors day. The Meek Award is a cash award given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin. The award is made possible by the children of Paul and Martha Meek. Receiving the awards with Toston (from left) are Robert Reeves of Trenton; Jonathan Nunley of Martin; and Kara Kidwell of Dresden. Reeves has distinguished himself as a leader in several areas of campus life: as chair of the Student Chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; as the captain of the UT Martin Robotics team; as vice-chair of the Student Chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers; and as chairman of the Academic Affairs committee in SGA. Reeves has been active with internships and practical experience at The Center for Nanoscale Materials and Biointegration; the Weakley County Municipal Electric System; and at UT Martin where he was a supplemental instructor, a teaching assistant and a member of the Peer Enabling Program. Nunley has distinguished himself as a leader in several areas of campus life: in the area of multicultural affairs, where he directed faculty, staff and students to appropriate locations for assistance; and in the office of admissions where he administered tours of the UT Martin campus to high school juniors and seniors. Nunley has been active and involved in leadership positions within his fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi, professional business fraternity; a delegate in fraternal leadership academies and conferences; and as the director of advertisement and promotion in the Black Student Association. Kidwell has distinguished herself as a leader among her peers. Some of the highlights include: senior leadership positions in the Non-Tradition Student Association, leadership positions in the Public Relations Student Society of America and in Women in Communications. She served in various positions of The Pacer, the student newspaper; and she served on the planning committee and assisted in the execution of the Southeast Journalism Conference as the student president. She distinguished herself and helped bring credit to UT Martin through the successful 2012 Southeast Journalism Conference and the largest mock disaster in West Tennessee.
STAR GAZER — Director Lionel Crews was born in Nashville, TN along with 3 brothers. His father joined the military when he was 4, and thus began his trek across the globe. He has lived in Mississippi, Texas, and California, and attended Ramstein American High School in (then) West Germany. He then returned to the United States to obtain a bachelors, masters, and doctorate in Physics and Astronomy at Vanderbilt University. He is currently a Director and professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Star gaze with Lionel Crews at Discovery Park

Dr. Lionel Crews will be instructing a special “star gazing” event at Discovery Park of America this Friday evening from 6 until 8 p.m. on the Great Lawn. January is Space and Flight month at Discovery Park, with activities going on all month long. Dr. Crews, Astro Physist, has offered to meet with star gazers from around the area who would like to bring their own telescope and find out more about how to use it and receive instruction on what they are seeing. Star gazers are asked to arrive at Discovery Park between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. and congregate in the Cafe. At 6:00 p.m., everyone will be escorted out to The Great Lawn for the Star Gazing event. Dr. Crews plans to have a telescope available for those who would like to participate but do not have their own telescope.
SASSY IN THE KITCHEN — Rebecca Russell Jones (seated), a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently signed copies of her new cookbook, "Sassy in the Kitchen," at Kirkland's Antiques Interiors & Lighting on Lindell Street in Martin. Ms. Jones, a 1973 alumna of UT Martin, is a university supervisor and an instructor for online and distance learning courses. She taught at Milan High School for more than 40 years.

Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs adds partner

Special to the State Gazette

Al Creswell and the team at Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs are pleased to announce that Jason Anderson has been named partner with the firm.

"When Jason joined our office three years ago, I was immediately impressed by his dedication to our clients," said Red Howe, principal at ATA Murray, Ky. "He is a young man who is qualified and capable of handling tax and audit issues, but he also understands how important personalized service is. Jason is definitely an asset to this company and our community."

With more than 13 years of experience, Anderson focuses his practice on individual and corporate tax, business valuations, audit work, fraud investigations and estate planning. He has worked hard in the accounting industry and has earned several certifications, including certified public accountant (CPA), certified valuation analyst (CVA), certified fraud examiner (CFE), certified internal auditor (CIA) and chartered global management accountant (CGMA). A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, Anderson is a member of the Kentucky Society of CPAs, Kansas Society of CPAs, American Institute of CPAs, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, National Association of Valuators and Analysts, and Institute of Internal Auditors.

A native of Carroll County, Tenn., Jason and his wife Brandy have two daughters.

Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC is a regional accounting firm that offers its clients the resources and expertise of a large firm and the personalized service of a small firm. The firm has 15 partners and approximately 130 staff members and offers a complete range of accounting, auditing, tax, and consulting services to a diverse portfolio of clients. Its offices are located in Dyersburg, Henderson, Jackson, Martin, McKenzie, Milan, Nashville, Paris, Trenton and Union City, Tenn., and Murray, Ky.
UT Martin introduces Freire as athletic director

By Craig Thomas
cthomasi2@jacksonsun.com

MARTIN — Accepting his gift after an introductory press conference, Julio Freire put on a navy blue baseball cap with "UTM" written in white.

He waved to a receptive crowd which included UT Martin athletes, coaches and fans, an acknowledgment of thanks for the group of Skyhawks that has collectively made him one of their own.

Freire was officially introduced Monday afternoon as the 12th athletic director in UT Martin history.

Phil Dane announced his retirement as athletic director last fall, and Freire beat three other candidates UTM interviewed for the position.

"Certain individuals rise to the top," UTM chancellor Tom Rakes said Monday.

Freire has worked for athletic departments at Ohio University, Tennessee Tech, the University of Arizona and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is an athletic director for the first time.

"I can't wait to get to work. Today is a great day to be a Skyhawk," Freire said.

During his press conference, Freire emphasized his passions of faith, family, education and athletics.

He was born in Tijuana, Mexico in 1966 and moved to the United States in 1970. He said his time as a cross country and track athlete at Arizona State helped shape him, and he wants a similarly positive experience for current and future Skyhawks.

He said he wants to help UT Martin athletes develop academically, athletically and socially.

"In every area of the department, this will be our charge,"

UTM

Continued from Page B1

he said.

His wife, Cherie, and children Christopher and Gabriella were in attendance. They will finish the school year in Nevada and then move to West Tennessee this summer.

Search committee chairman David Belote and Ohio Valley Conference commissioner Beth DeBauche also spoke at the press conference.
Three-point plan starts Julio Freire’s tenure as UT Martin athletics boss

By KEVIN WEAKS
Messenger Sports

Julio Freire told a gathering of friends, colleagues and students that his athletic department will be three things: Involved, focused and excellent.

Formally introduced as UT Martin’s 12th athletic director Monday afternoon at the Elam Center, Freire talked of his three main areas of interest as he gets started in his new position.

Saying he had three simple messages for the meet-and-greet event, Freire listed planning for comprehensive excellence, remaining a meaningful way as his points of emphasis to begin his tenure.

“In 2014, we will embrace that planning all within the mission of UT Martin,” Freire said of his first point. “We will build on the department’s tradition and history. We will guide and support our student-athletes as they aspire to reach their fullest potential academically, athletically and socially. In every area of the department this will be our charge.”

He said he has already met with UTM chancellor Tom Rakes to develop a plan that merges the athletic department with the rest of the university.

Freire stated that academic achievement will be the top priority for everyone in his department, saying that success in the classroom enhances the athletes’ overall college experience.

“We will embrace high ideals that UT Martin student-athletes should be leaving this university with a meaningful degree and having been in a position to compete for championships,” he said.

Freire drew on his own experience as a scholarship track and field athlete at Arizona State for his goal of pressing high academic standards.

He also said his collegiate experience made him better understand the need to live by a higher standard of behavior and pointed out that Skyhawk athletes would follow the rules of the NCAA, Ohio Valley Conference and university.

Finally, Freire said the members of his department, including employees and athletes, will be involved in the community.

“That third point is vitally important,” he said. “I believe that community involvement must extend beyond the campus border, beyond the city limits and beyond the great state of Tennessee. We will be engaging our community in a meaningful way at unprecedented levels.”

Setting up a plan of action was literally the first order of business Freire had with his new boss.

“One of the first things on my desk (Monday) morning was a two-page memorandum from our new AD,” Rakes said. “He didn’t ask for a thing. He simply laid out what he’s going to do in his first 100 days.”

That simply confirmed what Rakes discovered about Freire during the hiring process.

“At certain times, certain individuals rise to the top, and that’s what happened here,” he said. “We’re fortunate to have (Freire) here.”

The search committee, headed by David Belote, was impressed by Freire’s attention to detail as well as his track record of success in all areas of athletic administration, not the least being his ability to fundraise.

Freire credits any success he’s had to a work ethic instilled in him at a young age.

Born in Tijuana, Mexico, in 1966 and brought to America at the age of 4, Freire said he was raised on work ethic, faith, respect and service, an understanding of right and wrong. He described his passions as faith, family, education and athletics.

Freire, 47, married the former Cherie Taylor in May 1993 and has two children, Christopher and Gabriella. They will finish out the school year in Nevada before making the move to Martin.

In the meantime, Freire will be on the move in the region.

“I will start as any new employee does: With eyes wide open, with many questions and with an open and attentive ear,” he said. “In the days, weeks and months ahead, I will be on a listening and learning tour and am looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you.”

Sports reporter Kevin Weaks can be contacted by email at kweakes@ucmessenger.com.
By KEVIN WEAKS
Press Sports
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UT Martin names local students to fall semester Chancellor’s honor roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2013 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass/fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Those earning honors are as follows:

ANTIOCH—Marjana Nadalina, Honors; Gena W. Smith, Honors.
CAMPUS MAIL—Abdulrahman A. Zendah, Highest Honors;
COTTAGE GROVE—Taryn A. Mutter, Honors.
COVINGTON—Deaf C. Pemberton, Highest Honors.

DRESDEN—James T. Adams, Honors; Rachel M. Alley, Highest Honors; Riley E. Averehiene, Highest Honors; Miranda M. Barker, Honors; Lisa C. Baskette, High Honors; Katherine N. Blaylock, High Honors; Benjamin D. Brooks, Honors; Hannah M. Cooper, High Honors; Gregory R. Cred, Dresden, Honors; Donna M. Davidson, High Honors; Misty L. Evans, Honors; Christopher B. Fuller, Honors; Danielle N. Gallimore, Honors; Jory Green, High Honors; Jason A. Hansen, High Honors; Matthew T. Henderson, Honors; John M. Herron, Highest Honors; Amanda L. Jones, High Honors; Brittany D. Kemp, High Honors; Kara Kidwell, High Honors; Sydney B. Kinser, Highest Honors; Alison L. Meacham, Highest Honors; James C. Paider, Highest Honors; Kristi L. Parsley, High Honors; Colleen E. Perkins, Honors.

High Honors:
Kaillee A. Pritchett, Honors; Marianne J. Rennison, Honors; Jacob Scharping, Highest Honors; Maegan M. Smith, Honors; Timothy M. Spence, Honors; Joshua C. Terry, Honors; Precious E. Turkvill, Honors; Adam R. Vaughn, Highest Honors; David A. Walker, High Honors; Rachel K. Winstead, Highest Honors.

DUKEDOM—Elisabeth A. Tompkins, Honors.
DYERSBURG—Michael W. Singleton, Highest Honors.

GLEASON—Chandler N. Beasley, High Honors; Ryan W. Clark, Highest Honors; Noelle C. Dawson, Honors; Preston D. Frazier, Highest Honors; Timothy A. Grissom, Honors; Kelly L. Hatley, Highest Honors; Nicole M. Hutsman, Honors; Tucker D. Kail, Honors; Amanda S. Manfield, Highest Honors; William J. Manfield, Highest Honors; Brittany N. Martin, Highest Honors; Riley E. Moran, Honors; Wendy G. Paschall, High Honors; Billy F. Reeves, High Honors; Rose M. Sullivan, Highest Honors; Haley A. Swafford, Honors; Blake A. Taylor, Honors; Elizabeth D. Terrell, Highest Honors; Tyasha M. Torre, Honors; James D. Wilson, Honors; John M. Wilson, Highest Honors.

GREENFIELD—Julie E. Arnold, Honors; Dakota R. Betts, Highest Honors; Lauren P. Coleman, Greenfield, TN 38230-1419, Honors; Callie A. Croox, Highest Honors; Laura E. Croox, Highest Honors; Hunter J. Crosby, Highest Honors; Lcia J. Galely, Highest Honors; Benjamin C. Garner, Highest Honors; Tyler N. Jones, Honors; Barbara A. Manning, Highest Honors; Curt W. McAdams, Highest Honors; Christian L. McAlister, Honors; Katelin B. McCaill, Highest Honors; Abbey T. McDaniel, Highest Honors; Payton M. Page, Highest Honors; Dalton L. Potts, Highest Honors; Emily M. Randolph, Highest Honors; Stephanie D. Scroggs, Highest Honors; Mary A. Straley, Highest Honors; Michael Thompson, Highest Honors; Card R. Whithow, Highest Honors; Cory L. Worley, Honors.

JACKSON—Taylor N. Hatcher, Honors.

 MARTIN—Ali Abuababer, Honors; Amber Adams, Highest Honors; Peggen J. Adams, Highest Honors; Diomna M. Alaba, Honors; Genice D. Alexander, Highest Honors; Hagen L. Askmore, Highest Honors; Brooke E. Baker, Highest Honors; Candice N. Baker, Highest Honors; Khyla N. Barbery, Highest Honors; Dinnah C. Batchelor, Highest Honors; Samuel J. Bell, Highest Honors; Sabrina D. Black, Highest Honors; Jaquelyn D. Blackmon, Highest Honors; Jacob L. Blanton, Highest Honors; Larabeth A. Bondarant, Highest Honors; Judy L. Bowens, Honors; Jodie L. Breuner, Honors; Chelsea D. Breeden, Honors; Kelsey B. Brelnd, Highest Honors; Chantia B. Brown, Honors; Georgia L. Brown, Highest Honors; Cailyn E. Brundidge, Honors; John E. Buckley, Honors; Sarah E. Buckley, Honors; Megan B. Bursch, Highest Honors; Alexandra P. Butler, Highest Honors; Diedre E. Butler, Highest Honors; Chase H. Cartmell, Highest Honors; Paulina M. Castro, Highest Honors; Amelia S. Coalter, Highest Honors; Logan S. Coates, Highest Honors; Kyle A. Coleman, Honors; Amanda L. Crowe, Highest Honors; Thomas B. Davis, Honors; Robert L. Deysco, Highest Honors; Heather M. Dunn, Highest Honors; Jessica D. Evans, Honors; Andrew J. Fisher, Highest Honors; David W. Fitzgerald, Highest Honors; Brandon F. Fletcher, Highest Honors; Rhiannon K. Forrester, Highest Honors; Nicholas R. Forrott, Highest Honors; Rachel E. Fowler, Honors; Yvannah M. Garcia, Highest Honors; Layla R. Gargus, Honors; Travis W. Garner, Honors; Jeff A. Gearing, Highest Honors; Brandi M. Gibson, Highest Honors; Jennifer N. Gilbertson, Honors; Stephanie R. Gourley, Highest Honors; Matthew J. Granner, Highest Honors; Ashley M. Gross, Highest Honors; Ronald Hammer, Honors; Martha N. Harrel, Highest Honors; Kelsey E. Hailey, Honors; Austin M. Harrasil, Highest Honors; James R. Holland, Highest Honors; Cassie M. Hood, Honors; Katelyn E. Howell, Honors; Kristin M. Howes, Highest Honors; Melissa M. Hunt, Highest Honors; Shali J. Ingram, Highest Honors; Mary A. Irby, Honors; Lyndsey B. Jackson, Honors; Melissa A. Johnson, Highest Honors; Bronter M. Jones, Honors; Hillary P. Jones, Honors; Megan M. Jones, Honors; Kyeongmi Kim, Highest Honors; Hilary L. King, Highest Honors; Mercedes E. Laderman, Highest Honors; Michael S. Lamp, Highest Honors; Brian A. Lapierre, Honors; Christy L. Lee, Honors; Rebecca E. Lund, Highest Honors; Dustin J. Lutz, Honors; Jason D. Maness, Honors; Chase G. Manley, Highest Honors; Ryan D. Mathis, Highest Honors; Dillon T. Matlock, Highest Honors; Allison B. Maxey, Honors; April N. May, Honors; Casey W. McCashland, Highest Honors; Kristin D. McCord, Honors; Shannon N. McMillin, Highest Honors; William A. Miles, Honors; Kristen D. Mitchell, Highest Honors; Marissa C. Morales, Honors; William J. Morgan, Highest Honors; James P. Moser, High Honors; Zachary G. Moss, Honors; Jesi L. Ogg, Highest Honors; Orren P. Ogg, Highest Honors; Amy B. Ouls, High Honors; Andrew G. Oliver, Highest Honors; Jomane K. Owens, Honors; Kaila M. Paradise, Honors; William B. Pugh, Honors; Jennifer L. Parrish, Highest Honors; Kristina V. Patel, Honors; Sauml V. Patel, Highest Honors; Emily D. Petty, Highest Honors; Josh R. Petty, High Honors; Preston C. Pigg, Highest Honors; Bethann H. Pitcher, Highest Honors; Nathan A. Powers, Honors; Landon P. Prather, Highest Honors; Cody L. Prince, High Honors; Julie M. Reddick, Highest Honors; Rachel E. Reeves, High Honors; Michelle A. Richmond, High Honors; Kristen L. Riley, Honors; Shiloh A. Robertson, High Honors; James C. Ross, Honors; Cory S. Sanderson, Honors; Landon G. Scott, Highest Honors; Brittany N. Sensing, Honors; Leslie A. Sinclair, Honors; Rachel E. Stegall, Highest Honors; Drew H. Stiggall, Honors; Zoe E. Stringer, Highest Honors; Rory D. Stutzman, Highest Honors; Erin L. Summer, Honors; Amber G. Taylor, Highest Honors; Chase M. Thewes, Highest Honors; Shane M. Turbeville, Highest Honors; Alexander S. Turner, High Honors; Jennifer T. Van Dyke, Highest Honors; Ellen E. Vaughn, Highest Honors; John G. Vincent, Honors; Makenzie B. Vincent, Highest Honors; Nealey B. Wade, Honors; Benelle P. Walters, Honors; Sarah E. Walton, Highest Honors; Regan L. Ward, Highest Honors; Zachary H. Ward, Honors; Dustin A. Wiley, Honors; Kelsey P. Wiley, Honors; Marcus K. Winstead, Honors; Natalie R. Wisher, Highest Honors; Duran B. Wright, High Honors; Sarah L. Yates, High Honors; Jonathan R. York, High Honors; Catherine M. Young, High Honors.

MCKENZIE—Matthew C. Moore, Honors.

OLIVE BRANCH, MS—Nicole E. Drake, High Honors.

PALMERSVILLE—Laura M. Bell, High Honors; Thomas G. Boll, Honors; Christopher M. Davis, Highest Honors; Cynthia J. Farrar, Honors; Jannie E. Reel, Highest Honors.

PARIS—Lora F. Cooper, Honors.

SHARON—Emily B. Allen, Highest Honors; Jason M. Brinley, High Honors; Matthew C. Caldwell, High Honors; Tonya M. Evans, High Honors; Jacqueline A. Guzman, High Honors; Nicole M. Hicks, Highest Honors; James K. Klufta, Highest Honors; Courtney D. Pleinik, Honors; Tj J. Roberts, Honors; Joseph R. Sipea, High Honors; Katelyn N. Veteto, High Honors; Hannah L. Wade, Highest Honors; Kayla B. White, Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
UT Martin graduate named partner with ATA

Jason Anderson has been named partner with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs.

The University of Tennessee at Martin graduate has more than 13 years of experience and focuses his practice on individual and corporate tax, business valuations, audit work, fraud investigations and estate planning.

He has earned several certifications, including certified public accountant, certified valuation analyst, certified fraud examiner, certified internal auditor and chartered global management accountant. He is a member of the Kentucky Society of CPAs, Kansas Society of CPAs, American Institute of CPAs, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, National Association of Valuators and Analysts and Institute of Internal Auditors.

A native of Carroll County, Anderson and his wife, Brandy, have two daughters, Annabella and Genevieve, and a son, Zechariah. He is a member of Rotary and enjoys spending time with his family, an array of outdoor activities, reading and classical music.

"Becoming a partner with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs is a tremendous privilege," he said. The culture at ATA is one that respects our clients and staff and strives for excellence. That is why ATA has the distinction of being one of the best accounting firms in the area. It is a huge responsibility to continue that legacy, and I am especially glad to have this opportunity in Murray."

David Lane brings cancer fight to entire county

Weakley County is no stranger in the fight against cancer. Neither is David Lane.

As a three-year staff member with the American Cancer Society, he's helped lead numerous successful Relay For Life events, and now he is bringing his knowledge and personal experience as a survivor to all of Weakley County.

Lane now supports the volunteer efforts of all four Relay For Life events, including Weakley West, Weakley East, Weakley Southwest and the collegiate Relay event hosted by UT Martin, as well as three events in Carroll County.

"I love getting to coach volunteers and communities how to leverage their efforts to make the biggest difference in defeating this disease for future generations," Lane said.

After a personal diagnosis with Stage 3 Renal Cell Carcinoma at the age of 18, Lane understands how lucky he is to even attend Relay For Life events.

"No one would ever think about getting cancer when they're a freshman in college," Lane said. "Thankfully my treatment was purely surgical and no chemotherapy or radiation was needed."

Not everyone is as fortunate – and that's why he fights. "After coming so close to the disease and being spared, I set out to join forces with the American Cancer Society because I knew I could carry the passion from my own fight into their ultimate mission of saving more lives from cancer."

Relay For Life is the volunteer-driven, staff-supported signature fundraising event for the American Cancer Society.

The event rallies communities to celebrate their survivors, honor and remember those lost to cancer, and take fight back against the disease. Teams participate by raising funds through the year, and walking a track lined with candle lit luminaria bags to show support in memory and honor of their loved ones that have faced the disease. At Relay For Life, there is no finish line, until there is a cure found for cancer.

Funds raised through Relay For Life enable the American Cancer Society to develop awareness campaigns to promote prevention and early detection; establish and maintain programs and services for patients and caregivers like Reach to Recovery, Look Good Feel Better, and a place to stay during extended treatment through Hope Lodge; and, most importantly, fund life-saving cancer research grants to places like Vanderbilt University and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To learn more about the American Cancer Society or to get help, call any time, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

If you would like information on becoming a volunteer, forming a team or becoming a corporate sponsor for your local Weakley County Relay For Life event, contact David Lane directly at (731) 512-5013 or by email at davidlane@cancer.org.
Humboldt Chronicle, Wednesday, January 15, 2014

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the fall 2013 chancellor’s honor rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for chancellor’s honor roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the chancellor’s honor roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Area students include:
- Humboldt - Bailey N. Alexander, honors; Mallory E. Blake, highest honors; Blake A. Brittian, honors; Luke H. Brittian, highest honors; Tabitha J. Causey, honors; Jonathan H. Hefley, highest honors; Sere C. Jackson, highest honors; Austin S. Koffman, highest honors; Allen J. Perry, highest honors; E. Smith, highest honors; Annalyn E. Smith, highest honors; Kelley M. Whitehead, honors
- Gadsden - Logan M. Cammarata, highest honors; Gibson - Cody C. Black, honors; Wesli S. Gray, highest honors
- Medina - Kimberly A. Boswell, highest honors; Summer A. Bradley, honors; Dylan W. Brown, highest honors; Jacob T. Henderson, honors; Cody L. Marbury, highest honors; Lucas J. Mercker, highest honors; John A. Miller, honors; Tyler C. Ray, highest honors; Katy Reynolds honors; Michelle N. Scott, highest honors; Rebecca D. Smith, highest honors; Katelyn D. Watt, highest honors; Peter M. Wood, honors; Carl C. Yarbro, honors
- UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
UTM academic speaker to address climate science

Peter Mahaffey will be the next academic speaker at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23 in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Humanities Auditorium.

The event is sponsored by the UT Martin Honors Program and the Student Members of the American Chemical Society.

His speech is titled “Climate Science, Powering Our Planet and Rare Materials: A Role for Visualization.”

Mahaffey is internationally recognized for his deep commitment to helping students, scientists and the general public see the intricate webs that connect chemistry to so many aspects of life.

Mahaffey, a professor of chemistry at the King’s University College in Edmonton, also co-directs the King’s Centre for Visualization in Science, which provides digital learning resources used by a quarter million students, educators and the public from more than 100 countries each year.

He carries out research in the areas of chemistry education, visualization in science and organic chemistry. In addition, he has strong professional interests and activities related to the interface between chemistry and sustainability, as well as the responsible uses of chemistry. He is co-author of an international first year university chemistry textbook, “Chemistry: Human Activity, Chemical Reactivity.”

Mahaffey recently completed six years of service as chair of the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry’s (IUPAC) Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE) and membership on IUPAC’s Bureau. In that capacity, he helped to facilitate the process to obtain UN designation of 2011 as an International Year of Chemistry and served on the IYC-2011 Management Committee.

He was a charter member of the International Council of Science (ICSU) Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science and serves on the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) working group on education and outreach and the American Chemical Society (ACS) presidential working group to help professional chemists communicate climate science to the public.

Mahaffey is also the vice chairman of the Province of Alberta’s Quality Assurance Agency for universities (Campus Alberta Quality Council).

The event at UTM is free and open to the public.

Nursing program site review planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Nursing will host a site review in February for continuing accreditation of its baccalaureate nursing program by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

The public is invited to meet the ACEN site visit team and share comments in person about the program at a meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. Feb. 12 in Gooch Hall, Room 133.

Written comments are welcome and should be sent to Dr. Sharon Tanner, CEO, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326. Comments may also be emailed to her at sjtanner@acenursing.org.

All written comments to the ACEN should be received by Feb. 3.

UT Martin offered a two-year nursing program from 1970 to 1991 and began the transition to the bachelor of science in nursing program in 1988. The university offers the traditional BSN at the main campus and the UT Martin Parsons Center. An RN to BSN program option is offered at the university’s Ripley Center and also online.

http://www.wbbjtv.com/

President of the University of Tennessee Visits Jackson

Story Created: Jan 15, 2014 at 5:07 PM CST
(Story Updated: Jan 15, 2014 at 6:47 PM CST)
WESI J A C K S O N -- The president of the University of Tennessee system spent some time in Jackson, Wednesday.

Dr. Joe DiPietro, gave some people in West Tennessee an update on the UT system. The UT leader talked about academics, athletics and other issues that face the system that has campuses all across the state.

Dr. DiPietro says he feels the future is bright for the system even with the challenges higher education is facing especially when it comes to finances. He says the system is working to contain cost and conserve.

"We have concerns about old buildings that are outdated and old laboratories particularly, you look at UT Martin and their engineering building, that we need to be re-upped and modernized and we need to find the money to do that kind of thing."

Dr. DiPietro oversees all of the campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Memphis, and Martin, plus the institute of agriculture center.
Making the cut

Thomas is a ‘Jeopardy’ contestant

By BRAD GASKINS
News Editor

Joe Thomas has been a “Jeopardy” fan for as long as he can remember. Growing up, he’d watch the TV game show and blurt out answers as quick as he could.

The stakes of getting the right answer – or question in this case – were recently raised when Thomas became an actual contestant on the show. The episode with Thomas will air Jan. 24.

“I was probably a bigger fan than the average person my age,” he said. “I’ve seen a lot of the show. I yelled out answers at the TV. People that watched it with me said I should audition for it.”

Thomas, 23, is a 2008 graduate of Westview High School and graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in the spring of 2013 with a math degree.

His mom was one of those who encouraged him to try out for the show.

“I told him he would be a great contestant,” Bonnie Thomas said.

Joe Thomas’ journey from “Jeopardy” fan to contestant began in April 2012, when he took a 50-question online test. It had a five or six minute time limit.

“After you finish that, they tell you that you’re not going to find out your results, but that they will get back to you if you qualified,” he said.

Thomas had almost given up hope when he received an email in July 2012 asking if he would like to come to Chicago for an audition. “They basically had sessions of 20 people at a time, and you would take another test – which was easier than the first one, I thought,” he said. There was also a mock “Jeopardy” game and personality interview.

See Jeopardy, Page 2
SCHOLARSHIP — Colton Jones (center) of Savannah, a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, earned a $4,500 Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship. Presenting Jones with his scholarship certificate are Dr. Joey Mehlhorn (left), professor and interim chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, and Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

West Tennessee Writing Project teams with Scholastic to promote teen writing

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) has partnered with the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers to read and score works submitted to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards program. Between now and Jan. 23, more than 20 WTWP teacher consultants are assessing up to 100 entries each in the categories of flash fiction, journalism, memoir, personal essay, persuasive essay and poetry.

"These teachers are the cream of the crop. The fact that they are willing to spend up to 10 hours outside of their normal work schedules assessing this writing — with no compensation — speaks volumes about their commitment as educators," said WTWP director David Carithers, associate professor in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The top-ranked entries in each category will be published by Scholastic in its annual Best Teen Writing series.

"I am very happy that the teachers of WTWP are part of this important program that encourages quality teen writing all across the United States," Carithers said.

UT Martin faculty members serving as judges for the project include Carithers, Tiffany Emerson (instructor, English and modern foreign languages) and Nelda Rachels (instructor, international programs and international admissions).

Weakley County teachers involved in the project include Jamie Babb from Dresden Middle School and Catherine Carithers from Martin Middle School.

Educators can find out more about the Scholastic Awards at www.artandwriting.org.

Housed in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages since 1992, WTWP is a program of professional development that attempts to improve student writing by encouraging teachers to become active writers. Find out more at www.utm.edu/wtwp.
"...that will be our charge in everything we do, comprehensive excellence."

JULIO FREIRE
UT Martin
athletic director
Julio Freire explains his plan for UT Martin athletics

By Craig Thomas
cThomas2@jacksonsun.com

MARTIN — The Jackson Sun met Monday afternoon with new UT Martin athletic director Julio Freire.

Freire, 47, accepted the job in late December. He explained his experience in sports and education, his vision for the school's athletic department, his goals for students and early assessments of UT Martin teams.

Below is a sample of the questions and answers from our conversation. For video highlights of this interview, go to JacksonSun.com.

Jackson Sun: You mentioned upon your hire a listening tour with people involved with UT Martin athletics. How is that going?

Julio Freire: The listening and learning tour is going to be a big part of what we do here, and to be candid with you we've already started. The first thing I did the day I received the job from Chancellor [Tom] Rakes ... my wife said 'Hey let's go celebrate, you've been wanting this for a long time.' And I said 'Honey I love you, but I've got to get in that office.' And I made 52 phone calls. I called every single head coach, and I called as many community members' and administrators' numbers as I could get a hold of. My purpose was to introduce myself and make sure they had my cell phone number in case they needed anything. So that's kind of

Continued from Page D1

what I'm talking about. ... It's kind of like being adopted into a family ... If we're going to succeed, which we are, it'll happen be because we work together. We all pull the same direction, and that means I need to understand what that current direction is. It's up to me to assimilate to the Martin way, if you will. I want to understand what it is that our staff wants thinks. I need to understand what their strengths are, I need to understand the personality. And then at the right time, months down the road, we'll start to put together what I call a plan for comprehensive excellence. And that will be our charge in everything we do, comprehensive excellence.

Sun: How do you plan to grow the UTM fan-base beyond Northwest Tennessee to Jackson and southern parts of the region?

JF: By inviting them to participate in meaningful ways, being there for them, communicating with them, listening to them and then being responsive, whether it means having a caravan in their community and bringing some coaches out to talk, whether it means making tickets available to them at some point in time ... If we want to engage our community, there's no better way than connecting with our coaches and our student-athletes.

Sun: What are some of UTM's strengths and weaknesses within the Ohio Valley Conference?

JF: Look at the success of the women's basketball program. Look at the success of the soccer program, look at the success of the softball program and other programs as well.

... Our football program is doing a very nice job ... the question becomes, when we talk to Coach Simpson, What is it that we need to do to help you get over that hump? You're right there. I do believe in holding our people accountable, but I also know if we're going to hold people accountable our expectations have to be matched by resources and support.

Sun: What makes you qualified to develop sustainable revenue streams?

JF: I know quite a bit about it. It's one of my areas of expertise. ... We increased annual giving by 300 percent while we were [at Tennessee Tech]. [At Arizona] we were again able to increase the annual giving. We were able to kick off a 100 million dollar capital campaign.
[At UNLV] 2010 was the worst economy on God's green earth. Nevada was hit as hard as any city in the union including the city of Detroit and Michigan. ... For the last five years they had raised consistently between 3.5 and 3.7 million dollars, which is pretty strong. ... By the end of the first year we had grown the annual giving program to over 4.3 million dollars, 20 percent growth in that economy.

(Freire said in June 2013 the program had doubled in number of donors and was near 6.9 million dollars.)

What we were able to do is match their needs with our wants. ... Maybe we're maxed out, maybe we're not, but we have to look at every potential stream of revenue.

Sun: How are you preparing to handle the job offers from bigger schools for a successful coach, like women's basketball's Kevin McMillan?

JF: There's going to be very few exceptions where we're able to get into a bidding war for a coach, especially if we're talking about a Football Bowl Subdivision school.

... If our coaches come here and succeed to the level that they're attracted by the other school ... all we can do is wish them well. We will do everything in our power to retain the very best coaches and attract and hire the very best coaches.

Sun: How can men's basketball, a struggling program, get better?

JF: I don't know why basketball hasn't succeeded to the level that I know Coach [Jason] James wants. I know Coach James well, one of the first people I met through the interview process, and I like Coach James. I know that his student-athletes have great respect for him. How that's not equating to wins, I don't know that yet.

He'll help me assess that. It is my responsibility to assess that and I will work with others to do the same. We do need to be successful in that sport.

Sun: Can you say right now what Jason James' future is as coach?

JF: He's going to coach our team for 12 more conference games this year and then God willing into the Ohio Valley Conference [tournament] and maybe beyond. What will happen beyond that, I don't know. I'm not trying to be coy, but what you'll learn about me is that 99 out of 100 times I will evaluate a coach and his program at the end of the year. ... Obviously the evaluation of Coach James has started since the day I was offered this job, but a final assessment will be done at the end [of the season].

Sun: How can the struggling baseball program improve?

JF: I think we're a little bit further [behind] on that one. I think Brad Goss would be the first to tell you Boy this is a really difficult situation. Because I know for a fact that Brad Goss signed on to be the first-ever full time assistant baseball coach at this institution, and within a short period of time he finds himself at the head coaching position.

Sun: Does the town of Martin give UTM an advantage or disadvantage?

JF: Both. Some obvious advantages would be the great relationship that exists and can be formed and improved upon between the community and the university and the athletics department.

One negative that you might point at, Imagine recruiting a top student-athlete at our level...and our coaches think they've got a shot. One potential disadvantage could be flying them in from wherever, California, Georgia, into Nashville or Memphis and then having to put them in a car for 120 or 150 minutes.

That's a disadvantage, but how do you overcome that? How can you compensate and how you can make it better and how can you show them the good things about our program?

So, pluses and minuses about being in a town like this.

I think the pluses will far outweigh the minuses.

Craig Thomas, 425-9751
‘We are performing at the highest level’

UT system president says UT Martin is one of the top three universities in the state

By Josh Lemons
jlemons@jacksonsun.com

Joe Dipietro, President of the University of Tennessee, spoke about current and future plans for the entire UT system on Wednesday at the Rotary Club meeting. Dipietro discussed UT Martin and its satellite campuses in Ripley, Selmer, Parsons and Jackson as well as the UT Science Center in Memphis.

Dipietro said that although most might think of the center in Memphis only affecting Memphians, the center extends well into all parts of West Tennessee.

“You might think the health science center is Memphis, but it has tentacles all over the state including right here in your town,” Dipietro said.

Dipietro, a former veterinarian, also stressed the importance of the Institute of Agriculture and the West Tennessee Research and Education Centers across Tennessee.

There are currently centers in West and East Tennessee but none in Middle Tennessee. Dipietro said Jackson has one, if not the finest, facilities in the state.

“There are 10 research education centers across the state of Tennessee tied to the Institute of Agriculture and Ag-Research,” Dipietro said. “This is the finest one, without a doubt.

“What you have here in Jackson, you need to realize is, this is the crown jewel of that system.” Dipietro said what makes the

See PRESIDENT, Page B2

President

Continued from Page B1

Jackson center the “crown jewel” is that it ties in directly with the local community.

“Your support of it, your willingness to help us when we need your help with it and to participate in the events there as well as hold events there is very, very positive,” Dipietro said. “We hope that will continue.”

Dipietro said he supports the governor's plan to increase graduation rates across the state and the UT System is currently leading the state in the “Drive to 55” program.

The “Drive to 55” plan is to have 55 percent of the state residents by the year 2025 completed either a two or four-year degree.

“The Complete College Tennessee Act, which rewards universities – based on the number of degrees we produce, the retention rates that we perform at and how we matriculate students through the program, we are top three in the state,” Dipietro said. “Knoxville being one, Martin being two and Chattanooga being three.

“We are performing at the highest level. We are at the highest level, but we want to be even higher.”

Josh Lemons, 425-9636
UT Martin’s Paul Meek Library goes cashless

The Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin began its cashless system Jan. 2. Effective Feb. 14, the library will no longer accept cash payments at service points. Students, faculty and staff can add money in person or online to their Skyhawk Silver card or purchase a Valuport card (short delays may occur before funds are available for use when added online). Community borrowers will receive complimentary cards ready for the addition of funds using the Valuport machine.

On Feb. 14, cash payments for library fines/fees, printing and purchase of consumable resources (from the Rogers Media Center) will no longer be accepted.

Brian C. Snyder of Pooler named to University of Tennessee at Martin honor roll

Posted: January 17, 2014 - 11:08am

By Savannah Morning News

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2013 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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- Brian C. Snyder, Pooler, Ga., Highest Honors

Tammi Jo Swearingen named to chancellor’s highest honor roll at University of Tennessee at Martin

Tammi Jo Swearingen of Horseheads has been named to the chancellor’s highest honor roll at University of Tennessee at Martin.

By Staff reports

Posted Jan. 17, 2014 @ 2:57 pm

MARTIN, TN

Tammi Jo Swearingen of Horseheads has been named to the chancellor’s highest honor roll at University of Tennessee at Martin.

To qualify for the recognition, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and earn at least a 3.8 grade point average.
UT student event honors MLK with learning, service

By Maggie Jones  
| Knoxville News Sentinel |

University of Tennessee student leaders assembled Saturday at the University Center to practice leadership and service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The event, hosted by UT's Center for Leadership and Service, combined the Clifton M. Jones Student Leadership Conference with the MLK Day of Service, a national initiative in which service projects are held across the U.S.

"I hope that students will be able to come and learn more about leadership and what it means to serve in the community and hopefully take something away that they can apply to their lives," said Ryann Gould, a UT Leadership and Service ambassador.

Tennessee students had the opportunity to help in several areas, including the Love Kitchen, Water Angel Ministries, the Knoxville Zoo and Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries.

"All of us are going across Knox County and Knoxville itself and helping out almost 20 organizations," said Seth Watkins, UT student and Ignite Team leader. "I'm really excited about seeing the impact that we have on this city.''

Steve Whitby, keynote speaker of the conference, talked to the students at the start of the event with a message centered on seeing each day as a new opportunity.

"We're at a point in our lives right now where we can get trapped in the mundane of boring," Whitby said. "Cause in the midst of a story that's already existing, we have a choice to either just live it or make it more exciting.''

The event also featured an involvement fair and breakout sessions for the attendees that specialized in leadership topics including social change, leadership growth, creating a leadership brand, professional leadership and leadership in a diverse world.

"I'm really looking forward to all the different conferences they're going to have and hear about all the different ways we can improve our service," said Kendall Thompson, a UT freshman in advertising.

At the conference, many students expressed their admiration for Martin Luther King Jr.

"To me, Martin Luther King Jr. is a man that fought for freedom and for civil rights for all people of all nationalities, for everyone," said Zachary Seay, a senior in Africana Studies. "That is just something important for us to remember. Today's not just about his birthday. It's about service, and that's what we're doing today.''

This is the 13th year the event has been held at UT.
UTM's Butler claims record

Gibson Co. grad is OVC's all-time leading scorer

By Craig Thomas
cthomas2@jacksonsun.com

With at least seven weeks left in her college basketball career, Heather Butler is working to get the UT Martin women's basketball team back into the NCAA tournament. Meanwhile, the senior guard from Medina broke an individual record Saturday that had stood since before she was born.

Butler is now the all-time leading scorer in the Ohio Valley Conference. With 2,532 career points, Butler is 35th on the NCAA career scoring list according to UTM.

"To be able to go away from this program my senior year, knowing that I did everything I could, allows me to leave this program down the road with a smile on my face," Butler told the UTM website.

She passed Cheryl Taylor, who scored 2,526 at Tennessee Tech from 1983-1987. (The 3-point line was added in 1986-87.)

Butler scored 26 in a 74-52 win over Morehead State that made the Skyhawks 13-6 overall and 6-0 in the league.

Senior guard Jasmine Newsome is 6th on the OVC career scoring list with 2,320 points.

WC student named to UT Martin honor roll

http://www.bgdailynews.com

Tevin L. Barksdale of Bowling Green was named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin. To be eligible for Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.3 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).
UT Martin names local students to honor roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2013 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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- Wesley S. Gray, Gibson, High Honors
- Matthew R. Bryan, Idlewild, High Honors
- Kimberly A. Boswell, Medina, Highest Honors
- Summer A. Bradley, Medina, Honors
- Dylan W. Brown, Medina, High Honors
- Jacob T. Henderson, Medina, Honors
- Cody L. Marbury, Medina, High Honors
- Lucas J. Mereker, Medina, High Honors
- John A. Miller, Medina, Honors
- Tyler C. Ray, Medina, Highest Honors
- Katy Reynolds, Medina, Honors
- Michelle E. Scott, Medina, High Honors
- Rebecca D. Smith, Medina, High Honors
- Kaitlynn D. Watt, Medina, High Honors
- Peter M. Wood, Medina, Honors
- Carl C. Yarbrough, Medina, High Honors
- Morgan B. Acuff, Milan, High Honors
- Brittany Bland, Milan, High Honors
- Shelby R. Bledsoe, Milan, High Honors
- Caitlyn N. Brown, Milan, High Honors
- John B. Browning, Milan, Highest Honors
- Heather Butler, Milan, Highest Honors
- Sarah E. Cox, Milan, High Honors
- Michael D. Duncan, Milan, Honors
- Morgan C. Fitzgerald, Milan, Highest Honors
- William C. Fuller, Milan, Honors
- Wendi M. Goodwin, Milan, High Honors
- Aubrey A. Granger, Milan, Highest Honors
- Anna K. Hardin, Milan, Highest Honors
- Genevieve N. Harman, Milan, Highest Honors
- Brittany P. Hatfield, Milan, High Honors
- Haleigh N. Hoke, Milan, Highest Honors
- Lauren N. Hughes, Milan, High Honors
- Matthew H. Laundermill, Milan, Honors
- Michelle J. Lee, Milan, Honors
- Lara B. Mangrum, Milan, Highest Honors
- Darian P. Matheny, Milan, Highest Honors
- Ashley N. Mathes, Milan, Highest Honors
- Julianna C. McMillin, Milan, Highest Honors
- John M. Parks, Milan, Highest Honors
- Joshua L. Postoak, Milan, Highest Honors
- Hope E. Renfroe, Milan, Honors
- Elizabeth P. Riddle, Milan, Honors
- Simon M. Saputo, Milan, Highest Honors
- Emily S. Shelton, Milan, Highest Honors
- Amanda L. Singleton, Milan, Highest Honors
- Ross F. Smith, Milan, Highest Honors
- James R. Stevenson, Milan, Highest Honors
- Rebecca A. Szopinski, Milan, Honors
- Natalie K. Taylor, Milan, Highest Honors
- Heather N. Torrance, Milan, Highest Honors
- Aubrey N. Walgren, Milan, Honors
- Ashley L. Wall, Milan, Highest Honors
- Chad A. Warden, Milan, Highest Honors
- Anna E. Warren, Milan, Highest Honors
- Garth P. Webb, Milan, Honors
- Kenneth P. Wilson, Milan, Honors
- Adrienne M. Wood, Milan, Honors
- Ashley L. Wood, Milan, Honors

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
MEDINA'S BUTLER SETS SCORING RECORD IN OVC -
A product of Medina and Gibson County High School made Ohio Valley Conference history by becoming the league's all-time leading scorer in a 74-52 road victory at Morehead State on Saturday afternoon. Heather Butler, a senior guard for UT Martin, scored 26 points in the win that moved her up to 35th on the NCAA's career leaderboard. "Honestly, it is one of those things that you cannot even begin to put into words," said Butler. "I could not have done it without my teammates all four years. They have always meant so much to me and I get emotional just thinking about what all this program has meant to me personally. All of my coaches, going back to high school, have always given me the utmost support and the support staff of my mother and sister has been incredible. It is a good feeling to know that they are proud of you, overwhelming in a way. To be able to go away from this program my senior year, knowing that I did everything I could, allows me to leave this program down the road with a smile on my face." "My family is my backbone and follow me around everywhere I go," said Butler. "Throughout growing up, my mom was always there for me, whether it was rebounding or whatever my needs. I do not have words to describe how much my mom sister and everyone in this program means to me."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014
THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

UT Martin names local students to fall semester's honor roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2013 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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- Lauren Baker, Honors
- Grace A. Bruner, Highest Honors

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
CELEBRATION — Dr. Harold Conner (seated), Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and others were among the many community leaders, UT Martin administrators and students and members of the general public who gathered Monday morning for the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast. UT Martin’s Black Student Association and The City of Martin co-sponsored the event.

MLK Jr. Celebration and Breakfast

Nunley and Prewitt give keynote speeches

By BRAD GASKINS
News Editor

Years before he became the after school program coordinator at the Tom and Ann Stuart Community Center in Martin, Robert Nunley was a high school student in Munroe, Ind.

The South Side High School Rebels had a Confederate flag as the school’s emblem. Racial unrest brewed as national media descended upon the city to cover the story. That’s when Nunley’s dad, R.C. Nunley, sat him down and delivered a stern warning.

“I’ll never forget what my father said to me one afternoon. He said, ‘I had better not have to come out to that high school because you were fighting.’” Nunley recalled Monday morning in a keynote speech at the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast, a joint effort of UT Martin’s Black Student Association and the City of Martin.

“All of my partners were right up in the middle of things,” Nunley said. “In reflection, I thank God that I feared my father more than I feared my peers. Don’t get me wrong — I took some chances like most people. There is something called peer pressure. But my father’s steadfastness and his example were exemplary.

“What I could not understand — even to this day — is that my father and uncles of that generation of black men, in particular my father, he never, ever told me a story about some injustice.”

KEYNOTE ADDRESS — Robert Nunley delivered one of two keynote speeches Monday during the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Nunley praised his dad, recited a speech by

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and also used the occasion to call for a new community center to better serve children in the area. Nunley is the coordinator of the after school program at the Martin Housing Authority’s Tom and Ann Stuart Community Center.
MLK
FROM PAGE 1

"I’m sure he had some," Nunley continued, "but he never put that into the atmosphere. I’m grateful for that."

In addition to praising his dad, Nunley recited a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and also used the occasion to call for a new children’s community center.

"I’m always going to use my platform to be an advocate for children," he said. "Our community has done an extraordinary job in that regard, but we can do better and we ought to do better. We haven’t arrived yet. My dream is to see a facility where children can come and play after school."

Twenty children had to be turned away from the program because there just wasn’t enough room to accommodate them at the current center on Manley Street.

"I suspect that our community has hundreds of children who could benefit from such a facility," Nunley said.

Anthony Prewitt, UT Martin’s Phase II housing director and advisor to Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, gave a speech titled "I’ve Got Dreams to Remember."

"I want to take you all back to a time when we were faster than the wind. How we were the strongest person outside of our mothers that we knew, and how it seemed that any-

thing we put our minds to, we achieved," he said.

Referring to childhood, Prewitt said it was a time "when wishes came true," provided children put their minds to it. "Those were the days – the good days, when kids knew the secret to what life really meant, when they alone held the keys to make it happen and they intricately built each dream from the ground up. Yes, those were the days," he said.

But something started to happen, "We started to grow up," he said, "and soon the many promises we made, the many wishes we built fell by the wayside and we forget them – we forgot our dreams."

He said everybody, himself included, has fallen victim to losing those childhood dreams. Speaking to any children in the room, Prewitt encouraged them to do whatever it is that their heart’s desire and never let anyone tell them those dreams aren’t possible. He closed his speech with a quote from Harriet Tubman: "Every great dream begins with a dream. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars and change the world."

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige presented Gene Busby with the Harold Conner/City of Martin Award.

Busby, the director of Hope of Martin Community Development, was born and raised in Martin, attended Weakley County Training School and played basketball and football under Dr. Harold Conner. Busby moved to Detroit, worked for Ford Motor Company and then moved to Memphis, where he served as the city’s director of personnel under former Memphis Mayor Dick Hackett. He eventually moved back home to Martin.

Brundige joked that Busby thought moving back to Martin would give him time to relax and spend his days fishing, which wasn’t the case. He’s stayed busy through his work with Hope of Martin.

"Gene Busby makes things happen," Brundige said. "He wanted to make things better and he has. Thank you, Gene Busby, for your good citizenship, having your own dream and making it happen through innovative leadership and hard work."

"We started this with something in mind to help people in Martin, especially those with low income," Busby said. "We have not looked back, and we don’t intend to."

The Black Student Association honored Dr. Annie Jones with its Torch Award.

There were three recipients of the Alpha Award: Joe Henderson, Bryce Holmes of the Black Student Association and Alvin Summers, pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church. Photos of these winners will appear in Thursday’s edition of The Press.
AWARD WINNER — Gene Busby (left) received the Harold Conner/City of Martin Award from Martin Mayor Randy Budig on Monday at the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast at UT Martin.

AWARD WINNER — Dr. Annie Jones received the Torch Award from the Black Student Association during Monday’s second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast at UT Martin. Taking part in the presentation were Bryce Holmes (left) of the Black Student Association and David Belote, a Martin alderman and UT Martin’s assistant vice chancellor for student affairs.
Discovery Park of America is celebrating “Space and Flight” in January and has planned several programs during the month, among them a lecture series held Saturday in the life enrichment classroom.

Dr. Lionel Crews, an assistant professor of physics at the University of Tennessee at Martin who received his degrees in physics and astronomy from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, spoke on the “Exotic Things in Space.”

The NASA Viking Missions in the 1970s studied the planet Mars. Of the 10 experiments performed, one tested positive for possible life. Crews said it was not enough for U.S. officials to say there was life on Mars, but it motivated scientists and since that day several probes have been sent to study the planet.

Among the interesting things which have been found on Mars is the Valles Marineris — a system of canyons similar to Earth’s Grand Canyon, but large enough that the Grand Canyon would fit inside it. It was formed by a series of volcanic eruptions when magma erupted under Mars, he said, adding it would stretch from New York to Los Angeles and includes river-like features. The Valles Marineris includes vast craters, including one that is at least 10 miles wide, and tall cliffs which would dwarf Clingman’s Dome at 20,000 feet.

Olympus Mons on Mars is the largest volcano in the solar system. Its distance from one edge to the other would be the distance from Memphis to Knoxville and it stands as tall as Mount Everest.

Mars also has a lot of water, with oceans, seas and lakes that are constantly freezing. He said the water there would not have the same mineral makeup as that of Earth’s and scientists have also found carbon dioxide frost.

Crews said Earth, like Mars, once was hotter than it is today and will continually get colder until the volcanoes shut off. “But, the sun will die long before that happens,” he said.

The UTM professor also discussed Jupiter, saying he thinks it is the prettiest of the planets. Its Great Red Spot is a storm that has been there at least 400 years. It spins at up to 500 kilometers per hour as it rips apart other storms and absorbs them.

Jupiter’s moon Europa also has complex and beautiful patterns made when the icy surface shifts.

Earth is not the only planet with northern lights. Crews said, as he showed an image of Saturn’s aurora. Saturn’s largest moon, Titan, is the only moon with a significant atmosphere, which includes 96 percent nitrogen. He said propane has also been found on the moon that has “lake and rivers of liquid methane” and “slush balls made of water.”

While eight planets (nine if the decommissioned Pluto is counted) have been designated within the solar system, thousands of other “exoplanets” exist outside the solar system. Thousands have been confirmed, while 3,500 are candidates. The newest ones are Kepler 62e and Kepler 62f, which were found in April 2013.

In language that sounded like it came from an episode of “Star Trek,” Crews continued his talk explaining dark nebulas, planetary nebulas, supernovas, the eta carinae constellation, false supernovas, black holes, galaxies, dark matter and dark energy.
Much of the food is freeze dried and has to be re-hydrated with hot water, which is inserted into the pouch through a clamp straw. Water, which actually has "sticky" properties, binds the food together on the fork so astronauts can eat without the meal floating through the spacecraft.

Astronauts never take bread or anything that can crumble into space, because those crumbs would get into the air they breathe and could also cause problems for the machinery. Even the salt and pepper used to flavor their food is suspended in water. That water, Mrs. Bell said, makes bubble shapes in space.

When it's time for the astronauts to go to sleep, they don't need a bed. Instead they climb into a pouch and connect themselves to a wall so they are held in place.

When working outside the space craft, astronauts wear special multi-layered suits that include tubing for circulating water to warm or cool the body. The helmet, which has oxygen pumped in for breathing, Mrs. Bell said if there was no air for the astronaut to breathe he would "implode." As an example, she used a plastic bottle filled with marshmallows and used a device to suck the air out of the bottle, collapsing the marshmallows.

Answering the question that probably gets asked the most in her classes, "How do the astronauts go to the bathroom?" she explained there is a space toilet that includes a seatbelt. Once strapped in, the astronaut turns on a vacuum. The solid waste is freeze dried and brought back to Earth, while the liquid waste is mixed with other excess water on the shuttle and released.

She said she and her family actually got to see a space dump once when they watched the ISS go by. She said the ISS can be tracked and is normally a small dot that moves at a steady pace, much like an airplane, but does not blink. As they were watching, she noticed a "ghost-like" trail. After a little research, she found that it was the space station performing a dump.
Obion County students honored for achievement at UT Martin

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the fall Chancellor’s Honor Rolls.

They include students from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must have at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Among the Obion Countians who were recognized were:

- **Hornbeak** — Alton R. Alexander, highest honors; Jacob R. Bloodworth, highest honors; Rebecca A. Bloodworth, highest honors; Christopher A. Douglas, honors; Susan B. Douglas, highest honors; Austin W. Hopper, highest honors; Mollie J. Scott, highest honors; Crystal E. Stockdale, highest honors; Gary E. Swingle, highest honors; and Terri D. Whitmore, highest honors.

- **Kenton** — David W. Cram, high honors; Adam T. Mayhall, honors; and Trevor D. Mayhall, honors.

- **Obion** — Rachael C. Holloway, high honors; Maria D. Rodriguez, high honors; Chelsea D. Souterland, highest honors; and Jennifer A. Webber, honors.

- **Rives** — Jake R. Blakely, highest honors; Jennifer L. Brooks, highest honors; Darrin R. Howard, highest honors; Jenna A. Land, honors; Meagan E. Morrow, honors; Christopher L. Palmer, highest honors; and Juan Jose Mora Rivas, high honors.

- **South Fulton** — Jessica A. Baker, highest honors; James R. Cox, honors; Samuel C. Curtis, high honors; Sheridan L. Daniels, honors; Andrew P. Greer, honors; Michael J. Hardy, highest honors; Sarah N. Howard, high honors; Jessica R. Johns, honors; Mark S. Maloney, highest honors; Clareessa J. McConnell, honors; James D. Mulcahy, highest honors; Zachary K. Nabors, highest honors; April M. Ring, high honors; Adam D. Tolley, highest honors; and Kayla E. Wade, highest honors.

- **Troy** — Terry G. Chapman, high honors; William C. Cousar, honors; Barbara J. Cox, highest honors; Kacee L. Eaves, honors; Lacy R. Eaves, honors; Jackquelyn K. Hayes, highest honors; Jonathan S. Kelly, honors; Kisha D. Kelly, high honors; Benjamin C. Kendall, highest honors; Martha C. Kendall, highest honors; Brandon J. King, high honors; Laurie B. Kissell, highest honors; Cory A. Luther, honors; Andrea N. Martin, high honors; Radford K. McDavid, highest honors; Lucy A. Simpson, high honors; Christopher C. Sowell, high honors; Taylor M. Turner, honors; and Josh A. Van Valkenburg, honors.

- **Union City** — Emma C. Adams, high honors; Matthew C. Adams, high honors; Erica J. Armstrong, honors; Mitchell B. Arnett, highest honors; William H. Arnold, highest honors; Patricia L. Avery, high honors; Kance D. Barnes, high honors; Walker L. Barnes, high honors; Brittany M. Barnett, high honors; John K. Bay, high honors; Colton T. Beeler, honors; Jake A. Bell, high honors; Terrence L. Bishop, high honors; Tiffany J. Bogle, honors; Chelsea E. Boyd, honors; Eric R. Brann, high honors; Britton M. Bugg, high honors; Jerrie C. Carrington, high honors; Cari B. Cash, highest honors; John C. Castellaw, high honors; David D. Ceiga, high honors; Ashlyn N. Chism, high honors; Maghen S. Clancy, honors; Carly A. Coleman, high honors; Mary A. Crews, highest honors; Alexander K. Darnall, highest honors; Jackerson R. Donnell, highest honors; Joshua T. Dyer, high honors; Kayla A. Ford, highest honors; Felicia C. Freeman, high honors; Amber L. Gardiner, honors; Derek H. Gillin, highest honors; Steven G. Gossett, honors; Larry B. Greer, high honors; Maria G. Guerrero, honors; Dallas C. Gurley, high honors; Krysten A. Harris, honors; Michael A. Harrison, honors; Katie L. Hawks, high honors; Richard L. Hempel, high honors; Bradley T. Henderson, highest honors; Cameron L. Jackson, high honors; Tammy D. Johnson, highest honors; Matthew R. Keathley, honors; Sherri M. Langford, high honors; Lindsay E. Long, high honors; Timothy C. Long, highest honors; Trey Maddox, high honors; Spenser G. Maloney, honors; Ashley N. Marshall, high honors; Taylor S. Martin, high honors; Chelsea A. Mathis, high honors; Turnika D. McKinnie, high honors; Ashley C. Merrell, high honors; Joseph D. Morgan, high honors; Andy Nelson, high honors; Alexandra N. Rapp, high honors; Kelsey M. Reed, highest honors; Victoria L. Reddy, high honors; Will J. Regan, high honors; Haley E. Riggs, honors; Batney J. Roberson, honors; Imelda Rodriguez Olvera, highest honors; Michael G. Ruddy, highest honors; Nancy Sanchez, highest honors; Katelyn E. Schfront, honors; Victoria L. Seng, highest honors; Jacob H. Shumate, honors; Landon C. Sowell, highest honors; Julie E. Spencer, honors; Leann L. Staser, highest honors; Samantha D. Storey, highest honors; Krista N. Tate, highest honors; James G. Terrett, high honors; Macy E. Thompson, honors; Kandace F. Tomlinson, honors; Sarah C. Triplett, highest honors; Jessica Van Valkenburg, honors; Jennifer A. Villa, honors; Andrew L. Warner, honors; Mason R. Warren, highest honors; Samantha D. Webber, honors; William P. Wessner, honors; David B. Wharton, highest honors; Richard B. Williams, high honors; Kyle W. Winstead, highest honors; Colton A. Woodward, honors; Maitland E. Wright, honors; and Corey A. Youree, highest honors.
Medina’s Butler sets all-time OVC scoring record

Senior guard Heather Butler made Ohio Valley Conference history by becoming the league’s all-time leading scorer in a 74-52 road victory at Morehead State on Saturday afternoon.

Butler would become the OVC’s all-time leading scorer by passing Tennessee Tech former standout Cheryl Taylor’s previous mark of 2,526 career points, a mark set in 1987. Butler scored a game high 26 points on the afternoon while moving into 35th on the NCAA’s career leaderboard.

“I honestly, it is one of those things that you cannot even begin to put into words,” said Butler. “I could not have done it without my teammates all four years. They have always meant so much to me and I get emotional just thinking about what all this program has meant to me personally. All of my coaches, going back to high school, have always given me the upmost support and the support staff of my mother and sister has been incredible. It is a good feeling to know that they are proud of you, overwhelming in a way. To be able to go away from this program my senior year, knowing that I did everything I could, allows me to leave this program down the road with a smile on my face.”

“My family is my backbone and follow me around everywhere I go,” said Butler who hails from Medina. “Throughout growing up, my mom was always there for me, whether it was rebounding or whatever my needs. I do not have words to describe how much my mom, sister and everyone in this program means to me.”

Jasmine Newsome moved into sixth on the league’s scoring list with her 2,320th career point.

“Heather and Jasmine are special kids, but what is great about the two is how they put winning the game above all else,” said UT Martin coach Kevin McMillan. “They put the team accomplishments above all others.”

Reading clinic offered for students

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering a reading clinic for students in grades 2-12 who need extra support and practice in reading.

There are three enrollment sessions, with two currently still available: Feb. 18-March 24 (no class March 3-6) and March 25-April 24 (no class April 1-3) on the UT Martin campus.

One session began Tuesday and is currently underway.

Experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center will teach the sequential and intensive course for reading improvement. Participants will be individually tested to determine their specific levels of phonics and comprehension. Using results, students will be placed into a research proven course of study designed to build skills and to fill in any gaps that may exist in their reading skills and strategies.

Participants will attend one-hour classes twice a week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The cost is $100 per session plus $25 for a personal workbook.

For more information or to register, call ECOS at (731) 881-7082. ECOS will provide your name and number to the program director to contact you for an appointment for your child to be tested.
McAlpin Circuit Court Judge candidate

Kevin McAlpin, Assistant District Attorney General for the 27th Judicial District, has announced that he will seek the position of Circuit Court Judge for Obion and Weakley Counties. McAlpin has been a prosecutor in that Court for the past 13 years. Prior to his service as ADA, he worked as an Assistant Public Defender and private attorney. His private law practice was with the Jim Bradberry law firm in Dresden.

McAlpin is currently a Major in the Tennessee National Guard, serving as an attorney with the Judge Advocate General Corp. He deployed to Iraq with the 194th Engineer Brigade in 2009. During his tour of duty, he served as the Command Judge Advocate for the brigade.

McAlpin is a graduate of Palmersville High School in Weakley County, the University of Tennessee at Martin, and the University of Memphis School of Law. He and his wife Jennifer have two children: Taylor, a sophomore at Dresden High School. Jennifer is employed by the Weakley County School System as a secretary at Dresden High School. He is an active member of the Church of Christ.

McAlpin has been a County Commissioner in Weakley County for 15 years. He is the chairman of the Weakley County Nursing Home Board and as a member of the Obion County Airport Board. He is a member and past president of the Dresden Rotary Club, a member of the American Legion and the Dresden Elks Lodge. He has also served as President of the Babe Ruth Softball League and has coached youth softball for many years.

McAlpin noted his qualifications and his experience as reasons that the voters should consider his candidacy for Judge. "I have worked as a defense lawyer, a prosecuting attorney and as a private attorney. I have handled criminal and civil cases in all the Courts of our area." He also asserted that his years of advocacy as an Army lawyer, has given him a unique perspective of the judicial system and the issues that face our nation and problems incurred by returning veterans of foreign wars and conflicts.

"I have a deep respect for our judicial system," McAlpin commented. "I realize it's not perfect but in my opinion it is the best legal and judicial system in the world. The trial judge is the pillar of that system. It is the job of the trial judge to protect the rights of those appearing before the court and ensure the system works to protect all of our citizens and society. It would be an honor to serve as your Circuit Court Judge. If elected I promise to strive for the highest standards of integrity. Everyone who appears in court will be treated with courtesy and given the opportunity to present his or her case. I will be hard working, fair and open minded. I look forward to speaking and visiting with you over the next months. I am asking for and would sincerely appreciate your vote and support in the election on August 7."

Chancellor's Honor Roll announced

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2013 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).
Julio Freire became UT Martin's athletic director this month after longtime AD Phil Dane retired on Dec. 31, 2013. Dane, who served as athletic director at UT Martin for 34 years, will be hard to replace. But after serving as the assistant/associate athletics director for development at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Freire (@Julio SkyhawkAD) is ready to take on the challenge - serving as the 12th athletics director in University of Tennessee at Martin's history.

UT Martin and OVC fans got a glimpse into Freire’s background at the press conference announcing his hire on Jan. 14, but OVCExtra wanted to find out more about the newest AD in the conference, so we asked him to tell us five things most people wouldn't know about him.

1) I once golfed 72 holes at four different golf courses in four different states, all in one day. Here’s how that worked - there were 12 of us and we started in California, which is 20 miles west of Las Vegas. We golfed 18 holes at the crack of dawn, and then drove for about 75 minutes to Mesquite, Nevada, and golfed 18 holes there. We then drove 10 minutes to the east and crossed into Arizona and golfed 18 holes. We then drove for about another 50 minutes north to Utah and played at Coral Canyon in St. George. By the way, this was on the summer solstice - the longest day of the year - which means Nevada and Arizona were at about 115 degrees. Scoring was not an issue, obviously. It was awesome!

2) Prior to serving in collegiate athletics, I had a 10-year career in K-12 education, working as a teacher, counselor, coach, athletics director and principal in Phoenix and Tempe, Arizona.

3) I competed in track and field at Arizona State University, where I was a steeplechaser. I learned to steeplechase under George Young, who was a four-time Olympian steeplechaser.

4) I was born in Tijuana, Mexico. I was raised in a two-bedroom trailer, and I am a first-generation college graduate. I believe that is probably one of the main reasons why I am such an advocate for intercollegiate athletics and the role it plays in higher education.

5) I love to cook. I grill for my daughter Gabriella - she loves barbecue ribs and steaks. For my son, Christopher, I cook seafood - he loves crustaceans, shrimp, crab legs and Maryland Blue Crab, and recently he’s gotten into crawfish. My wife, Cherie, loves it when I cook Mexican food.
‘Country girl’ shares cooking legacy

By JOE LOFARO
Special to The Press

She wore a red satin, popcorn cloth blouse with black sequins and a giant poinsettia at the right shoulder.

She was sassy, in a good way, in every way.

She has worn headbands, pearls and diamonds.

She is always sassy in a good way.

Rebecca Russell Jones, of Milan, is even sassy when she cooks.

“Everybody else makes plain food,” Jones’ son Harris said. “When you cook, you always think about what everybody likes. You even ask them if they are on a diet. You try new recipes too and make it all fun. You decorate your food, like when you make me pancakes in shapes.

“You’re just sassy,” Harris said.

And thus the cookbook, Sassy in the Kitchen, was born.

Jones signed first edition copies of the cookbook before Christmas at

SEE SASSY, PAGE 5

SASSY — Rebecca Jones started cooking when she was 6 years old and hasn’t stopped. She has experience in teaching culinary and hospitality to students ranging from ages 5 to 75. She shares those experiences in her new book “Sassy in the Kitchen.”

Kirkland’s Antiques Gift Interiors and Lighting on Lindell Street in Martin, Jones, who teaches at Milan High School, started cooking at 6 years old. When she was 10, she was planning meals with her mother, who was a beautician.

“I grew up as a ‘country girl’ — poor and proud,” Jones said. “By the time I was in junior high school, I realized that most girls didn’t know how to cook. I was a measuring spoon.”

Jones said she would do just about anything for her mama. When it was time for college Jones came from Milan to UT Martin.

Her mama wanted her to go away for school and Jones wanted to as well. UT Martin was just far enough away.

“I wanted to be a teacher and I dreamed of having my own classroom teaching students how to cook...”

Jones admired the teachers because they had pretty jewelry, high heels and “even purses to match,” she said.

“Dressed professionally with so much wisdom and I wanted to know how to be a lady who do all of those things too. I was going to be ‘Sassy,’” Jones said.

Jones graduated in 1973 from UT Martin and earned her master’s degree too. She has experience in teaching culinary and hospitality to students ranging from ages 5 to 75.

“She taught me home economics and about life,” Camille Cook, a former student of Jones said.

“She taught me things I will teach my daughter now,” Cook said. “I teach my daughter the proper way to measure something. You get down to eye level... I will teach her how to set a table and how to be a lady, just like Ms. Jones taught me.”

One of Cook’s favorite recipes of her former teacher is cheddar biscuits.

Jones said her cookbook is designed for home cooks everywhere at any level.

The book includes holiday recipes for sauces, dips, soups and chowders festive casseroles and breads.

“Whether you are a novice cook, experimental of haven’t succeeded just yet,” Jones said she delights in sharing her legacy of cooking.

“Some recipes are from my four decades of culinary preparation in the classroom as a home economics teacher and other recipes are from devoted family members who taught me to take great pride in the art and science of cooking,” Jones said.

Editor’s note: This is the first of a five-part series on local authors.
NEW OFFICERS — The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) recently elected its officers for the calendar year 2014. This past year the chapter received an outstanding rating for the 32nd year from the Society Committee on Chemical Education and the Green Chapter award for the 12th year from the Green Chemistry Institute of ACS. No other, of the more than 1,000 nationwide chapters, has won this many top awards. Chapter activities this year will include hosting a chemistry bowl in March, 37th Area Collegiate Chemistry Meeting in April and the undergraduate programming at the 66th Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS) in October in Nashville. New officers include: (seated from left) treasurer Heather M. Vacovsky of Hillsboro, president Krysten A. Harris of Union City, vice president Heather N. Streckert of Dyersburg and secretary Chapell S. Smith of Burlison. Additional members of the executive committee include (standing from left) Songyuon Lu of Dover, Eric D. Fussell of Newbern, Amber G. Taylor of Martin and Jacob T. Thompson of Linden.
HORNE LLP Welcomes 2014 Spring Intern Class

Ridgeland, MS (PRWEB) January 24, 2014

HORNE LLP, one of the top 50 accounting and business advisory firms in the nation, recently welcomed 25 accounting students to its highly competitive spring internship program. They will complete their internships at various HORNE office locations throughout the Southeast.

HORNE’s 2014 intern class includes: Olga Tovar of Houston, Texas, (University of Houston); Paris Porter of Lansing, Ill., (Jackson State University); Caroline Kemp of Vicksburg, Miss., (Millsaps College); Ken Stewart of Jackson, Miss., (Millsaps College); Samantha Massey of Kosciusko, Miss., (Mississippi State University); Jose Alcaraz of Luka, Miss., (Mississippi State University); Cory Bass of Meridian, Miss., (Mississippi College); Jessica Rowe of Mobile, Ala., (The University of Southern Mississippi); Sarah Olander of Madison, Miss., (University of Mississippi); Harsh Kandoi of Kathmandu, Nepal, (University of Mississippi); Taylor Davis of Winfield, Ala., (Mississippi State University); Anna Morgan of Madison, Miss., (Mississippi State University); Kelsey Wiggins of Winona, Miss., (Mississippi State University); Courtney Sawyers of Memphis, Tenn., (Millsaps College); Blake Pittman of Waynesboro, Miss., (The University of Southern Mississippi); John Calvert of Madison, Miss., (Mississippi State University); Morgan Lamb of Columbus, Miss., (University of Mississippi); Rob Turnage of Collierville, Tenn., (University of Mississippi); A.J. Barrios of Houston, Texas, (University of Mississippi); Will Drummond of Nashville, Tenn., (University of Mississippi); Camille Olson of Covington, La., (University of Mississippi); Taylor Dial of Paris, Tenn., (University of Mississippi); Rebecca J. Smith of Trenton, Tenn., (The University of Tennessee at Martin); Chris Hawks of Jackson, Tenn., (Union University); and Chelsea Wells of Biloxi, Miss., (University of Mississippi).

Kemp, Stewart, Massey, Smith and Hawks will be completing their internships in tax services. Alcaraz, Bass, Rowe, Olander, Kandoi, Davis, Morgan, Wiggins, Calvert, Lamb, Turnage, Barrios, Drummond, Olson and Dial will focus on assurance services. Sawyers and Pittman will complete their internships in health care services. Tovar and Wells will focus on disaster recovery services. Porter will complete her internship in fraud, forensic and litigation services. HORNE is one of the top 50 accounting and business advisory firms in the country. With offices in Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama and Texas, the firm focuses on the industries of construction, disaster recovery, financial institutions, franchise and health care; wealth advisory; and services specific to the needs of SEC registrants and large private companies. For more information on HORNE LLP, visit http://www.horne-llp.com.

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Read the full story at http://www.prweb.com/releases/2014/01/prweb11514285.htm
MARTIN, TN—Football lovers are anticipating the biggest day in the NFL season, The Super Bowl. What are you most excited for, the sport, food, or commercials? Students at a local university say they are excited for it all.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Sporting Management Professor Dexter Davis chose seven students to go to New York and experience The Super Bowl craze. Professor Davis said it is not only a trip of a lifetime, but the students will also gain knowledge and experience for life after college.

"The stadium gets louder and the stands start filling in. When the National Anthem starts, it's incredible, you get goosebumps," said Professor Davis.

Davis describes his favorite pastime. "You're at the largest sporting event in our county. There is an electricity in the air and the kids feel it," said Professor Davis.

Professor Davis now gets to share that experience. "We're taking seven students to New York City to work with the NFL," said Professor Davis.

Seniors Sam Curtis, Darrin Howard and Juwan Turner were among the chosen ones.

Creating unforgettable memories while building career skills.

"Contacts, developing professional networks, getting to see how a mega sporting event happens. It meets their career goals, it helps them take a step down that path," said Professor Davis.

A trip of a lifetime to the Big Apple.

"When it hits them that they're at The Super Bowl, they're just going to go wow," said Professor Davis.

Professor Davis and the seven students leave on Tuesday. Davis is hoping the students will be able to meet people in the sporting industry and learn how a mega event is put together. The Super Bowl game is February 2nd.

Bank names Maury native controller

First Farmers and Merchants Bank hired Jill Giles as controller, replacing Robert Matthews who was named director of human resources, according to a press release.

Giles will be responsible for supervising the quality of the bank's accounting and financial reporting. Her additional duties will include preparing quarterly and annual financial reporting.

Giles has experience overseeing auditing and consulting projects for public and privately-held community banks, nonprofit organizations and small private companies in Tennessee.

She received a bachelor's degree from The University of Tennessee at Martin and a master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University.
Seven years ago, Martin Mayor Randy Brundige had a vision of creating a community-based organization to bring businesses, civic organizations, churches and individuals together to make Martin a better place to live, work, shop and play.

Out of that vision, the Martin Business Association was created. Over the years, the organization has grown and flourished to 132 paying members that enjoy monthly breakfast meetings, host and attend mix and mingle events, receive email blasts that keep them up-to-date with community events, and grow through networking opportunities.

In 2014, the Martin Business Association will focus on increasing member involvement in various community events, growing the membership and building a better Martin for our city residents and visitors.

MBA president Monica Cochran said she personally invites everyone to attend the next Martin Business Association meeting, which will be held Feb. 11 at 7:30 a.m. in the Community Room of First State Bank.

Come meet other concerned individuals, learn more about what’s going on in our community, and start your day off moving Martin forward.
UT Martin students headed to the Super Bowl

By STANTON WATSON
Special to The Press

The ultimate sports fan’s dream is about to come true for eight UT Martin students this Super Bowl Sunday.

Thanks to sports management professor Dr. Dexter Davis and his relationship with the NFL, the lucky students are about to punch their tickets to the big game.

After hearing about the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in their respective marketing and management classes, UT Martin students were encouraged to compete for a chance to participate in NFL hospitality events. The students were hand-picked after a process of resume writing, filling out applications and being interviewed.

One of the students traveling to New York will be Jacob Harris, a sports management major from Martin. While describing his thoughts on this chance being offered to him and his classmates, he said, “This is a very cool opportunity for UTM students. There are just not a lot of huge events and opportunities like this one for UTM students to go to.”

This year’s trip will mark Davis’ seventh to the Super Bowl. He describes attending the game each year as an invaluable experiential educational opportunity to learn just what kind of activities go into putting on such a huge event.

“We’ll be seeing more of the production side by working with planning events,” Davis said.

“Super Bowl Bound — Seven students, including (from left) Rachel Robison, Juwan Turner, Reid Rickett, Dr. Dexter Davis, Darren Howard, Jacob Harris, Allie Mulvaney and Sam Curtis, are headed to the Super Bowl. The group will be working with the NFL this week and during the game Sunday. The students flew out of Nashville this morning and will return to Martin on Tuesday. The students were hand-picked for the trip. (Photo illustration by Nathan Morgan/UT Martin)

TRIP FROM PAGE 1

Rachel Robison, a marketing major from Paris, added, “I am excited because I really enjoy planning things. The Super Bowl is one of the biggest events planned in the U.S., so I am excited to see all the planning that goes into it.”

Although the opportunity to attend the Super Bowl is an exciting one, Davis and the students traveling to New York expect major hurdles and complications along the way. Due to the extremely congested nature of the urban area where the game is taking place, travel and transportation is expected to be nothing short of a nightmare.

Patrons to the game will be required to arrive via public transportation, as personal vehicles will not be allowed. The congestion and confusion may only get worse when the two-mile perimeter around the event is imposed to keep out unauthorized traffic.

Despite the potential stress and complications, Davis and his students can fully expect to have the time of their lives. They will surely remember forever the valuable experience they earned while participating in the production of America’s biggest sporting event.
OCCHS students get creative at artistic event at UT Martin

By CHRIS MENEES
Messenger Education Editor

It's a hands-on approach. Obion County Central High School advanced art students had a fun, educational and successful day when they attended this year's University of Tennessee at Martin High School Art Exhibition and College Art Day.

OCCHS art teacher Suzanne Hill explained students from six area high schools were invited to participate in four of the six art classes taught by UT Martin art faculty throughout the day at the recent event.

Senior Art 4 student Kayla Bugg said her favorite class was weaving "because I learned something new."

"I learned I could actually weave using just my fingers," she said.

Nicole Glisson, a senior Art 4 student, enjoyed a 3D design class.

"I liked Mr. McBeth's 3D design class because we had to use teamwork to get the project done," she explained.

The students agreed the event provides a great learning experience.

"College Art Day is a great experience. You actually learn a lot by opening your mind to greater possibilities," said Collin Kirk, a senior Art 4 student.

OCCHS advanced art instructor Suzanne Hill said the event is extremely popular and she appreciates the opportunity provided by UT Martin's art department.

"UTM College Art Day and High School Art Exhibition is probably the best field trip we take all year," she said. "Not only do students get to see their own art on display in a college setting, but they actually get to attend and participate in hands-on classes taught by the UTM art faculty. I genuinely appreciate this generous opportunity offered each year by the UTM art department."

Before attending the UT Martin event, OCCHS students also submitted artwork to be considered for inclusion in the art exhibition.

Among those whose artwork was accepted for the art exhibition were Austin Roach, Justis Allen, Austin Riley, Miss Parnell, Nicole Glisson, Amber Cunningham, Amber Dycus, Terri Faye Doughten, Tyler Rotgers, McCall Potts, Dana Barnett, Courtney Brewer and Joey Crosser.

Several of these students' works were chosen as winners, according to Mrs. Hill.

Miss Cunningham placed third in painting for her self-portrait, "Behind Bars," while the drawing and printmaking category included two winners from OCCHS: Riley, who placed second with his entry, "Crazy Hands," and Allen, who received an honorable mention for his print, "African Elephant."

The students from OCCHS swept the mixed media and book art category. Miss Parnell captured first-place honors for "Four-eye Stitch" and Miss Glisson earned second-place honors for her collage self-portrait, "Bits and Pieces." Crosser won third place for "4-Eye Binding."

Among those who received honorable mention honors were Miss Dycus for "Drum Leaf Book," Miss Doughten for "Castle," and Miss Parnell for "Sulky Self."

OCCHS students also captured all places in sculpture during the UT Martin event, with Allen capturing first place for "Tiny Teapot"; Miss Dycus earning second place for "Frilly Teapot"; and Roach receiving third place for "Leaf Platter."

Finally, Mrs. Hill said the "already exciting day" was rounded out by Miss Cunningham's three-part stacking ceramic sculpture, "Monkey See, Monkey Do," being awarded Best of Show for all categories.

The OCCHS art students are taught by Mrs. Hill and Glen Marshall.
TAKING OFFICE — The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the American Chemical Society recently elected officers for 2014. New officers include (from left, seated) treasurer Heather M. Vacovsky of Hillsboro, president Krysten A. Harris of Union City, vice president Heather N. Streckert of Dyersburg, secretary Chapell S. Smith of布尔西 and (standing) executive committee members Songyuon Lu of Dover, Eric D. Fussell of Newbern, Amber G. Taylor of Martin and Jacob T. Thompson of Linden. This past year, the chapter received an outstanding rating for the 32nd year from the Society Committee on Chemical Education and the Green Chapter award for the 12th year from the Green Chemistry Institute of ACS. Of more than 1,000 chapters nationwide, no other has won this many top awards. Chapter activities this year will include a chemistry bowl in March; the 37th Area Collegiate Chemistry Meeting in April; and the undergraduate programming at the 66th Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in October.
BY DESIGN — Courtney Brewer, a senior Art 4 student at Obion County Central High School, focuses on creating a masterpiece in her 2-D Design class taught by Diane Shaw at UT Martin's recent High School Art Exhibition and College Art Day.
CONCENTRATION — OCCHS senior Art 3 student Joey Crosser concentrates as he works on the computer in the Media Lab class taught by UT Martin’s Lane Last during the university’s High School Art Exhibition and College Art Day recently.
BEST OF SHOW — Senior Art 3 student Amber Cunningham poses with her Best of Show entry, "Monkey See, Monkey Do," during the recent UT Martin High School Art Exhibition and College Art Day.

IT'S A DRAW — OCCHS students Amber Dycus (center) and Kayla Bugg (right) use charcoal to begin still life drawings in Jason Stout's class.
South Fulton students excel at U.T.M.

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2013 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Emily D. McCartney, Glencoe, Ala. Highest Honors; Charles N. Gatlin, McEwen, Tenn., Honors; Jessica A. Baker, South Fulton, Honors; James R. Cox, South Fulton, Honors; Samuel C. Curtis, South Fulton, High Honors; Sheridan L. Daniels, South Fulton, Honors; Andrew P. Greer, South Fulton, Honors; Mikaela M. Hardy, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Sarah N. Howard, South Fulton, High Honors; Jessica R. Johns, South Fulton, Honors; Mark S. Maloney, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Claressa J. McConnell, South Fulton, Honors; James D. Mulcahy, South Fulton, Highest Honors; Zachary K. Nabors, South Fulton, Highest Honors; April M. Ring, South Fulton, High Honors; Adam D. Tolley, South Fulton, Highest Honors; and Kayla E. Wade, South Fulton, Highest Honors.

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PARIS TN: Henry Countian Rachel Robison to get behind-the-scenes look at Super Bowl

BY KEN WALKER
POST-INTELLIGENCER
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Rachel Robison knows she is going to get some good training this week at the Super Bowl. But, mostly, she knows it should be tremendously fun.

Robison is a Henry County woman who has traveled with a group of seven University of Tennessee at Martin students this week to the metro New York area for the Super Bowl on Sunday between the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks.

She and the other UTM students will actually be working during the weekend and especially on Super Bowl Sunday. They're all sports management students (Robison is a marketing major and a sports management minor) and will get an up close and personal look at how one of the biggest sports events in the world comes together.

"We'll get to see what really goes on," she said earlier this week before leaving for the East Coast on Tuesday for an eight-day stay.

The trip was arranged through UTM sports management professor Dexter Davis, who has worked at the various Super Bowls for the last eight or nine years, Robison said. Davis' connections with the National Football League are what have made the trip possible.

"This is his first year at UT Martin, and I really think UTM brought him in to kind of beef up the sports management department," Robison said.

In addition to touring New York and Philadelphia, the group was scheduled to get behind-the-scenes looks at several large sports arenas in the area, including Madison Square Garden in New York City, the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J., and the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia.

But the students also will be involved in some intense training through the NFL On Location program. That's the branch of the NFL that deals with events and hospitality.

On Sunday, the students expect to work a 15-to-20-hour day. Robison said they don't know yet what exactly they'll be doing, but it's possible it could be something like seating people in the enclosed box seats or luxury suites at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., the site of the football game.

The group is staying after the Super Bowl as well, with some work duties expected on Monday before the group flies home on Tuesday.

Robison said the trip is great for sports fans, "and I like sports. But the main reason I'm interested in going is that I love event planning. I knew I really wanted to go when I found out how much we would be involved in seeing how a huge event like this is put together."

Robison, the daughter of Rusty and Pam Robison of Buchanan, is a senior at UTM. She graduated from Henry County High School in 2010.
The University of Tennessee at Martin is one of the nation's "Best Value" colleges and universities, according to The Princeton Review.


UT Martin joined the University of Tennessee-Knoxville as the only public Tennessee universities listed. This marks the second year that UT Martin earned the "Best Value" designation from The Princeton Review.

"Our faculty and staff work hard to ensure our students experience a safe, academically rigorous and socially inviting learning community, offering one of the best collegiate values in the nation," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. "In addition to being a best value, UT Martin is recognized as having the highest graduation rate among public universities west of the Tennessee River."

Editors at The Princeton Review note, "UT Martin offers financial assistance to students based on need, academic achievement, character and leadership ability. Those with top academic credentials can compete for Honors Programs scholarships, and others who meet established academic criteria are eligible to receive the Tennessee Education Lottery HOPE Scholarship. There is also the respected University Scholars Program for qualified students. The administration is respected, and 'takes student opinion into account when making campus changes.'"

According to The Princeton Review, schools that made the "Best Value Colleges for 2014" list are exceptional because they provide stellar academics at an affordable cost — either via a comparatively low sticker price or generous financial aid, or both.

The Princeton Review "Best Value Colleges" is based on data gathered from institutional and student opinion surveys conducted from fall 2012 through fall 2013. The surveys were conducted at 650 colleges and universities the Princeton Review considers the nation's academically best undergraduate institutions. The selection process considers data on more than 30 factors in academics, cost of attendance and financial aid.


The Princeton Review (www.PrincetonReview.com) is not affiliated with Princeton University and it is not a magazine.
The University of Tennessee has been named among the 75 public schools offering the best value to students across the nation by the Princeton Review.

UT-Martin was also named a "Best Value College," while Vanderbilt University and Rhodes College were among the private schools named to the list.

The schools were selected from more than 2,000 colleges and universities, while examining the cost, financial aid, academic rigor and campus life.

The Princeton Review, an education company known for its test-prep courses and admissions services, publishes this list and other rankings annually.

The publication noted that UT distributes more than $23 million in scholarships every year, along with the state's lottery-funded scholarships that close to half of the tuition and fees for in-state students.

UT also offers need-based scholarships like the Pledge, which goes to lower-income families, and the Promise, which is available to students from designated high schools that have been historically underrepresented on the Knoxville campus.