Universities not keeping good track of student loans, audit says

By Chris Butler | Tennessee Watchdog

KNOXVILLE — If you’re a University of Tennessee at Knoxville student on financial aid, it’s possible you could quit going to class outright or even graduate and you would still qualify for that money.

An audit that Tennessee Comptroller Justin Wilson released last week[1] said it will happen if school officials aren’t watching you carefully.

The audit also said it’s possible to attend another school in the University of Tennessee system, UT-Martin, and receive thousands of dollars in student aid even though your grades don’t measure up.

At UT-Knoxville, auditors took a sample of 40 student loan recipients and discovered that five of them likely already had left school. Other students might have started attending less than half the regular time, auditors said.

UT-Knoxville officials didn’t return Tennessee Watchdog’s request for comment Tuesday.

A list of quick facts on the school’s website[2] didn’t say how many students overall accept financial aid.

"Student enrollment information is extremely important, because it is used to determine if the student is still considered in school, must be moved into repayment, or is eligible for in-school deferment," auditors wrote.

The website reports the school has a 66 percent graduation rate.

"For students moving into repayment, the out of school status effective date determines when the grace period begins and how soon a student must begin repaying loan funds."

In a written response to auditors, UT-Knoxville officials said they would implement stronger standards. Auditors wrote they made similar findings at the school the previous academic year.

The samples were taken from the 2012-13 academic year, as were those for UT-Martin.

Auditors at UT-Martin sampled $392,582 in financial aid — out of a total $51.6 million given — and discovered two students received $18,527, even though they didn’t meet the university’s own minimum academic standards.

In a written response, UT-Martin officials said they concur with those findings, will implement stricter procedures and already have returned that money to the U.S. Department of Education. UT-Martin spokesman Bud Grimes told Tennessee Watchdog the school has a six-year graduation rate of 46.5 percent.
Two individuals are responsible for handling the school’s student loan applications, Grimes said.

Last year, several students at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro told Tennessee Watchdog that student loans to attend any Tennessee college are extremely easy to acquire and sometimes given to students who aren’t college material [5].

Those loans don’t just burden students — to a degree, they also burden taxpayers.

University officials hire state employees to process those loans, said Tennessee Higher Education Commission spokesman Russ Deaton. The more student loans given, the more state employees are needed to process those loans.

Russ Deaton also said that if you process student loans at a Tennessee university you likely have the safest job on campus, even when college presidents make drastic cuts elsewhere.

Federal guidelines help see to that [6], Deaton said.

Such was the case during the most recent recession, when funding for Tennessee’s colleges and universities dropped, and more of higher education’s revenue came from tuition increases, he said.

“The student loan industry, as you can probably guess, has a lot of federal regulations and paperwork attached to it,” Deaton said when asked if these student loan processors, who are state employees, could ever face downsizing when money is tight.

“Most of those financial aid offices are already slammed and understaffed. I doubt that presidents would look there first.”

The U.S. government made $50 billion off student loans in 2012, according to the Congressional Budget Office [7].

Deaton said campuses generally don’t do independent credit checks or risk analyses on students who apply.
MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — After leading UT Martin to a fourth straight NCAA women's basketball tournament appearance, Kevin McMillan has signed a six-year contract extension to remain the Skyhawks' coach.

UT Martin announced the extension Tuesday in a university release. McMillan's contract now runs through the 2019-20 season.

The 46-year-old McMillan owns a 98-62 record in five seasons at UT Martin, which went 2-27 the year before his arrival. His teams have won two Ohio Valley Conference outright regular-season titles and four Ohio Valley Conference tournaments.

UT Martin went 24-8 this year and set a school record for victories in a season. UT Martin's season ended with a 60-58 NCAA tournament loss to North Carolina in a game it led by as much as 18 points.
MARTIN, Tenn. — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with induction into Phi Eta Sigma 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. Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that recognizes high academic achievement in the freshman year. Students who achieve a 3.5 average at the end of their first year of study are eligible for membership. Carroll County students recognized were: Courtney Caton, of Huntingdon, Tenn.; Brandon Huss, of McKenzie, Tenn.; Heath W. McAlexander, of Huntingdon, Tenn.; Ashlynn McKnight, of Huntingdon, Tenn.
Gibson County natives selected for Phi Eta Sigma

PHI ETA SIGMA INDUCTEES Morgan Acuff, Caitlyn N. Brown, Haleigh Hoke, Julianna Claire McMinn, and Amanda Singleton of Milan, Mali Elizabeth Jones, of Rutherford, and Danielle Rickman, of Dyer have all been recognized for their academic achievements at the University of Tennessee at Martin with induction into Phi Eta Sigma. Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that recognizes high academic achievement in the freshman year. Students who achieve a 3.5 average at the end of their first year of study are eligible for membership.

Local Students attend UTM Preview Day

POTENTIAL FUTURE SKYHAWKS – Brighton Smith (center, top photo), a senior at Milan High School, and Garrett Wright (center, bottom photo), a senior at West Carroll High School, both attended the recent UT Martin Preview Day. Brighton was accompanied by his parents, Bill and Mary Audra Smith. Garrett was accompanied by his parents, Mark and Sharon Wright. More than 100 students were in attendance and received information about a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs and various university academic programs.
Kevin McMillan is happy at UT Martin, and UT Martin is certainly happy to keep him around.

The university and its highly successful women's basketball head coach came to an agreement on a contract extension Tuesday as McMillan signed a new six-year contract that will take him through the 2019-20 season.

"We appreciate the endorsement from chancellor (Dr. Tom) Rakes and from our athletic director, Julio Freire," McMillan told The Messenger this morning. "We've done what we need to do to promote UT Martin."

Freire was pleased to keep the school's most successful women's hoops coach at UT Martin.

"The University of Tennessee at Martin is committed to coach McMillan, his staff, their families and the women's basketball program," the AD said in a statement. "This contract extension demonstrates our belief that coach McMillan is the right leader for our program. We are proud of the academic, athletic and social development within his program. I could not think of a better person and staff to lead UT Martin women's basketball."

The new deal reportedly brings a $10,000 per year raise, upping McMillan's annual salary to $140,000. He will also receive a $5,000 bonus for winning either the OVC regular season or tournament championship and also $5,000 each for reaching the NCAA Tournament second round and Sweet 16.

"We're pleased that Kevin McMillan will remain at UT Martin," Rakes said in a statement. "Coach McMillan has guided the Skyhawk women's basketball program into Ohio Valley Conference and national prominence. Coach McMillan and his family are important to the university and our community. We look forward to many more years of basketball success under his leadership."

McMillan, 46, recently wrapped up his fifth season at the helm of the Skyhawk women's basketball program. Under McMillan, UT Martin has made four consecutive trips to the NCAA Tournament - the first such appearances in program history.

Earlier this month, the Skyhawks fell 60-58 at No. 4 seed North Carolina, which was the closest an OVC team had come to a win in the NCAA Tournament since 2003. "We've made some unbelievable strides in five years, and that's a testament to the seniors this year and the senior classes before them," McMillan said.

In addition to the four OVC Tournament titles in the last four years, UT Martin has also won the outright OVC regular season championships twice under McMillan (2011-12, 2013-14) after he inherited a Skyhawk program that posted a 2-27 overall record the year before his arrival.

McMillan sports a 98-62 record (.613 winning percentage) during his UT Martin tenure, including an impressive 63-21 mark (.750) against OVC opponents.

He has served as head coach for three of UT Martin's six all-time 20-win seasons, including a school-record 24 victories in 2013-14. McMillan has also been recognized as the 2010 OVC Coach of the Year and the 2010-11 Tennessee Sports Writers Association Women's Co-Head Coach of the Year.

"We're West Tennessee folks," the coach said. "Our families are from around here. We don't want to jump around. We're not looking for a better deal. We're looking for a commitment from UT Martin, from the community and from the student-athletes, and all that's here. This just digs our roots in a little deeper. "It's a big deal when you talk to kids and their parents about where they're going to be for the next four years, but it also means a lot when they see this happen. I hope this solidifies some recruiting for us."
Phi Kappa Phi event planned for April 8

The University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi will initiate its newest members during a ceremony at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center.

The ceremony will include junior and senior students, as well as graduate students and faculty members. The new 2014-15 chapter officers will also be recognized.

The ceremony will be followed by a banquet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Duncan Ballroom, also in Boling University Center. Tickets are $20 and are available at the University Center Information Desk on the second floor through Friday.

The 2014 speaker is UT Martin chancellor emeritus Nick Dunagan, who was the eighth chancellor of UT Martin, presiding in office from 2001-07.

Dunagan began his work at UT Martin in 1973 as director of development. His most recent job assignments included executive vice chancellor, vice chancellor for student affairs and vice chancellor for development and administration.

He has also served as interim chancellor three times (1985-86, 1997-98, 2000-01) and he served as executive director of WestStar, the university's regional leadership program for West Tennessee. He is a member of the Martin Economic Development Council.

A native of Caruthersville, Mo., Dunagan is a 1968 UT Martin graduate and a 1971 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law and he received a doctorate in higher education administration in 1990 from Vanderbilt University.

He is a retired colonel with the Tennessee Army National Guard and is an active member at Martin First United Methodist Church.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi was founded more than 100 years ago and is America's oldest all-discipline college honor society. It awards more than $700,000 each year to outstanding members for further academic study.

Both events next week at UT Martin are open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Becky Cox, chapter public relations officer, by email at beckyc@utm.edu.
Poster exhibit features research

Undergraduate student research achievements by University of Tennessee at Martin students are featured in a current Paul Meek Library exhibit. Poster displays include materials shown at the 2014 Posters at the Capitol event held at the Tennessee Legislative Plaza in Nashville.

The event highlights achievements of undergraduate student researchers statewide. "UTM students are able to showcase their discoveries and achievements uncovered during unique undergraduate research projects," said Dr. Rich Helgeson, dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

The exhibit, featured on the library's first floor, is open to the public through April during library hours.

Projects featured include (with UT Martin faculty mentors noted in parentheses):
- Evaluating Efficacy on Palmer Amaranth With Drift Reduction Nozzles — Shawn Butler of Jackson, senior agriculture major, and Dr. Larry Steckel, University of Tennessee Department of Plant Sciences, Jackson (Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn).
- Determinants of Small Business Lending Decisions by Tennessee Commercial Banks — Jonathan Hewlett of Memphis, junior finance major (Dr. Tom Payne).
- P4 Medicine Applied to Occupational Therapy — Jessica Johnson of Tempe, Ariz., senior health and human performance major (Dr. Deborah Gibson and Dr. Ajit Korgaonkar).
- DigiDrummer: Wireless and Portable Drum Machine With Interface to FL Studio — Matt Masengill of Dickson, senior electrical engineering major (Dr. Somask Sukitannon).
- Effectiveness of Using Silent Counts and Aural Stimuli to Detect Barred Owls in the Area Surrounding Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee — Katrina Moeller of Atoka, junior biology major, and Heather Meadors of Drummonds, August 2013 biology graduate (Dr. Dawn Wilkins).
- Residential Alternative Energy Design — Nicholas Rakestraw of Knoxville, senior mechanical engineering major (Dr. Doug Sterrett).
- Simulated Yield Loss in Corn Due to Corn Earworm — Austin Scott of Hickory Valley, senior agriculture major (Dr. Paula Gale, UT Martin faculty, and Dr. Kelly Tindall, research scientist, Pioneer Hi-Bred).
- Tea and Skittles and the Law of Self-Defense — Anna Tankersley of Germantown, junior criminal justice major (Dr. Brian Donavant).
- Tennessee Valley Authority Investment Challenge Performance Report — David Wharton of Union City, junior finance major (Dr. Mahmoud Haddad).
- Preliminary Compositional Analysis of Historical Materials From Erosion-Destroyed Buildings Along the Mississippi River in Fulton, Tennessee (in Lauderdale County) — Taylor Wilson-Primm of Old Hickory, junior geology major (Eleanor Gardner, and Dr. Benjamin Hooks and Dr. Michael Gibson).

UTM INDUCTEES — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin were recently noted with their induction into Phi Eta Sigma national honor society. Among those inducted from Obion County were (from left) Victoria L. Reedy of Union City, Mikaela Hardy of South Fulton, Gary Swingle of Hornbeak, Kayla Ford of Union City, Victoria Leigh Seng of Union City, Rebecca Bloodworth of Hornbeak, Jake Ryan Blakely of Rives and Kameron L. Jackson of Union City.

Not pictured were Brandon Huss and Caleb Long, both of Union City.

ATTEND PREVIEW — Matthew Edmaiston (center), a senior at Union City High School, attended the recent University of Tennessee at Martin Preview Day. He was accompanied by his parents, Allen and Beth Edmaiston. More than 100 students were in attendance and received information about a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs and various university academic programs.
By Christen Coulon
Managing Editor

Last month, Gov. Bill Haslam announced the Tennessee Promise, in which he is proposing to help pay for college tuition for all graduating high school seniors.

Under this proposed legislation the state will provide all Tennessee high school graduates with funding to attend a community college or Tennessee College of Applied Technology free of tuition and fees.

However, in McNairy County, this new Drive to 55 plan could end up forcing local students to take a long drive on either Highway 45 to Jackson State or Highway 64 to the Tennessee Technology Center in Crump because the planned bill would not cover tuition at the University of Tennessee at Martin Selmer Campus or any other UT campus across the state.

Because the plan only covers students seeking a two-year degree, students will have to attend a community college, technology center or one of the few Tennessee four-year universities which offer a two-year degree path.

Rakes said that the cost per credit hour at UT-Martin was higher than it is at a community college because of the level of faculty. He said that if the school did offer a successful Associate’s Degree program they could do themselves harm because it would cost so much more to provide.

Rakes predicted that Tennessee will see a boom in degrees and certifications at the community colleges and technology centers.

"That will help the state, there is no argument about that," Rakes said.

Rakes said that his school would have to take a couple of years to see how all of this would unfold before making any major changes.

The governor's Drive to 55 plan hopes to issue nearly 500,000 additional degrees in the next 10 years, and could bring the number of adult Tennesseans with a postsecondary degree to 55 percent or greater by 2025. Currently only about 29.5 percent of Tennesseans and only 19.1 percent of county residents hold a two-year degree or higher. (The average for all U.S. residents is 34.6 percent."

If the plan is successful, it has the potential to drastically alter the economic landscape of Tennessee. It could also alter the job force in McNairy County in an unimaginable way; increasing the number of adult county residents with a postsecondary degree nearly three fold from 2,690 to 7,435.

Under the specifics of the governor's plan, the state would divert excess funds from the Lottery Scholarship program into a last-dollar scholarship to bridge the funding gap for students after all other financial aid is applied. To help ensure these students success, the governor's plan also provides for a mentor for each student in the program.

Using statistics cited by the state, students who have been offered a last-dollar scholarship and individual guidance, similar to the mentor program, the governor has envisioned, have a more than 20 percent greater chance of attending college.

Tennessee Promise will require approximately 5,000 volunteer mentors from the across the state.

To be eligible, all recipients must first apply for a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, work with an assigned mentor, attend college orientation, maintain satisfactory grades, and perform one day of community service each semester.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with induction into Phi Eta Sigma, a national honor society that recognizes high academic achievement in the freshman year. Students who achieve a 3.5 average at the end of their first year of study are eligible for membership. McNairy County residents Matthew R. Honey, of Finger, and Anna Marie Shelton, of Adamsville, were both recently inducted into the society.

Congratulations to both of you for your commendable academic achievement.

UTM names three local students to Phi Eta Sigma

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with induction into Phi Eta Sigma 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. Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that recognizes high academic achievement in the freshman year. Students who achieve a 3.5 average at the end of their first year of study are eligible for membership.

- Leah Barnett and Cary Haggard, both of Parsons and Ivory Russell of Decaturville.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
Kevin McMillan likes living in West Tennessee, he likes the basketball talent the region has produced in the past, and he likes the talent he anticipates a couple years in the future.

McMillan signed a new contract, announced Tuesday, keeping him as UT Martin's women's basketball coach through the 2019-20 season.

"This is home for us. West Tennessee has been home for a while," McMillan said Tuesday by phone.

McMillan, 46, has coached at UT Martin for five seasons. The Skyhawks have won the OVC tournament and participated in the NCAA tournament each of the past four years, and they are the first team to do that in a decade.

The team's 24 wins this past season set a new team record.

McMillan said several schools have contacted him over the past few years and he's received three or four job offers. He said "more than one" school contacted him after the school's two-point loss to favored North Carolina in the NCAA tournament.

"We'll consider anything, but it really has to be a better fit for my family than anything else," he said. "We're not going to leave here and go do something that we're a little bit unsure of.

"I don't think there's a better place to be right now than UT Martin."

UTM is 98-62 in the past five years, and 63-21 in Ohio Valley Conference games.

The Skyhawks averaged nearly 2,500 fans per home game this season.

Keying the recent run of success were star guards Heather Butler and Jasmine Newsome, both of whom closed their college basketball careers this past month.

McMillan acknowledged the quality of girls' high school basketball in West Tennessee fell off for a couple years, but he sees some solid rising juniors and seniors and an even stronger group of rising freshmen and sophomores.

"There's a lot of kids with talent," he said. "It's the work ethic and the vision and the dreams that have to line up."

UTM athletic director Julio Freire said McMillan received a raise to $140,000 a year, effective July 1, which is a raise of a little more than $10,000.

McMillan receives a bonus of $5,000 if the Skyhawk women win either the OVC regular season or tournament championship and added bonuses of the same amount if they make it to the second round of the tournament and the Sweet 16.

Craig Thomas, 425-9634
UT Martin coach Kevin McMillan, center, talks with players Heather Butler, left, and Jasmine Newsome during practice for the NCAA women's college basketball tournament in Chapel Hill, N.C., Saturday, March 22, 2014. UT Martin lost to North Carolina in a first-round game by two points. AP
UT Martin senior women's basketball players Heather Butler and Jasmine Newsome have been granted an invite to work out in front of WNBA scouts, coaches and general managers at the prestigious, invitation-only ProHoops Combine this weekend in Nashville.

The ProHoops Combine, set for Saturday, at the A-Game Sportsplex, is held in conjunction with the Women's Final Four and will showcase the nation's top seniors and professional players the opportunity to be evaluated by WNBA officials prior to the upcoming draft.

Members of the combine staff include Linda Hargrove, Jessie Kenlaw and Crystal Robinson.

"Heather and Jasmine have both been terrific ambassadors not only for our program, but for our university and West Tennessee," said UT Martin coach Kevin McMillan. "We are very excited that they will be able to continue to represent our program at this weekend's ProHoops Combine.

"To even be invited to an event like this just speaks to their dedication, drive and ability.”

Butler, a native of Medina, ranks as UT Martin and the Ohio Valley Conference’s all-time leading scorer with 2,865 career points after being named the league’s Player of the Year.

She ranks tied for 16th on the NCAA’s all-time scoring list and scored in double figures every game of her career, spanning 129 games to rank fifth all-time.

Butler leaves UT Martin as the best three-point shooter in NCAA history with a record-tying 392 career made three-pointers, including a pair of NCAA three-point records set as a junior.

A Millington native, Newsome was named OVC Player of the Year twice and OVC Defensive Player of the Year three times en route to ranking second on UT Martin and the league’s all-time scoring list with 2,566 career points.

She also is the UT Martin record holder for single season free throws made (167), career free throws made (617), single season points (770), single season assists (193) and career assists (687).

College Sports Madness named her All-Mid Major Player of the Year and Mid Major All-American.

Sonja Dubois will give a speech titled “Preserving the Legacy” at 7:30 p.m. on April 9 in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium at UT Martin.

Dubois was less than 2 years old when she became a “hidden child.” Her parents were deported to a concentration camp and became victims of the Holocaust.

“Our families paid the price for the hatred and racism instigated by one man,” Dubois said. “Only by speaking against racism can we change the future.”
**NEW CONTRACT KEEPS McMillan, UTM TOGETHER THROUGH 2020**

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“We appreciate the endorsement from chancellor (Dr. Tom) Rakes and from our athletic director, Julio Freire,” McMillan told The Press Wednesday. “We have a lot of people to thank for this. We hope we’re doing what we need to do to promote UT Martin.”

Freire was pleased to keep the school’s most successful women’s hoops coach at UTM.

“The University of Tennessee at Martin is committed to coach McMillan, his staff, their families and the women’s basketball program,” the AD said in a university statement. “This contract extension demonstrates our belief that coach McMillan is the right leader for our program. We are proud of the academic, athletic and social development within his program. I could not think of a better person and staff to lead UT Martin women’s basketball.”

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Earlier this month, the Skyhawks fell 60-58 at No. 4 seed North Carolina, which was the closest an OVC team had come to a win in the NCAA Tournament since 2003.

“We’ve made some unbelievable strides in five years, and that’s a testament to the seniors this year and the senior classes before them,” McMillan said.

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He has served as head coach for three of UT Martin’s six all-time 20-win seasons, including a school-record 24 victories in 2013-14.

McMillan has also been recognized as the 2010 OVC Coach of the Year and the 2010-11 Tennessee Sports Writers Association Women’s Co-Head Coach of the Year.

The coach pointed out that the extension and raise not only affirms his desire to stay close to home but also shows current players and recruits that the women’s program is on solid ground.

“We’re West Tennessee folks,” the coach said. “Our families are from around here. We don’t want to jump around. We’re not looking for a better deal. We’re looking for a commitment from UTM, from the community and from the student-athletes, and all that’s here. This just digs our roots in a little deeper.

“It’s a big deal when you talk to kids and their parents about where they’re going to be for the next four years, but it also means a lot when they see this happen. I hope this solidifies some recruiting for us.”
Fortner declares candidacy for circuit court clerk

Angela Fortner is announcing her candidacy for Weakley County Circuit Court Clerk.

Fortner is a native of Weakley County, having grown up on the family dairy farm in the Gardner community of her parents and grandparents (the late Herman and Estelle Jolley), where she learned at an early age the value of hard work, both at home and at school.

For the past 13 years, Fortner has worked as an IT manager, supervising the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Information Technology Services Computer Help Desk. Her priority emphasis for the workers in the help desk was to provided excellent customer service to everyone needing IT support, and she hopes to bring that customer service atmosphere with her to the circuit court clerk’s office.

SEE FORTNER, PAGE 2

FORTNER
FROM PAGE 1

Prior to working for UT Martin, Fortner spent several years in customer service with Liberty Mutual Insurance. Additionally, she spent five years with the Weakley County Nursing Home administration office, where she was responsible for the residents’ medical records, and three years working for Volunteer General Hospital in emergency room admissions.

“I am seeking the office of circuit court clerk, where my experience in providing an excellent customer service workplace, my ability to organize with attention to details, my experience with technology and my desire to work in a high energy environment will work toward providing the best possible services to the people of Weakley County,” she said. “My lifelong experience with hard work, 26-plus years working for the public with a proven record in confidentiality and integrity, being able to deliver above expectation results in fast-paced environments and in being able to work with others in problem solving and cost effectiveness makes me the best choice for the office of circuit court clerk. I’m asking for and will appreciate each and every vote from all the voters in Weakley County.”

Fortner comes from a family with a long history in public service. Her grandfather, Herman Jolley, served several terms as a Weakley County Magistrate and later as a the county’s road commissioner. Her father, Larry Jolley, served two terms as a Weakley County Commissioner. Both served several years on the Weakley County Nursing Home Board during years of construction and expansion. Her mother, Brenda Harvey, worked 2-plus years in the circuit court clerk’s office and then 27 years working for the City of Martin. Fortner’s husband, Scott Fortner, is a currently serving as the county commissioner for District 5. Additionally, Fortner’s son, Zachary, is also continuing in the family tradition by seeking the office of constable in District 5.

Angela Fortner is the daughter of Larry Jolley of Dresden and Brenda Harvey of Martin. She is married to Scott Fortner and they have three sons: Matthew, who is married to Rachel Sanderfer, and their son, Sullivan; Zachary and his daughter, Lily Beth; and Nicholas.

Fortner is a graduate of Westview High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science. Fortner and her husband are members of Central Baptist Church in Martin, where she has been active in the children, youth and college ministries, mission trips and also volunteers in multimedia productions. The Fortner’s reside in Martin.
Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar to be held at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences will host the Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar from 5-8 p.m. on April 15 in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

Dr. Robert Williamson will talk about “Teaching Them All: Using Common Technologies to Implement Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in Teaching Common-Core Standards Both Inside and Outside Inclusive Classrooms.”

One of the topics to be covered include how to use technologies such as Google Suite and common (non-smart) cell phones to enhance the way people differentiate instruction to motivate and facilitate the acquisition of Common Core Standards for diverse 21st Century students.

Participants will also learn how to meet the diverse learning needs of all their students via the hands-on, fast paced, ed-tech seminar. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops and cell phones.

Williamson is an assistant professor of special education at the University of Memphis. He earned his MAT in teaching and doctorate in education from the University of Memphis. His research interests involve mobile teaching and learning, ubiquitous mobile supports for students with disabilities, educator preparation and teacher/community collaboration with an emphasis on school-to-adult life transition.

Continuing education credits are available at this seminar for $10. Request forms will be available at the seminar.

The Bettie Graham Seminar Series on diagnosis and early intervention of learning difficulties is made possible through a generous endowment given by Newell and Bettie Graham.
UT Martin names Benton County students to Phi Eta Sigma

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Students who achieve a 3.5 average at the end of their first year of study are eligible for membership. Students from Benton County are:
- MaKensie Bawcum of Camden.
- Britanni Maiden of Camden.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, and caring professors.

West Tennessee Examiner, Inc.

Thursday, 4.3.2014

UT MARTIN NAMES MADISON COUNTY STUDENTS TO PHI ETA SIGMA

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William Ryan Dunnavant, of Jackson, Tenn.; Rowdy Englert, of Jackson, Tenn.; Reddinger, of Medon, Tenn.; Alexandra Marie Warmath, of Jackson, Tenn., and Dylan A. Wilson, of Jackson, Tenn.

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

Submitted Photo
UTM's Butler is first team All-American for Senior CLASS award

UT Martin senior guard Heather Butler has been named a first team All-American for the 2013-14 Senior CLASS Award. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievement in four areas of excellence – community, classroom, character and competition.

Butler has a 3.86 GPA as a health and human performance major (K-12 licensure) and will graduate this spring.

The Medina native is also a member of the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences Student Ambassadors organization, the UT Martin Athletics Board and the UT Martin SHAPE Club. She is also active with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Elementary School Reading Program and the Can Caravan Food Drive. She was chosen to be a DARE program graduation speaker in 2012 and 2013, speaking about making the right decisions to youth.

UTM REED Center to host small-business basics boot camp

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host a small-business basics boot camp from 6 to 8 p.m. every Monday in April at the REED Center, located at 406 S. Lindell St. in Martin.

The program, presented by Tennessee Small Business Development Centers, will be split into four sessions. The first session, “What I Wish I Had Known: Best Practices,” will be held Monday. The second session, “Your New Best Friends: Attorney and Accountant,” will be held April 14. The third session, “How to Write a Business Plan: Financing,” will be held April 21. The fourth session, “Ideas to Market Your Business: Graduation,” will be held April 28.

Pre-registration is required. The cost is $25, with all materials provided. Participants attending all four sessions will receive a certificate of completion.

For more information or to register, call (731) 587-3333 or visit www.tsbdc.org/training.

Climate change’s threats to US security to be discussed at UTM

The Navy is preparing for an open Arctic, the Marines are deploying in response to historic typhoons and the Army is preparing its bases to use less energy than they produce.

Climate change is already a major consideration for United States military planners. Retired Lt. Gen. John Castellaw and retired Brig. Gen. John Adams will discuss how climate change is creating new threats to America's national security Monday at the University of Tennessee at Martin campus, according to a news release.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the Holt Humanities Building's Campbell Auditorium.

UTM to host Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar

The University of Tennessee at Martin's College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences will host the Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar from 5 to 8 p.m. April 15 in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

Dr. Robert Williamson will talk about "Teaching Them All: Using Common Technologies to Implement Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in Teaching Common Core Standards Both Inside and Outside Inclusive Classrooms," according to a news release.

One topic to be covered is how to use technologies such as Google Suite and common (non-smart) cell phones to enhance the way people differentiate instruction to motivate and facilitate the acquisition of Common Core standards.

Participants also will learn how to meet the diverse learning needs of all their students via the hands-on, fast-paced, ed-tech seminar, according to the release. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops and cell phones.

Williamson is an assistant professor of special education at the University of Memphis. He earned his MAT in teaching and doctorate in education from the University of Memphis, according to the release. His research interests involve mobile teaching and learning, ubiquitous mobile supports for students with disabilities, educator preparation and teacher/community collaboration with an emphasis on school-to-adult life transition.

Continuing education credits are available at the seminar for $10. Request forms will be available at the seminar.

The Bettie Graham Seminar Series on diagnosis and early intervention of learning difficulties is made possible through an endowment by Newell and Bettie Graham, the release said.
Students named to Phi Eta Sigma

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored recently with induction into Phi Eta Sigma 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.

Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that recognizes high academic achievement in the freshman year. Students who achieve a 3.5 average at the end of their first year of study are eligible for membership.

Amber Adams, Hagen Ashmore, Brooke Erin Baker, Georgia Brown, Grace Bruner, Haley Davis, Nicholas Fortner, Joshua Petty, Zoe Stringer, Chase M. Thweatt, and Ellen Vaughn, all of Martin; Emily Allen of Sharon; Amanda Mansfield, Breanna Nichole Martin, Blake Taylor of Gleason; and Burcu Tari of Istanbul.

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

Dance ensemble to present show

The UT Martin Dance Ensemble will perform their spring dance concert, ESCAPE at 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday at the Harriet Fulton Theater in the Fine Arts Building on campus.

Tickets for this dance concert are sold at the door only, beginning at 7 p.m. The house opens at 7:30 p.m.

Collage Dance Collective, of Memphis, will give a special performance during the Friday show. All choreographers are students in the K-12 dance education licensure program as part of the Department of Visual & Theatre Arts.

Choreographers include Carly Hill, Shannon Jester, Rachel Parsons, Marcye Dockery, Kendel Dixon, Michaela Elliott, Ciera Fielding, Erin Windham and Emily Summerville.
New report: Crime down on college campuses

Crime overall on college campuses statewide has dropped by more than 11 percent.

Those findings come in the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's 2013 "Crime on Campus" study.

The University of Tennessee at Martin is among the colleges included in the study.

The annual report presents the nature, volume and extent of reported crime on campuses and in the housing of Tennessee colleges and universities during calendar year 2013.

"This report will hopefully assist law enforcement, institution administrators and government officials in planning their effort in the fight against crime," TBI Director Mark Gwyn said. "The threats to society by criminal activity must be addressed by efforts from all law-abiding citizens as well as law enforcement agencies."

Overall, crime reported by Tennessee's colleges and universities decreased by 11.6 percent from 2012 to 2013, according to the report.

More specifically, while offenses in the "larceny/theft" category decreased, reported instances of burglary and robbery increased in the same time period.

Also, in contrast to a decrease in the previous year's study, the overall category of "sex offenses — forcible" increased by 25 percent in 2013.

At UT Martin, for the 2013 calendar year, there were 21 reported assault offenses and two reported sex offenses. The assaults included 16 simple assaults, one aggravated assault and four intimations, while the two sex offenses were both listed as forcible fondling incidents.

There were also five burglary incidents and a total of 30 larceny/theft offenses at UT Martin. The thefts reported included 19 thefts from buildings, three thefts from motor vehicles, three thefts of motor vehicle parts and five other theft/larceny incidents.

Other incidents reported in the last calendar year were four fraud incidents, one stolen property offense and 20 destruction/damage/vandalism incidents.

In regard to drug offenses, there were 39 drug/narcotic violations reported at UT Martin last year. Among them were 24 drug/narcotic violations and 15 drug/narcotic equipment violations, according to the report.

Weapon law violations totaled four for the last calendar year.

Other offenses reported at UT Martin included one disorderly conduct, eight driving under the influence offenses, 11 drunkenness incidents, 75 liquor law violations, three trespassing incidents and two other types of offenses.

The 2013 fall term campus population at UT Martin was listed as 7,881 total — which included an undergraduate enrollment of 6,651 and a graduate enrollment of 283. Staff, faculty and security personnel comprised the remainder of the population.

According to the TBI data, the most assaults — 150 — were reported at the University of Memphis. Vanderbilt University in Nashville had the most reports of forcible sex offenses with 16. UT-Knoxville had the most drug-related reports.
Votes put UTM’s Butler on first-team list

UT Martin senior guard Heather Butler proved throughout her career that she’s a class act.

Last week, that was confirmed on a national scale. Butler has been named a first team All-American for the 2013-14 Senior CLASS Award.

Joining Butler on the All-American first team was Senior CLASS Award winner Stephanie Dolson (Connecticut), Hallie Christofferson (Iowa State), Jordan Hooper (Nebraska) and Chiney Ogwumike (Stanford). The second team was comprised of Jerica Coley (Florida International), Natasha Howard (Florida State), Maggie Lucas (Penn State), Haley Peters (Duke) and Odyssey Sims (Baylor).

To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievement in four areas of excellence — community, classroom, character and competition.

An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School®, the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

“We’re very excited for Heather, not only as a player but as a person to be highlighted as one of the top seniors in the country,” said UT Martin head coach Kevin McMillan. “To have a player that represents your program on the court, in the classroom and throughout the community is what any program looks for. To be recognized nationally for not only what she has done on the court, but within this community, is a true testament to what kind of individual Butler is. She’s a great ambassador for our program, university and community.”

In the classroom, Butler has worked hard at maintaining a 3.86 GPA as a health and human performance major (K-12 licensure) and will graduate this spring. A three-time Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner’s Honor Roll honoree, she is also a multi-year selection to the UT Martin Chancellor’s Honor Roll. Butler was also recently named as a prestigious OVC Scholar-Athlete for the 2012-13 academic year, the league’s highest individual honor along with being tabbed to the CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-America second team.

A Medina native, Butler is also a member of the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences Student Ambassadors organization, the UT Martin Athletics Board and the UT Martin SHAPE Club. She is also active with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Elementary School Reading Program and the Can Caravan Food Drive.

She was chosen to be a DARE program graduation speaker in 2012 and 2013, speaking about making the right decisions to youth.

Butler has certainly left her mark on not only the UT Martin record books, but those of the OVC and the NCAA.

Butler ended her career as the school and conference’s all-time leader in points with 2,865, which ranks 16th in NCAA history. Named the 2014 OVC Player of the Year, Butler ranked ninth in the country in scoring with 23.6 points per game along with setting her third NCAA three-point record with 392 career threes made.

Included in her high scoring output was true consistency. She scored in double figures in 129 consecutive games, every game of her career, ranking as the second longest streak in NCAA history. Her mark of 129 games in double figures ranks fifth on the all-time NCAA list.

Along with her numerous accomplishments on the court, including four All-OVC first team honors, two outright OVC season championships, four OVC Tournament championships and four consecutive NCAA Tournament berths, her individual recognitions continue to grow as she was named a Final Five finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award, nominee for the AllState WBCA Good Works team, CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-America second team and OVC Scholar-Athlete.

The All-American teams were comprised of finalists chosen by national media from the list of 10 women’s candidates announced in February. Nationwide fan voting resulted in Butler ranking in the top-five. Fans votes were then combined with media and Division I head coaches’ votes to determine the winners.
THE WEEKLY COUNTY PRESS

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

'CLASS' ACT

FAN FAVORITE — UT Martin's Heather Butler picked up enough fan votes to earn a first-team spot on the Senior CLASS Award All-America team. Butler's play on the court as well as community work and character were all factored in as part of the selection process. It is the latest honor for the UTM and Ohio Valley Conference all-time leading scorer, who helped the Skyhawks reach the NCAA Tournament four consecutive years.
MARTIN, Tenn. — Financial aid awards for the freshmen in your family are going out right now, but some offers aren’t always on the money. University of Tennessee at Martin Senior Rose Valdes said, “Maybe it does kind of get you prepared but it freaked us out initially.”

A lot of high school seniors and their parents are already thinking of how they’ll pay for college in the fall. Universities are required to have what’s called a net cost calculator to help families figure out their finances, but not all systems are the same. The Obama administration tried to make comparisons easier by creating a standard financial aid shopping sheet, but only about 2,000 schools actually use it.

Most do spell out their tuition and fees plainly in their financial aid award letters and cost calculators, but other expenses like room and board, books, supplies, or cost of living can be harder to find. That’s because there’s no mandatory format for college aid letters, and that can make it hard to figure out if college is actually affordable for your family.

Sheryl Frazier is the interim director of UT Martin’s Financial Aid and Scholarships Office. She said it’s her job to make sure students don’t have any surprises when calculating college costs for UTM. “I feel that UTM provides all the information that is needed for the students,” she said.

She said their online cost calculator lets incoming students and their families get a pretty accurate idea of how much it costs to be a Skyhawk. “That includes your tuition and fees, books, housing, food, miscellaneous items, travel… Whatever.”

Not all colleges provide that information. “They kind of overestimated,” said Valdes. She added that she was glad to see all of her estimated expenses up front. “In the end we were relieved. So, maybe it does kind of get you prepared, but it freaked us out initially.”

She ended up getting refunds from financial aid, but Frazier said that’s better than finding out you need money that you don’t have. “That’s what I try to tell them,” she said, “Let’s don’t borrow money unless we have to. Let’s go find a job. So, that’s our way of doing it.”

About 90 percent of UTM students receive some type of financial aid. Frazier said counselors encourage those students to take a look at options like scholarships or work study programs to avoid graduating with a huge amount of student loan debt.

UTM they does not use the standardized financial aid shopping sheet, but Frazier said they do plan to get that up and running for veterans first, and then eventually for the rest of their students.

Families should also know that certain loans like unsubsidized staffords and PLUS loans for parents are available to everyone, regardless of need.

UTM’s Heather Butler Invited to ProHoops Combine

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin senior women’s basketball players Heather Butler and Jasmine Newsome have been granted an invite to work out in front of WNBA scouts, coaches and General Managers at the prestigious, invitation-only ProHoops Combine this weekend in Nashville.

The ProHoops Combine, set for Saturday, April 5, at the A-Game Sportsplex, is held in conjunction with the Women’s Final Four and will showcase the nation’s top seniors and professional players the opportunity to be evaluated by WNBA officials prior to the upcoming draft. Members of the combine staff include Linda Hargrove, Jessie Kenlaw and Crystal Robinson.

“Heather and Jasmine have both been terrific ambassadors not only our program, but for our university and West Tennessee,” said UT Martin coach Kevin McMillan. “We are very excited that they will be able to continue to represent our program at this weekend’s ProHoops Combine. To even be invited to an event like this just speaks to their dedication, drive and ability.”

Butler, a native of Medina, Tenn., ranks as UT Martin and the Ohio Valley Conference’s all-time leading scorer with 2,865 career points after being named the league’s Player of the Year. Butler ranks tied for 16th on the NCAA’s all-time scoring list while she scored in double figures every game of her career, spanning 129 games and ranking fifth all-time. She leaves UT Martin as the best three-point shooter in NCAA history with a record-tying 392 career made three-pointers, including a pair of NCAA three-point records set as a junior.

Butler and Newsome leave UT Martin as the OVC’s top two career scorers, ranking as the first pair of teammates to ever rank first and second on the conference’s scoring list. The pair led the team to 87 wins in four years, the program’s first two outright OVC season championships, four OVC Tournament championships and four NCAA Tournament berths.

GOING PRO? - Medina native and UTM star Heather Butler has been invited to the ProHoops Combine. Butler is the OVC’s all-time leading scorer and the league’s Player of the Year. Photo courtesy of Nathan Morgan, UT Martin University Relations.
Africa natives to speak on Sudan

Lemmy Ejorewoia and Pierre Mopo Gonhameu, both natives of Africa, will give first-hand accounts of their experiences in Africa at 6:15 p.m. Thursday at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

A reception will follow the event, which is open to the public.

Ejorewoia was hired by the United Nations to teach English, art, music and physical education at the Lost Boys Kakuma Refugee Camp from 2000-04 and will speak on his time as a teacher at the refugee camp and why the U.S. should still care about what goes on in South Sudan.

Gonhameu, a senior marketing major, has played basketball at UT Martin since 2010.

The event, sponsored by the UT Martin student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, will explore the technological overhaul planned for South Sudan, the world's youngest nation. The South Sudanese secession from Sudan in 2011 lead to the formation of a country with a literacy rate that is among the lowest in the world, with only 27 percent of the male population and even less of the female population able to read.

Also speaking at this event will be Dr. Trisha Capansky, UT Martin assistant professor of English and modern foreign languages. She will discuss the cultural changes likely to occur after introducing technological communication to a nation that primarily relies on spoken and, occasionally, radio communication.

The U.S., in return for access to South Sudan's oil reserves, is planning to have digital communication replace oral communication in the country within a three-year time frame. The development of digital communication in South Sudan will be challenging because most of the nation lives in poverty. Normally, retail stores are the only structures made of metal and are accessed by dirt tracks.

Funded by Graham endowment

Special ed seminar slated for Tuesday

The University of Tennessee at Martin's College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences will host the Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar from 5-8 p.m. Tuesday in Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

Dr. Robert Williamson will speak on "Teaching Them All: Using Common Technologies to Implement Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in Teaching Common Core Standards Both Inside and Outside Inclusive Classrooms."

One of the topics to be covered includes how to use technologies such as Google Suite and common (non-smart) cellphones to enhance the way people differentiate instruction to motivate and facilitate the acquisition of Common Core Standards for diverse 21st Century students.

Participants will also learn how to meet the diverse learning needs of all their students via the hands-on, fast-paced ed-tech seminar. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops and cellphones.

Williamson is an assistant professor of special education at the University of Memphis. He earned a master's degree in teaching and doctorate in education from the University of Memphis. His research interests involve mobile teaching and learning, ubiquitous mobile supports for students with disabilities, educator preparation and teacher/community collaboration with an emphasis on school-to-adult life transition.

Continuing education credits are available at this seminar for $10. Request forms will be available.

The Bettie Graham Seminar Series on diagnosis and early intervention of learning difficulties is made possible through a generous endowment given by Newell and Bettie Graham of Union City.

‘Hidden child’ set to speak at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Honors Program and the Department of History and Philosophy are teaming up to sponsor academic speaker Sonja DuBois at 7:30 tonight in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

Ms. DuBois was younger than 2 when she became a “hidden child.” Her parents were deported to a concentration camp and became victims of the Holocaust.

“Our families paid the price for the hatred and racism instigated by one man,” Ms. DuBois said. “Only by speaking against racism can we change the future.”

Her speech is titled “Preserving the Legacy.”

In April 2013, Ms. DuBois visited Lake Road Elementary School in Obin County and was subsequently featured in a front page story and photo in The Messenger.
Phi Eta Sigma includes local students

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with induction into Phi Eta Sigma 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.

Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that recognizes high academic achievement in the freshman year. Students who achieve a 3.5 average at the end of their first year of study are eligible for membership.

Students earning that honor included Jake Ryan Blakely, of Rives, Tenn.; Rebecca Bloodworth, of Hornbeak, Tenn.; Kayla Ford, of Union City, Tenn.; Mikaela Hardy, of South Fulton, Tenn.; Brandon Huss, of Union City, Tenn.; Kameron L. Jackson, of Union City, Tenn.; Caleb Long, of Union City, Tenn.; Victoria L. Reedy, of Union City, Tenn.; Victoria Leigh Seng, of Union City, Tenn.; and Gary Swingle, of Hornbeak, Tenn.

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

Pictured are, left to right, Victoria L. Reedy, Mikaela Hardy, Gary Swingle, Kayla Ford, Victoria Leigh Seng, Rebecca Bloodworth, Jake Ryan Blakely and Kameron L. Jackson. (Photo submitted)

Debra Leake Ward
Lauderdale Middle School

Debra Leake Ward, eighth grade Social Studies teacher at Lauderdale Middle School earned her Bachelor of Science degree in History from University of Tennessee Martin. She earned her Master in Educational Leadership from Trevecca Nazarene. She has taught for 17 years. She is a member of LCEA, NEA and Phi Kappa Phi.

Tammy Donaldson
Halls Junior High School

Tammy Donaldson, seventh grade reading teacher at Halls Junior High School, earned her Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She has taught for 22 years. Mrs. Donaldson is married to Greg Donaldson, they have one daughter, Amber.
African American Leadership Conference

The lunch speaker is Judge Nathan B. Pride, circuit court judge, 26th Judicial District, Division 3, who is followed at 1:15 p.m. by a panel discussion about the Affordable Care Act. The panel features Robert Davis Jr., enrollment coordinator, Hardeman County Community Health Center; Ruby Kirby, administrator, Bolivar Community Hospital; and Dr. Teresa Woodard, internal medicine physician, Brownsville. Panel moderator is Evelyn Robertson, of Whiteville, a 1997 WestStar graduate.

The conference fee is $35 per person or $60 for two. The fee includes the continental breakfast, a lunch catered by D&L Barbecue, of Jackson, all speakers and networking opportunities. Advance registration is required by Wed., April 16, and can be completed online at www.utm.edu/weststar by selecting the “conferences and events” link. Credit cards are accepted online, and checks can be made payable to WestStar-UT Martin, 321 Hall-Moody Administration Bldg., Martin, TN 38238.

Call the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 for additional information, or e-mail Virginia Grimes at vgrimes@utm.edu.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014 • THE JACKSON SUN

‘Hidden child’ to speak at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Honors Program and the Department of History and Philosophy are teaming up to sponsor Sonja Dubois, an academic speaker, at 7:30 p.m. today in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

Dubois was less than 2 years old when she became a “hidden child.” Her parents were deport ed to a concentration camp and became victims of the Holocaust.

“Our families paid the price for the hatred and racism instigated by one man,” Dubois said. “Only by speaking against racism can we change the future.”

Dubois’ speech is titled “Preserving the Legacy.”
Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin's College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences will host the Bettie Graham Seminar on Technology from April 15, in the Watkins Auditorium.

Dr. Robert Williamson will introduce "Teaching Them All: Using Common Technologies to Implement Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in Teaching Common-Core Standards Both Inside and Outside Inclusive Classrooms." One of the topics to be covered will be how to use technologies such as Google Suite and common (non-smart) cell phones to enhance the way people differentiate instruction to motivate and facilitate the acquisition of Common Core Standards for diverse 21st Century students.

Participants will also learn how to meet diverse learning needs of all students via the hands-on, fast-paced, ed-tech seminar. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops and cell phones.

Williamson is an assistant professor of special education at the University of Memphis. He earned his MAT in teaching and doctorate in education from the University of Memphis. His research interests involve mobile teaching and learning, ubiquitous mobile supports for students with disabilities, educator preparation and teacher/community collaboration with an emphasis on school-to-adult life transition.

Continuing education credits are available at this seminar for $10. Request forms will be available at the seminar.

‘Hidden Child’ Speaks at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Honors Program and the Department of History and Philosophy are teaming up to sponsor Sonja Dubois, an academic speaker, at 7:30 p.m., April 9, in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

Dubois was less than 2 years old when she became a “hidden child.” Her parents were deported to a concentration camp and became victims of the Holocaust.

“Our families paid the price for the hatred and racism instigated by one man,” Dubois said. “Only by speaking against racism can we change the future.” Dubois’ speech is titled “Preserving the Legacy.”

McMillan UTM deal extended to 2020

UTM Sports Information

After elevating the University of Tennessee at Martin women’s basketball program to unprecedented heights, head coach Kevin McMillan has signed a new six-year contract that will take him through the 2019-20 season.

“McMillan has demonstrated our belief that Coach McMillan is the right leader for our program,” Skyhawk athletics director Julio Freire said. “This contract extension demonstrates our commitment to our women’s basketball program.”

The University of Tennessee at Martin is committed to Coach McMillan, his staff, their families, and the women’s basketball program,” Skyhawk athletics director Julio Freire said. “This contract extension demonstrates our belief that Coach McMillan is the right leader for our program.

We are proud of the academic, athletic and social development within his program. I could not think of a better person and staff to lead UT Martin women’s basketball.”

McMillan, 46, recently wrapped up his fifth season at the helm of the Skyhawk women’s basketball program. Under McMillan, UT Martin has made four consecutive trips to the NCAA Tournament — the first such appearances in program history.

Earlier this month, the Skyhawks fell 60-58 at No. 4 seed North Carolina, which was the closest an OVC team had come to a win in the NCAA tournament since 2003.

In addition to the four OVC Tournament titles in the last four years, UT Martin has also won the outright OVC regular season championships twice under McMillan (2011-12, 2013-14) after he inherited a Skyhawk program that posted a 2-27 overall record the year before his arrival.

McMillan sports a 98-62 record (.613 winning percentage) during his UT Martin tenure, including an impressive 63-21 mark (.750) against OVC opponents.
DR. VERN A RUFFIN IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, APRIL 22, IN JACKSON

MARTIN, Tenn. -- Jackson-Madison County superintendent of schools Dr. Verna Ruffin is the keynote speaker for the 16th annual African American Leadership Conference on Tuesday, April 22, at the University of Tennessee's West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson.

The event will run from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and is sponsored by UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program, AT&T, the cities of Brownsville and Covington, First South Bank-Brownsville, Tennessee Access and Diversity Initiatives, West Tennessee Healthcare and the UT Center for Industrial Services. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and includes a continental breakfast. Anne Banks, a 1997 WestStar graduate from Brownsville, is conference emcee.

Ruffin and other speakers will address leadership topics related to the conference theme "Challenges and Opportunities." Speakers to follow Ruffin include Dr. Jerry Woods, executive vice president, Lane College; Terry Moore, financial advisor, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management; Robert Nunley, coordinator, Martin Housing Authority's Learning Enrichment Center After-School Program; and Gloria Sweet-Love, NAACP state president - Tennessee Conference.

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame to honor Helton

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame plans to honor former Colorado Rockies star Todd Helton as its Tennessean of the Year during its May 17 induction banquet.

Helton, a Knoxville native and former University of Tennessee star, ended a 17-year career with the Rockies last season.

The Hall of Fame will honor Middle Tennessee basketball player Ebony Rowe, UT Martin basketball players Jasmine Newsome and Heather Butler and former Tennessee softball pitcher Ivy Renfroe as female amateur athletes of the year. Rich Froning, named the "fittest man on Earth" in the most recent CrossFit Games, is the male amateur athlete of the year.

The Hall of Fame also honors a historical achievement during its banquet. This year it will salute Tennessee State's three consecutive NAIA men's basketball titles from 1957-59.

UTM College Rodeo Kick-Off

MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting the 46th annual spring college rodeo starting, which starts on Thursday and ends on Saturday.

Action starts at 7:30 p.m. on all three dates at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $7 for children and UT Martin students. Ages 5 and under are free with a paid adult. An $18 weekend pass is also available for all three nights.

The number for the ticket office is (731) 881-7207

http://wkmns.org/
Speakers at UTM to talk about Africa

Natives to give first-hand accounts of living in Africa

By Malorie Paine
maloriepaine@gmail.com

It's not every day that a native African makes a presentation to the UTM student body; however, tonight Lemmy Ejorewoia and Pierre Mopo Gonhameu, both natives of Africa, will be giving first-hand accounts of their experiences in Africa.

"Seeing South Sudan Through an African's Eyes" will be sponsored by the UTM student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

The event will be held at 6:15 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium at UTM with a reception to follow.

"With everything that is going on in Africa and South Sudan, we believe that not a lot of people truly know what is going on. We want to use this opportunity to help educate people who don't know or haven't been keeping up with it not only what is going on, but what they can do to help," said Bradley Stringfield, UTM's SPJ student chapter president.

In 2000, Ejorewoia was hired by the United Nations to teach English, art, music and physical education at the Lost Boys Kakuma Refugee Camp.

"I asked them 'if I can teach them, what do I bring?" One of them felt that I could teach them. I said, 'Hey, do you mind if I show you how to play the keys?' They allowed me to teach them how to play the keyboard. Then they said, 'man, this dude can play," Ejorewoia said.

He taught in the refuge until 2004.

Ejorewoia will speak on his time as a teacher in the refugee camp as well as why the U.S. citizens should still be concerned with South Sudan's affairs.

Gonhameu, who is a senior marketing major at UTM, has played on the university men's basketball team since 2010.

Gonhameu will discuss his experience with how African and American cultures both relate to and differ from one another.

The event will also explore the technological overhaul planned for South Sudan, which is the world's youngest nation in Africa.

South Sudan's secession from Sudan in 2011 led to a decline in the literacy rate, ultimately leaving their country with only 27 percent of the male population literate, and an even smaller percentage of the female population.

In addition to Ejorewoia and Gonhameu, Dr. Trisha Capansky, an Assistant Professor of English and Modern Foreign Language at UTM will discuss her research on South Sudan and the challenges likely to soon occur following the introduction of technological communication to a nation that relies almost solely on verbal communication.

"To further visualize the conditions in this country, consider that the British Council, working to integrate English into these businesses and households, has its office in the back of Juba's De Havana Lounge and Bar," Capansky said.
The University of Tennessee Martin Selmer/McNairy Central held a special ceremony on Tuesday to remember and honor former director Deidra Beene.

Beene, age 51, passed away on March 7th this year after a sudden illness that left all her family, friends, and staff mourning her loss. She was employed at the UTM Selmer/McNairy Center from 2003 up until the time of her death.

A special plaque was unveiled that will recognize the writing center at the college to be known as “The Deidra Hillard Beene Writing Center.”

The plaque reads as follows:

“As one of the first Directors of the UTM campus, Deidra Hillard Beene had a profound devotion to expanding the educational services available for students. Her passion for academic progress resulted in the formation of the site’s writing center, an endeavor intended to improve composition skills and promote literacy. Her legacy lives on in the faculty and staff who assist with the center and the students who benefit from it.”

Alex Beene, Deidra’s son, addressed the large group of educators, friends, and officials in attendance at Tuesday’s ceremony and thanked them for coming.

“I’ve had so many people come up to me and tell me that my mother is the reason that they are where they are today and they reason they graduated,” said Beene.

“That means so much to our family and helps us deal with our loss. It is such and honor to have the writing center named after her.”

See BEENE, Pg. 2
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with induction into Phi Eta Sigma 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.

Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that recognizes high academic achievement in the freshman year. Students who achieve a 3.5 average at the end of their first year of study are eligible for membership.

Matthew R. Honey, of Finger, Tenn.,
Anna Marie Shelton, of Adamsville, Tenn.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
Dr. Verna Ruffin to speak at African American Leadership Conference

Jackson-Madison County superintendent of schools Dr. Verna Ruffin is the keynote speaker for the 16th annual African American Leadership Conference on Tuesday, April 22, at the University of Tennessee's West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson.

The event will run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is sponsored by UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program, AT&T, the cities of Brownsville and Covington, First South Bank-Brownsville, Tennessee Access and Diversity Initiatives, West Tennessee Healthcare and the UT Center for Industrial Services. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and includes a continental breakfast. Anne Banks, a 1997 WestStar graduate from Brownsville, is conference emcee.

Ruffin and other speakers will address leadership topics related to the conference theme “Challenges and Opportunities.” Speakers to follow Ruffin include Dr. Jerry Woods, executive vice president, Lane College; Terry Moore, financial advisor, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management; Robert Nunley, coordinator, Martin County Community Health Center; Ruby Kirby, administrator, Bolivar Community Hospital; and Dr. Teresa Woodard, internal medicine physician, Brownsville. Panel moderator is Evelyn Robertson, a 1997 WestStar graduate.

The conference fee is $35 per person or $60 for two. The fee includes the continental breakfast, a lunch catered by D&L Barbecue, of Jackson, all speakers and networking opportunities.

Advance registration is required by Wed., April 16, and can be completed online at www.utm.edu/weststar by selecting the “conferences and events” link. Credit cards are accepted online, and checks can be made payable to WestStar-UT Martin, 321 Hall-Moody Administration Bldg., Martin, TN 38238.

Call the WestStar Leadership Program at (731) 881-7298 for additional information, or e-mail Virginia Grimes at vgrimes@utm.edu.

MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE — The Chi Omega sorority at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently made a girl’s wish come true. The sorority worked with its philanthropy — Make a Wish Foundation — to raise funds to send Hailey, 8, of Kenton and her family to Disney World for a week. The sorority tries to make a wish come true for a special child at least once a year and, in many cases, once a college semester.

Chi Omegas help send girl on dream trip to Disney World

By BRAD GASKINS
News Editor

Hailey never suspected a thing.

The 8 year-old from Kenton arrived at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Martin on a recent Sunday afternoon thinking she was at a tea party for one of her friends. Not the case.

Waiting inside were about 100 Chi Omega members from the University of Tennessee at Martin. They proceeded to throw Hailey a two-hour, Disney-themed party that included snacks, face painting and games. Hailey got to dress up like her favorite Disney character.

"It was a complete surprise to her," said Britanny Maiden, the sorority’s Make a Wish chairman. "She didn’t know what was going on."

Then came an even bigger surprise: Hailey and her family were going to Disney World for a week.

"It’s always really neat to see the reaction, because usually it’s a big surprise and they didn’t have any idea it’s coming," Maiden said. "It’s going to help them get better — mentally, at least — to know someone is out there thinking about them."

Chi Omega works hard to raise the money to make a wish come true every semester, but at the very least they make at least one dream a year come true.

Funds are raised during "Wish Week," which is taking place this week.

"All the proceeds that we make during our Wish Week go to our philanthropy," Maiden said.

Other events, such as Derby Days, are held throughout the year to raise funds.

Today, the sorority is
WINNING WINDOW — Christie’s Photography wins first place in the Rodeo Week window decorating contest. Pictured left to right are Christie Ricketts, Owner; Summer Weldon, Miss Tennessee High School Rodeo; and Tanna Norman, Miss UTM Rodeo.
Dan Post Boot Company donates apparel to UTM Rodeo Teams

MARTIN, - Dan Post Boot Company out of Clarksville, Tenn. continues to sponsor the University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo teams. The company recently gave every National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association card member on the Skyhawk rodeo team a new pair of boots.

This is the fifth year in a row that Dan Post Boot Company has teamed with the UT Martin rodeo team. The partnership started out with a phone call from UT Martin rodeo alum Bill Hoy, the senior vice president of Legends Bank in Clarksville. A close friend and business associate of Dan Post Boot Company, Hoy got the sponsorship started. The company has sent different models of boots as well as questionnaires every year in hopes of feedback to improve their product.

"The boots have been great," UT Martin head rodeo coach John Luthi said. "I feel the quality and durability of the boots continues to improve. We are very thankful for all that the Dan Post Boot Company does for us and are blessed to be a part of a great company."

Downtown Martin hosts Rodeo BBQ

The City of Martin and UTM are in full swing gearing up for the 46th annual UTM Rodeo.

Local businesses have joined together to sponsor additional events during Rodeo Week such as a window decorating contest.

"We are excited to bring part of the rodeo to Festival Park in Historic Downtown Martin. It is great to see the community and small businesses show their support of their university and the UTM rodeo team," said Brad Thompson, City of Martin’s director of Community Development.

The Rodeo Week window decorating contest consisted of 12 businesses in historic downtown Martin community decorating windows, doors, and store fronts. The decorations included pictures from past rodeos, saddles, hay and even a jail house storefront.

The contest was judged on Monday, April 7; Christie's Photography won first, Vicki’s Designer Touch was awarded second and St. Charles Florist won third. The contestants were judged on five categories with 10 points, with a total possible score of 50. The categories included creativity, theme, presentation, rodeo spirit and overall appearance.

Businesses that participated were: Christie's Photography, Monograms and More, Live Oak, State Farm Insurance, Vicki’s Designer Touch, St. Charles, The Shoe Shack, The Sideline, Looking Glass Coffee, Kirkland’s Antiques, Gifts, Interiors, and Lighting, Moms 2B Maternity, Weakley County Press and Covert, Sargent, Reese CPA.

Each year, rodeo week is officially kicked-off with the annual crawfish boil at the American Legion in Martin. The event was held Wednesday.

"There is just something special about Martin’s UTM rodeo week. The week is kicked off with the crawfish supper which is more like a family reunion, then 3 nights of action packed rodeo and then a scholarship auction that helps keep these great cowboys and cowgirls continuing their education. Most of all though is the continued great support of the community. We will never be able to express the appreciation and gratitude for all they do not only during this week but throughout the entire year," Katie Brooks said. Brooks serves on the Rodeo Booster Club.

Thompson hopes that people will show support on Saturday as well for the scholarship auction and free community barbecue. This is the first year that the barbecue will be moved out of the university and made a community event.

“We want everyone to come out Saturday, to Festival Park in downtown Martin to enjoy live music, free barbecue and participate in the live auction. It is sure to be a great time," Thompson said.
Sodium Halogen Design was founded in 2001 by William Donnell

By David Thomas
dthomas@jacksun.com

ABOUT SODIUM HALOGEN DESIGN

- Sodium Halogen Design helps create websites, identities, interface and print pieces on purpose.
- The company was founded by William Donnell in 2001.
- For more information, visit www.sodiumhalogen.com or call 506-4538.

WEB EXTRA

For a video, visit www.jackssun.com

This story is one right out of a garage or a basement.
Founded by Jackson's William Donnell in 2001, Sodium Halogen Design helps to create websites, identities, interface and print pieces on purpose.
"Sodium Halogen is kind of a code word for salt and light," Donnell said. "It comes from the Sermon on the Mount, and a little of both — salt and light — makes things better.

Design

Continued from Page B8

work with Chick-fil-A."

Continuing, Donnell said, "We get a lot of repeat business, but half of the companies are Internet start-up companies. All referrals are word of mouth. We started with one start-up, POPVOX — the voice of the people. It has some roots in West Tennessee and they needed help with design."

Donnell's career path to technology began in a unique way, but it didn't take much to inspire the 1996 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

He grew up on a farm — Donnell Farms in Madison County — and worked for the family while he was in high school.

"I'm originally from Jackson, a sixth-generation to grow up in Jackson," Donnell said. "My family traveled west from North Carolina, so we have pretty deep roots."

A 1992 graduate of North Side High School, Donnell worked with music before Sodium Halogen entered the picture.

"I have a degree in agriculture, but I never really used it at all," Donnell said. "I was always curious about technology and advertising and that whole world. I did music before I did this — music ministry.

"I went online and figured out how."

Donnell spent time traveling with his wife, Jill, throughout the United States for nine years, working full time in music for churches and youth group events.

Donnell said Jill was all in when he decided to start his own business.

"She was really supportive," Donnell said. "Starting my own business wasn't really scary. I didn't have a steady paycheck, but I had never known that. Her dad is a contractor and I grew up on a farm, and my dad jokes farmers get paid once a year — at harvest."

That's when Donnell said he created his own job.

"The fear was not there," Donnell said. "We were independent, but it was not like we stopped doing music."

Shortly after Donnell began his company, the nation's economy took a downturn, but the arena he was entering was beginning to thrive.

"After one and a half to two years, the economy went down," Donnell said. "But it was the best time to get into websites."

Donnell said the public was re-evaluating how they were spending their marketing dollars.

"You had the Yellow Pages and billboards," Donnell said. "When the economy turned, they thought maybe they would spend their money on a web page instead of the Yellow Pages. (thinking) when things get lean, am I getting a return on my investment?"

Donnell said he got his break when Cindy Overton, the owner of Madison Lighting and Interior, needed a little technical support.

"She needed someone to do a website," Donnell said. "We knew what she wanted, and the only people I knew of doing web design in Jackson was Beth Roe of Roe Graphics."

Donnell said his company, "a small creative firm doing big things in Jackson," began to grow, and so did the payroll.

Donnell said he began collaborating with Shane Aday on projects.

"I went to school with Shane at North Side, but we lost touch with each other," Donnell said. "He got a degree in graphic design from MTSU."

Aday began working out of his home in Jackson but makes his residence in Kentucky after moving from Indiana.

"Shane is my right arm," Donnell said "Shane and David Dickerson (left arm), who is from Selmer, worked together on projects when (Dickerson) was in Selmer."

Dickerson relocated to Sacramento, Calif., giving Sodium Halogen a West Coast presence when Ben Joyce and Chance Smith round out the roster in Jackson.

"Those are the core members of Sodium Halogen, and I think of them as partners," Donnell said. "We have stand-up meetings every morning and my wife Jill helps part time with the accounting and bookkeeping ... so makes sure we get paid.

David Thomas, 425-9637
A SMALL CREATIVE FIRM DOING BIG THINGS IN JACKSON

William Donnell founded Sodium Halogen Design in 2001. DAVID THOMAS/THE JACKSON SUN
Col. Tom and Kathleen Elam left a lasting legacy throughout area

By SHEILA SCOTT
Special to The Messenger

Five years ago this month, the University of Tennessee at Martin lost one of its biggest fans, supporters and a truly great lady — Kathleen Elam.

"Kathleen was always just lovely and a gracious lady. She was always a gracious hostess; and a kind, generous, gentle person. She loved this campus, this school and Tom did, too. Her hobbies were gardening and taking care of Tom," said UTM alumna and Col. Tom Elam's niece Betty Smith of Union City.

One only has to look at the legacy of Ms. Kathleen and Col. Tom to recognize the level of excellence that one should strive for. The story of their legacy is important for many reasons, especially this month.

"The Elam family has, over a period of many years, been avid supporters of UT Martin through major gifts to both academic and athletic programs. Through their efforts, thousands of students have benefited," said Chancellor Tom Rakes.

With graduation from college being such a momentous day, how fitting it is that UTM holds its ceremonies in the Elam Center. The UT Board of Trustees voted in 1994 to name it the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center in honor of the Elams' years of service to the university. Shortly after this, Col. Tom gave $1 million, which marked his first major donation to UTM. The Elams went on to give UTM about $10 million total, making them the largest donors in UTM history. They also made considerable donations to other UT campuses and many charities within the community and beyond, especially those dealing with children or education.

An example of which is when Ms. Kathleen partnered with Bill and Carol Latimer to build the Obion County Public Library in Union City. Mary Carpenter, who was the OCPL director at that time and currently the regional director of Obion River Regional Library, worked closely with Ms. Kathleen.

"She was a person of high ideals, very well educated and traveled; but yet, took such great delight in the simplest of pleasures, from a dogwood blooming outside her window or the antics of her cherished cat. I'll forever be inspired by her gracious, warm personality and although she certainly had the means and ability to have a lofty persona, she carried herself as one equal status with all she met. I know of no truer definition of a lady. All of us in West Tennessee owe the colonel and Kathleen Elam a great debt. According to current OCPL director Michele Barnes, there were over 127,000 visits to the library last year, many of these children, and I fully believe that the quality of life for those who took advantage is for the better," Mrs. Carpenter said.

Bill Latimer worked closely with Ms. Kathleen on the library project, but had also previously known the Elams on both a professional and personal level. Col. Tom served as the Latimer's lawyer until his death. They also attended the same church and were friends for many years.

"Tom had as much business sense as any lawyer I know. He had a great memory. He was very generous and down to earth. He taught Sunday school classes at the First Christian Church in Union City. Tom valued education. Because he and Kathleen did not have children, the UT system served as a substitute.

Tom put a tremendous amount of time, effort and money into the University of Tennessee system," Latimer said.

Among the many other contributions the Elams made in regards to helping children included St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Lebonheur Children's Hospital, both in Memphis. They also made many contributions within their local community and Col. Tom's hometown of Union City. Alfred Creswell knew the Elams for many years and served as their accountant.

COUPLE HONORED — Col. Tom and Kathleen Elam stand in front of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin named in their honor by the UT Board of Trustees in 1994. Col. Tom insisted Ms. Kathleen's name be first on the building because of his great love and respect for her.

Photo from UTM archives
"The impact that the Elams had on their hometown of Union City and Obion County was also felt in many areas. The Elams were instrumental in the building of the current Obion County library, as well as making significant contributions to the First Christian Church, Union City Schools Foundation, Masquerade Theatre, Main Street and the Northwest Tennessee Boys and Girls Club. To show their appreciation for (Ms. Kathleen) contributions to the baseball facilities for Union City High School, Elam Stadium was named in their honor," Creswell said.

Col. Tom also had a passion for history and wanted to share that passion with the students of UTM. In honor of Col. Tom's love of history, Ms. Kathleen left an endowment to UTM regarding student internships with Discovery Park of America in Union City.

"I thought the world of the Elams. He made a gift to establish the Tom Elam endowment for the Department of History. He was all about, 'Okay, what can we do to make things better for the students?' He was a real student advocate and likewise after he passed away, his wife, Ms. Kathleen Elam," said Nick Dunagan, Chancellor Emeritus.

Col. Tom may have seemed gruff to some people but he definitely loved UTM. "(Col. Tom) was very gruff and outspoken, but he was an advocate for UT Martin. You could not find a stronger advocate on the Board of Trustees for UT, for our campus than Col. Tom. Their legacy has been a tremendous asset to our students. The Elam Center was just a small portion of that. The scholarship program that they left behind has already benefited several students from our area and across the United States," said Charley Deal, director of Alumni Affairs.

There can be no doubt the Elams' story was remarkable and unique in many ways. As much as UTM, the entire UT system, the surrounding community and beyond appreciate and have benefited and will continue to benefit from the monetary aspect of the legacy they left behind, it is not that part of the legacy that should truly be celebrated, remembered and emulated. That part belongs to the people themselves, not for what they did, but how they lived and why they helped others. Thanks to the UTM archives and personal interviews with living relatives, friends and colleagues at both Col. Tom's law office and UTM, information has been gathered to provide a glimpse into the lives of two extraordinary people who believed in things like faith, education, honor, integrity, kindness to others, involvement in the community, helping children, giving of their time and, most importantly, doing all these things with a cheerful heart.

UTM Senior Director for Development Len Solomon was blessed to be able to witness Ms. Kathleen's cheerful heart and spirit in person. She visited Ms. Kathleen at the couple's home in Union City in late February 2009 to personally inform her that UTM was going to have an evening to honor her in the Elam Center. That event included a standing ovation during halftime of the basketball game to thank her for all that she had done for the university. Ms. Kathleen was in a wheelchair the last several years of her life after she suffered a stroke just as she was preparing to leave the hospital after a pacemaker implantation surgery but was only confined to her home the last few months of her life.

"She had a twinkle in her little, blue eyes and could barely speak, and she smiled so sweetly. She just touched her little chest and said, 'The pleasure was all ours,'" Solomon said.

Ms. Kathleen's story began with a very humble beginning. She grew up in Corinth, Miss., during the Depression. Because jobs were scarce in her hometown, she struck out for Washington at 18 years old and landed a job with the Treasury Department, eventually becoming a supervisor.

Col. Tom grew up in Union City and went to UT Knoxville, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1931 and his law degree in 1934. He later served in the United States Army and was stationed in Washington, where a friend set him up on a blind date with a young Kathleen Hineman. Although he was late the first time, she obviously gave him a second chance because they were married for 52 years before his death on March 9, 1998. Faith and love for people were a strong bond they shared.

"She was ready to go on a moment's notice and knew how to keep a suitcase packed. She was Tom's best friend and travelling companion. She would take a book and travel with him when he had to take depositions or had to go to Memphis or Knoxville. They travelled quite a bit, but not a lot of international travel. They had a very strong faith, a belief in God. It was amazing; Kathleen had absolutely no fear of death. At the end, she welcomed (death); she really, really missed Tom," Ms. Smith said.

Col. Tom often humorously referred to himself as a shade-tree lawyer and was known for seeming a little gruff at first. Most people attributed this to his military background, because he was actually a very kind man. He had an extremely strong work ethic, as he continued to go into his law office until the day before he died at 89 years old. He always had a cigar with him and loved to wear a diamond-studded railroad tie tack, which the railroad gave him for so many years of service representing them. He once lost that beloved tie tack on Purchase Parkway after sliding off the road during bad weather, and former UTM Head Football Coach Don McLeary actually went back to the site of the incident and dug around in the mud until he found it.

Col. Tom, who was the longest serving member of the UT Board of Trustees, serving a total of 42 years, played a surprising role in former Congressman John Tanner's early life and then a more widely known role in his later life. When Tanner left the Navy in 1972, he went into law practice with Col. Tom in Union City, where they continued to practice law together for the next eight years.

"Back when I signed a basketball scholarship to Knoxville in 1962, Tom's the one that signed me up. He was chairman of the Athletics Committee at that time," Tanner said. "I remember one time when our office roof leaked. He always kept a box of cigars on his desk. Water came pouring in on his desk one night, and he came in the next morning. He had papers all over his desk and they were ruined. Judge (Bill) Acree and I looked in there and saw him. He was really stewing about it, and we said, 'What happened, Colonel? Did it get your cigars wet?' He didn't think that was particularly funny."
Graduation day at UTM will find many on the steps of the Elam Center amidst a sea of billowing, black robes and caps with little, gold tassels attached flying in their faces because the wind just won’t leave them alone. That day will be special because it will begin a new chapter in their lives. When writing a book, the beginning of a new chapter is an excellent place to think about where the story is going, whether or not some adjustments are needed, and possibly how the story might end. The outcome is never known for sure, of course, because even when writing a book the story sometimes goes somewhere the author hadn’t originally planned at first; sometimes it’s even better. Each individual’s story is important; it’s never too early to start making those necessary changes.

Ms. Kathleen and Col. Tom Elam left a huge legacy of benefits for generations to come. They say the best form of flattery or honor is emulation. If someone were to read your story today, what would it say about you; what kind of legacy will you leave behind?

Editor’s note: Sheila Scott is the features editor for The Pacer at UTM. She may be contacted by email at shefscot@utk.edu.
UT Martin guards Butler, Newsome add Hall award to long list

NASHVILLE — UT Martin women’s basketball guards Heather Butler and Jasmine Newsome have been named two of the Tennessee Female Amateur Athletes of the Year, as announced by the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

The seniors join Middle Tennessee’s Ebony Rowe and Tennessee’s Ivy Renfroe as this year’s Female Amateur Athlete of the Year award winners.

A native of Medina, Butler has certainly left her mark on not only the UT Martin record books, but those of the Ohio Valley Conference and the NCAA in her illustrious four-year career.

Butler began her career by passing UT Martin alum Pat Summitt as the fastest player to reach 1,000 points as a sophomore before ending her career as the school and conference’s all-time leader in points with 2,865, which ranks 16th in NCAA history.

Named the 2014 OVC Player of the Year, Butler ranked ninth in the country in scoring with 23.6 points per game along with setting her third NCAA three-point record with 392 career three-pointers made.

Included in her high scoring output was true consistency. Butler scored in double figures in 129 consecutive games — every game of her career — ranking as the second longest streak in NCAA history. Her mark of 129 games in double figures ranks fifth on the all-time NCAA list.

Along with her numerous accomplishments on the court — including four All-OVC first team honors, two outright OVC season championships, four OVC Tournament championships and four consecutive NCAA Tournament berths — Butler was tabbed a Senior CLASS Award All-American first team selection.

Her individual recognitions continue to grow as she has been named a Final Five finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award, nominee for the AllState WBCA Good Works team, CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-America second team and OVC Scholar-Athlete.

A Millington native, Newsome will go down as one of the best players in school and conference history.

Newsome is a two-time OVC Player of the Year, three-time OVC Defensive Player of the Year and four-time member of both the All-OVC first team and OVC All-Tournament team. Throughout her career, Newsome has tallied 2,566 points which ranks both second in school and conference history.

The program’s first Associated Press All-American, Newsome has started every game of her 130 game career while setting program single game records in points and assists. Newsome tallied 44 points in a victory over Quinnipiac before setting a new assist record on senior night with 14 assists against Austin Peay.

Newsome averaged 19 points, 5.7 assists, 3.6 rebounds and 2.7 steals per game this season en route to being named a finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award and member of Naismith Trophy Watch List.

She was also named All Mid-Major Player of the Year, OVC Player of the Year and Mid-Major All-American by College Sports Madness after scoring double figures in 27 of 32 games, including 20 or more points on 12 occasions. She was named OVC Tournament Most Valuable Player on three occasions, scoring 20 points or more in every OVC Tournament game of her career.

Butler and Newsome leave UTM as the OVC’s top two career scorers, ranking as the first pair of teammates to ever rank first and second on the conference’s scoring list.

The pair led the team to 87 wins in four years, the program’s first two outright OVC season championships, four OVC Tournament titles and four NCAA Tournament berths.

This year’s honorees will be recognized at the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Celebration on May 17 at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Nashville.

The 2014 Hall of Fame Class includes Eddie George, Popeye Jones and Hope Hines.
For any young person reading this story, Anthony Kapel Jones is convinced their story could read much like his.

In the mid-'80s, Jones walked into the back door of The Jackson Sun. He said his job was to stuff the paper with inserts and that the job was dirty and that he needed to shower after work.

A couple of years later, after his sophomore year at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Jones walked through the front door of the newspaper dressed in a button-up shirt and slacks.

Jones

Continued from Page A1

as a writer working an internship.

"I went from walking in the back door to walking in the front door in just two years," Jones said Monday at his alma mater. "That showed me the power of education."

Today, the 45-year-old Jones, who stands well over 6 feet tall, is regularly seen in a tailored suit and thin-rimmed glasses debating national issues on the revived political debate show "Crossfire" on CNN.

An attorney, founder of multiple non-profits, New York Times best-selling author and now television personality, Jones, who goes by "Van," is known by many for working recently for the Obama administration as a special adviser for green jobs.

Jones resigned from the adviser position in September 2009.

One point not lost on Jones is his humble beginnings.

Born in Jackson, Jones was the product of a public education at Jackson-Central Merry High School and UT Martin. Although he went on to the Ivy League to attend law school at Yale University, he admits the gears that launched his career first turned in West Tennessee.

"You can do what you want in this world," Jones said Monday as he looked out at journalism students and soon-to-be graduates of the university's communications department during a panel discussion. "You can go anywhere from the UT Martin."

Jones gave the students what he called "straight talk."

He said that shooting for astronomical goals could prove difficult and near impossible, but that simply aspiring for greatness can lead to life-changing results.

Jones said that after his parents — who were local teachers — taught him about the power of education and after he saw the effects himself, he realized that if he applied himself he could rise above the odds and achieve his goals.

Jones said while he was a student at UT Martin, he started multiple publications, was the editor of the school paper and focused on his academics. When he scored in the 96th percentile on the Law School Admission Test and decided on a different route than journalism, he applied and was accepted to Yale.

"One thing I learned from the elites is that they tell their children from an early age that 'you have a fantastic destiny,'" Jones said. He said often members of the middle class place limitations on the goals to which they tell their children to aspire.

Jones said there is truth and there are the facts. He said there are certain limitations to not growing up wealthy or to having one's start in smaller rural areas in an economy that has become increasingly competitive, but Jones said there is also the matter of hard work and destiny.

"An acorn has the destiny to be an oak tree," he said. "Not every acorn becomes an oak tree, but that's its destiny. God didn't just put a destiny in the souls of the people on television."

Jordan Buie, 425-9782
Watson declares candidacy for Weakley County mayor

Jake Allen Watson is announcing his candidacy as a Democratic candidate for Weakley County mayor.

Watson, a native of Weakley County, graduated from Westview High School and attended the University of Tennessee at Martin.

His mother’s family is from Martin and all attended school here. His grandmother is Winnie Kirkland and his mother is Penny Futrell Holecz.

He has three brothers, Darrell Watson, Chris Watson and Tristan Holecz, and two sisters, Lindsay Watson Melson and Whitney Holecz.

Family life comes natural to him as he says, “When we were growing up, people teased us all the time about the size of our family, but we all pulled together and people recognized it and respected that.”

JAKE WATSON

Callis declares candidacy for District 7 commissioner

Shirley Callis of Martin has announced her candidacy for Weakley County commissioner in District 7.

Callis was raised on a dairy farm by her Christian parents, Odise and Genella Buchanan. She and her brothers, Kirby Buchanan and Dean Buchanan, continue to own and farm the same acreage in District 7.

She is an active member of Cypress Creek Baptist Church.

After graduating from Martin schools, she attended Tennessee Tech in Cookeville before transferring to Union University in Jackson, where she graduated with a degree in early childhood and elementary education. Later, Callis attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she received two masters degrees: one in curriculum and instruction and one in administration and supervision.

SHIRLEY CALLIS

Watson from Page 1

Watson is married to Sherree Watson, an LMSW for TDQC, and has two stepchildren, Ethan and Maddox.

Watson said he really appreciates and admires how involved church youth groups have become in the lives of the youth in the county and hopes they are able to have such positive impacts on all the young adults.

“When I was a boy, we had smaller youth groups and nowhere comparable to where they are now. The young need things to do to keep their minds headed in the right direction and to keep them from going down the wrong path,” he said.

“Private funds are not invested here currently to entertain the younger crowds. Parents want things to do with their kids and have to drive elsewhere to bowl, skate, etc. It is the same case with UTM students. They have to leave over the weekends and spend their money elsewhere.”

Watson fears that stagnant growth, slow job growth and industrial retention are the three major issues that hold back parts of Weakley County. He feels these problems, if not confronted, could further cause economic hardships and fears that an adverse affect could be a rise in crime rates.

“I was talking with a local farmer the other day and, while he would like to see certain constraints on the growth side or sprawling, the man emphasized and agreed that if property taxes were raised it could not be sustainable. So please understand that without some form of new growth, it could be very problematic for future generations,” he said.

Watson pledged to give fair treatment and help others.

“I give fair treatment. I will give someone in need the shirt off of my back if need be. I will use my experience in dealing with local and county governments to help the people have a voice and have a man who wants all of Weakley County to prosper. If you want someone to smile and cut ribbons, well, then I am not your man.”

Callis from Page 1

She is employed by the Weakley County School System and is proud to have been a teacher for 28 years. Through these efforts, she has enabled a positive economic future of Weakley County by encouraging those who did not graduate from high school to get a diploma.

Callis has three daughters: Angela, Clarissa and Priscilla, who is married to Michael Price, and they all live in Martin. She has three grandchildren: Gavin, Gabrielle and Greylon Price.

“I am excited about running. I want to be the next commissioner for the people of District 7. I am asking for each person’s vote and I promise to respect the wishes of the majority in the district,” she said. “Weakley County is a great place to work and raise a family. It will be a wonderful opportunity and a privilege to serve the people of the 7th district. I offer my services to the citizens of District 7 and Weakley County, and I will always be available because your concerns are my concerns.”
Hall amateur award latest for UTM

guard duo Butler, Newsome

NASHVILLE – UT Martin women's basketball guards Heather Butler and Jasmine Newsome have been named two of the Tennessee Female Amateur Athletes of the Year, as announced by the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

The seniors join Middle Tennessee's Ebony Rowe and Tennessee's Ivy Renfroe as this year's Female Amateur Athlete of the Year award winners.

A native of Medina, Butler has certainly left her mark on not only the UT Martin record books, but those of the Ohio Valley Conference and the NCAA in her illustrious four year career.

Butler began her career by passing UT Martin alum Pat Summitt as the fastest player to reach 1,000 points as a sophomore before ending her career as the school and conference's all-time leader in points with 2,865, which ranks 16th in NCAA history.

Named the 2014 OVC Player of the Year, Butler ranked ninth in the country in scoring with 23.6 points per game along with setting her third NCAA three-point record with 392 career three-pointers made.

Included in her high scoring output was true consistency. Butler scored in double figures in 129 consecutive games every game of her career — ranking as the second longest streak in NCAA history. Her mark of 129 games in double figures ranks fifth on the all-time NCAA list.

Along with her numerous accomplishments on the court — including four All-OVC first team honors, two outright OVC season championships, four OVC Tournament championships and four consecutive NCAA Tournament berths — Butler was tabbed a Senior CLASS Award All-American first team selection.

Her individual recognitions continue to grow as she has been named a Final Five finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award, nominee for the AllState WBCA Good Works team, CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-America second team and OVC Scholar-Athlete.

Quinnipiac before setting a new assist record on senior night with 14 assists against Austin Peay.

Newsome averaged 19 points, 5.7 assists, 3.6 rebounds and 2.7 steals per game this season en route to being named a finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award and member of Naismith Trophy Watch List.

She was also named All-Mid-Major Player of the Year, OVC Player of the Year and Mid-Major All-American by College Sports Madness after scoring double figures in 27 of 32 games, including 20 or more points on 12 occasions. She was named OVC Tournament Most Valuable Player on three occasions, scoring 20 points or more in every OVC Tournament game of her career.

- Butler and Newsome leave UTM as the OVC's top two career scorers, ranking as the first pair of teammates to ever rank first and second on the conference's scoring list.

The pair led the team to 87 wins in four years, the program's first two outright OVC season championships, four OVC Tournament titles and four NCAA Tournament berths.

This year's honorees will be recognized at the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Celebration on May 17 at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Nashville. The 2014 Hall of Fame Class includes Eddie George, Popeye Jones and Hope Hines.

Schroyer's Skyhawks add two assistants

UT Martin head men's basketball coach Heath Schroyer has announced two assistant coaches with the hires of Jermaine Johnson and Thomas Gray.

Johnson joins the Skyhawks from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga., where he helped the Eagles to the Southern Conference tournament semifinals.

A Memphis native, Johnson made a name for himself as head coach of the highly successful Melrose High School boys' basketball program from 2007-13. He developed Melrose into a top-25 program in the nation after he won five straight District 16 AAA championships and the 2010 TSSAA Class AAA state title. During his tenure, he coached 24 seniors and all 24 players received college scholarships.

Johnson also had coaching stops at Ridgeway High School (his alma mater), Cordova High School and Craigmont High School, where he began his coaching career.

At Melrose, Johnson coached McDonald's All-American Adonis Thomas while also coaching an eventual National Junior College Player of the Year and Two All-Americans. All in all, he has coached 12 professional players, including eight who played in the NBA.

Johnson, 36, played collegiately at Texas-Arlington for two seasons and earned his degree from the United States Sports Academy in 2007.

Gray, 27, comes to UT Martin from Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, Miss., where he has spent the last three seasons. He helped the Bears to a runner-up finish in the MACJC South Division in 2012-13 while the team earned back-to-back trips to the state and NJCAA Region 23 tournament. During his tenure, he has helped six players further their playing careers (three of which advanced to Division-I schools) and presided over two All-Americans.

Before joining the Southwest Mississippi staff, Gray was an assistant at Mississippi College for two seasons. His coaching career began in 2006 as a high school head coach at Rebul Academy in Learned, Miss. He also spent one year as an assistant coach at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Jackson, Miss.

Born in Memphis, Gray grew up in Columbia, Miss. and won the 2004 MPSSA 2A state championship while prepping at Columbia Academy. He would later graduate from Mississippi College in 2008 after a successful four-year playing career.

"I have known Thomas for many years and I have watched him grow and develop as a coach," Schroyer said. "He has a bright future in this profession. He is smart, organized and can recruit at a very high level, as well as coach at a very high level."
RODEO — Jerry Rogers had the only score for UT Martin in bull riding with a 74 at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena over the weekend.

Rodeo a rousing success once again

The University of Tennessee at Martin men’s team captured its seventh top finish of the season, while the women’s team recorded its second-highest point total of the season at the 46th annual spring college rodeo held at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena over the weekend.

The UT Martin men accumulated 875 points, which was 350 more than Missouri Valley College, the second place finisher. The women’s team racked up 180 points, just 85 points behind team winner Missouri Valley College’s 265 points.

In bareback riding, Tanner Phipps and Colt Kitaif got the weekend off to a good start, splitting first and second with scores of 79 in the first go. Phipps would go on to earn second place (77) in the short go and first in average (156), while Kitaif placed fourth in the short go (68) and average (147). Tyler Waltz also earned points in the event, finishing third in average (150) after splitting third and fourth in the first go (74) and placing third in the short go (76).

Clark Adcock performed well in calf roping, finishing in second place (19.8 average) after besting all cowboys in the first go (9.6) and splitting fourth and fifth in the short go (10.2). John Alley placed fifth in average (21) after splitting fifth and sixth in the first go (10.8) and splitting fourth and fifth in the short go (10.2).

Three UT Martin cowboys enjoyed success in steer wrestling. Alley led the way with a first place showing in average (9.8) after times of 4.9 in both the first go (third) and in the short go (second). Will Lummus (4.6 in first go, second place) and Clay Brewer (5.3 in first go, fourth) also garnered points in the event.

Mickeya Gray came on strong late in goat tying, placing fifth in the short go with a 7.8 while splitting fifth and sixth in average with a 15.3.

The UT Martin duo of Ben Walker and Zach Mabry excelled in team roping, finishing in second in average (12) after splitting second and third in the short go (5.3) and placing second in the short go (6.7). Clay Brewer and Greg Sullivan also pieced together a pair of solid performances, splitting sixth place with a 16.1 average.

UT Martin boasted the top two finishers in barrel racing. Nealey Dalton swept first place in the first go (13.52), the short go (13.46) and average (26.98). Right behind her was Dacia Horne, who placed second in the first go (13.59), split second and third in the short go (13.66) and second in average (27.25).

RODEO FROM PAGE 1

In bull riding, Jerry Rogers concluded a strong rodeo with a first place finish in average (152) after splitting first and second in the first go (74) and claiming top honors in the short go (78).

The Ozark Region and NIRA are in the process of calculating the final national standings before announcing the field for the College National Finals Rodeo, which will take place in Casper, Wyo. on June 15-21. An official announcement will be made soon.

SEE RODEO, PAGE 5
Butler to be Honored by Tenn. Sports Hall of Fame

By Logan Watson

Heather Butler, the standout senior from the University of Tennessee at Martin's Lady Skyhawk basketball team, has yet another honor to add to her already outstanding list of accolades.

Butler, a Medina native, has been named as one of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame's Female Amateur Athletes of the Year, along with teammate Jasmine Newsome, MTSU forward Ebony Rowe, and Lady Vols pitcher Ivy Renfroe. Butler was named to the Mid-Major All-American second team, OVC Player of the Year, All-OVC first team and OVC All-Tournament team, ranking ninth in the nation in scoring. Butler scored 2,865 points in her career at UTM, which places her 16th on the NCAA's all-time scoring list. Butler has put up double-digit scores in every game of her career for 129 consecutive games, making hers the longest active streak in the NCAA, shattering the previous record of 74 games. On two occasions, Butler tied the program record for points in a single game with a staggering 44 points. Butler will leave UTM as the best three-point shooter in NCAA history with a record-tying 392 career made three-pointers, including a pair of NCAA three-point records set as a junior.

This prestigious honor will be awarded at the TSHF's induction ceremony in Nashville on May 17. Along with the recognition of this year's Honorees, the Hall of Fame will be inducting former Titan Eddie George, basketball great Popeye Jones, and Hope Hines as part of the Class of 2014.

More Love for Butler - Heather Butler, senior Lady Skyhawk and Medina native, will add yet another accomplishment to her resume when she is honored by the Tenn. Sport Hall of Fame in May. Photo courtesy of Nathan Morgan, UT Martin University Relations.

Shackelford Selected for UTM Ensemble

MHS Percussionist Noah Shackelford was recently selected for the UTM Honor Percussion Ensemble. Noah, pictured here with UTM Percussion Instructor Julie Hill, is a Junior at Milan High School.
Deidre Beene honored by university

On behalf of the University of Tennessee Martin-Selmer/McNairy Center, Sandy King accepts a plaque from Alex Beene, son of Deidre Beene, commemorating the writing center being named the Deidre Hillard Beene Writing Center at a ceremony last Tuesday in Selmer. Deidre was Director of the UTM-Selmer Center before her recent passing. Alex spoke emotionally about how his mother worked tirelessly for the establishment of the center and the effect she had on people's lives. Alex said someone told him that if it had not been for his mother, he would have neither a degree nor a job.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, Wednesday, April 16, 2014

UTM’s Butler, Newsome share TN Hall honor

UTM Sports Information

UT Martin women’s basketball guards Heather Butler and Jasmine Newsome have been named two of the Tennessee Female Amateur Athlete of the Year award winners.

This year’s honorees will be recognized at the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Celebration on Saturday, May 17 at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Nashville.

The 2014 Hall of Fame Class includes: Eddie George, Dresden native Popeye Jones and Hope Hines.

Butler, a native of Medina, has certainly left her mark on not only the UT Martin record books, but those of the Ohio Valley Conference and the NCAA in her illustrious four year career.

Butler began her career by passing UT Martin alum Pat Summit as the fastest player to reach 1,000 points as a sophomore before ending her career as the school and conference’s all-time leader in points with 2,865 which ranks 16th in NCAA history.

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A Millington native, Newsome will go down as one of the best players in school and conference history.

Newsome is a two-time OVC Player of the Year, three-time OVC Defensive Player of the Year and four-time member of both the All-OVC first team and OVC All-Tournament team.

Throughout her career, Newsome has tallied 2,566 points which ranks both second in school and conference history. The program’s first Associated Press All-American, Newsome has started every game of her 130 game career while setting program single game records in points and assists.

Newsome tallied 44 points in a victory over Quinnipiac before setting a new assist record on senior night with 14 assists against Austin Peay.

Newsome averaged 19 points, 5.7 assists, 3.6 rebounds and 2.7 steals per game this season en route to being named a finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award and member of Naismith Trophy Watch List.

Butler and Newsome leave UT Martin as the OVC’s top two career scorers, ranking as the first pair of teammates to ever rank first and second on the conference’s scoring list.

The pair led the team to 87 wins in four years, the program’s first two outright OVC season championships, four OVC Tournament championships and four NCAA Tournament berths.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with induction into Phi Eta Sigma 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.

Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that recognizes high academic achievement in the freshman year. Students who achieve a 3.5 average at the end of their first year of study are eligible for membership.

Weakley County students inducted into Phi Eta Sigma were: Amber Adams, of Martin, Emily Allen, of Sharon, Hagen Ashmore, of Martin, Brooke Erin Baker, of Martin, Georgia Brown, of Martin, Grace Bruner, of Martin, Haley Davis, of Martin, Nicholas Fortner, of Martin, Amanda Mansfield, of Gleason, Breanna Nichole Martin, of Gleason, Joshua Petty, of Martin, Zoe Stringer, of Martin, Burcu Tari, of Istanbul, Blake Taylor, of Gleason, Chase M. Thweatt, of Martin, and Ellen Vaughn, of Martin.
Summer theater workshop offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering a summer theatre workshop for children in grades 7-12 July 7-18 at UT Martin. Classes will be 3-5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The intensive workshops are designed to introduce children to stage performance. Classes will meet daily for two weeks as participants rehearse a children’s play, creating characters, learning stage movement and studying vocal preparedness. In addition to performing, students will have the opportunity to create costumes, sets and props.

Melanie Hollis, lecturer of visual and theatre arts, will instruct the workshop.

The cost is $85 per participant and an $8 supply fee.

The class will conclude with a free public performance.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/theater.php.

Handgun carry course offered by UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer a handgun carry course at 8 a.m.-3 p.m. May 17 on the UT Martin campus.

The eight-hour course will present the student with the minimum requirements mandated by the state to obtain a handgun carry permit. The class will cover the use, operation and basic cleaning of a handgun. The first four-hour block will be devoted to classroom instruction and the written exam. The second four-hour block will be for firing range instruction and the practical exam. The student must score a minimum of 70 percent on both the written and practical exams to successfully complete the course.

Upon successful completion, students will be able to apply for a Handgun Carry Permit from the State of Tennessee.

Terry Guthrie, state certified handgun instructor, will instruct the course.

The registration fee to attend is $75. The student must be 21 years of age and have no felony convictions. The student will need to bring a handgun, 50 rounds of ammunition appropriate for the handgun, a pen or pencil, paper and hearing and eye protection.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082.

UT-Martin Alumni Honored

The University of Tennessee-Martin has honored a former alumni for his achievements in the field of journalism.

Van Jones, a Jackson native and 1990 double major graduate of UTM, was awarded the "Distinguished Alumni Award" following his recent appearance on campus.

Jones is now the co-host of the CNN cable news network show "Crossfire", and was the keynote speaker for the Department of Communications Awards banquet.

During his days at UT-Martin in the mid-1970's, Jones was the editor of the student newspaper "The Pacer".

He later received a law degree from Yale University, and has twice made the New York Times "Best Seller" list with books titled "The Green Collar Economy" and "Rebuild a Dream".

(Left) Dr. Jerald Ogg, Van Jones, Dr. Robert Nanney
Butler among top TN female amateur athletes

The University of Tennessee at Martin women’s basketball guards Heather Butler and Jasmine Newsome have been named two of the Tennessee Female Amateur Athletes of the Year, as announced by the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. The seniors join Middle Tennessee’s Ebony Rowe and Tennessee’s Ivy Renfroe as this year’s Female Amateur Athlete of the Year award winners.

Butler, a native of Medina, Tenn., has certainly left her mark on not only the UT Martin record books, but those of the Ohio Valley Conference and the NCAA in her illustrious four-year career. Butler began her career by passing UT Martin alum Pat Summit as the fastest player to reach 1,000 points as a sophomore before ending her career as the school and conference’s all-time leader in points with 2,894 which ranks 16th in NCAA history. Named the 2014 OVC Player of the Year, Butler ranked ninth in the country in scoring with 23.6 points per game along with setting her third NCAA three-point record with 392 career three-pointers made. Included in her high scoring output was true consistency. Butler scored in double figures in 129 consecutive games — every game of her career — ranking as the second longest streak in NCAA history. Her mark of 129 games in double figures ranks fifth on the all-time NCAA list.

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A Millington, Tenn., native, Newsome will go down as one of the best players in school and conference history. Newsome is a two-time OVC Player of the Year, three-time OVC Defensive Player of the Year and four-time member of both the All-OVC first team and OVC All-Tournament team. Throughout her career, Newsome has tallied 1,566 points which ranks both second in school and conference history. The program’s first Associated Press All-American, Newsome has started every game of her 100 game career while setting program single game records in points and assists. Newsome tallied 44 points in a victory over Quinnipiac before setting a new assist record on senior night with 14 assists against Austin Peay.

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This year’s honorees will be recognized at the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Celebration on Saturday, May 17 at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Nashville. The 2014 Hall of Fame Class includes: Eddie George, Popeye Jones and Hope Hines.
Kid College offered by UTMP

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering Kid College for children and youth, grades Kindergarten (Fall 2014) through 5th, at 8 a.m.-noon, June 30–July 3, at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

Kid College is a four-day program for children who will attend Kindergarten in 2014 through the 5th grade. The goal for Kid College is to provide your child an opportunity to have a fun-learning experience. Children will be divided into small groups and rotate through a series of classes.

Classes for Kindergarten through 2nd grade include: "Mad Scientists," with Amanda Pearcy, which is a mission designed to spark imagination and curiosity by providing fun, entertaining and educational activities, to create a hands-on approach to science through green glowing liquids, objects flying through the air, mystery substances changing from solid to liquid in seconds and messages written in invisible ink.

Classes for 3rd through 5th grade include: "Unleashing Our Inner Geek," with Amanda Pearcy, which is an opportunity to learn about science through interactive and hands-on science activities, such as discovering chemical reactions, creating mixtures like slime and goo, building and launching rockets, writing messages with invisible ink and determining which type of reactions make explosions, fizzes and sparks.

Classes for all participants include: "Fitness + Fun = Success," with Whitney Crider, which is an action-packed week of playtime, creative expression and friendly competition, allowing children to express their imaginations with arts and crafts, sports and activities that build strength, coordination and teamwork, paired with daily fitness and nutrition lessons, such as martial arts, hip hop dance, team challenges, sports and water play; "The Play's the Thing," with Shane Bridges, which is a storytime based course that uses fun games and exercises to teach the elements that make a good movie, television show or play and ending with collaboration with one another to spin yarns and acting out the stories; "Wild World of Weather," with Andrea Maxwell, which is a class filled with questions about weather changes, tornadoes, hurricanes, weather safety and preparation for any type of storm.

The cost is $80 per participant (T-shirt and supplies included).

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/kidcollege.php.

Cursive is so cool!
Course offered by UT Martin Parsons

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is sponsoring a course for students in grades 4-6. The course will be offered from 12:45-2:45 p.m., June 30–July 3, on the UT Martin Parsons Center campus.

This course is designed to increase participants' brain activation for higher level learning; build a foundation for literacy skills development and critical thinking in reading, writing, language and mathematics; and boost participants' performance across all academic subjects. Research shows that students who have greater ease with fine-motor writing tasks have better academic skills in both reading and math.

Participants will be provided with developmentally appropriate practice activities that will promote automaticity. Cursive writing will also help students achieve the Common Core State Standards' primary goal of preparing students to be college and career ready by providing instruction that facilitates higher level thinking, deeper comprehension, and written response.

Sherry Armstrong, an elementary school teacher for 33 years with 22 years of experience teaching cursive writing, will instruct the course.

The cost is $55 for registration, and participants should bring their own lunches and drinks if attending Kid College.

To register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
Jones attended UT Martin throughout his career.

Dr. Jerald Ogg (left), UT Martin provost, and Dr. Robert Nanney, UT Martin Department of Communications chair, after receiving the department’s Distinguished Alumni Award. Jones, a Jackson native and a 1990 UT Martin graduate with a double major in communications and political science, is the first UT Martin journalism sequence graduate to receive the award.

In addition to having Ogg in several classes, Jones was editor of The Pacer student newspaper during the time that Ogg served as the paper’s adviser. In a 2002 story about Jones that appeared in UT Martin’s alumni magazine, Ogg said of this former student, “Van was certainly one of the most gifted students I have had the pleasure of teaching. What stood out even more than his intelligence, however, was his passion.”

“I was a student here (at UT Martin) in the mid-70s, and Van had the same zeal to make a difference you associate with that era.”

Dr. Robert Nanney, communications department chair, has known Jones since his days as a UT Martin student.

“Our students were inspired by his passion, his journey and his heart,” Nanney said. “Van has countless awards from groups across the country and beyond, but it was especially gratifying that he was truly touched to receive our department’s Distinguished Alumni Award. It meant the world to him.”

Besides his association with CNN, the Los Angeles resident is president and co-founder of Rebuild the Dream, which Van Jones. net says is “a platform for bottom-up, people-powered innovations to help fix the U.S. economy.” He has written two New York Times Best Sellers: The Green Collar Economy and Rebuild the Dream. In 2009, Jones was the green jobs adviser to the Obama administration.

Jones also co-founded two social justice organizations: the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and Color of Change. He has received many honors and recognitions, including the NAACP’s Image Award.
Kid College offered for children and youth

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering Kid College for children and youth, grades Kindergarten (Fall 2014) through 5th, June 2-12, at UT Martin.

Kid College is a nine-day program for children in Kindergarten – 5th grade. The goal is to provide a fun-learning experience for children. There are more than 60 classes for children to choose from – they select the classes they want to take based on their interest and their grade level. They can take one class or as many as five classes.

Classes for Kindergarten through 2nd grade include: Space Camp, Personality Pets, Magnificent Mad Scientists, Crafting Like Crazy, Creepy Crawlies, Fun in the Sun, Chemical Reactions, Drawing and Painting Masters, T-Rex and Friends, Football Fun, CheerLEADing and Marvelous Messy Fun.

Classes for 3rd through 5th grade include: Chemical Reactions, The Skyhawk Report, Groosology, Kid College Olympics, Super Heroes, Hello Cupcake!, Space Academy, Karate for Kids, Basketball, Dinosaur Discovery and Photography Club.

Children at least 9 years of age and enrolled in one of Diane Bell’s “Space Classes” are eligible to complete a “Space Project.” The winner receives a scholarship to attend a week of Astronaut training at Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala.

The cost is $40 per course, with some classes having a small supply fee.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/kidcollege.php.

DSCC and UT Martin to host Ag Appreciation Night

Dyersburg State Community College will host an Ag Appreciation Night in conjunction with UT Martin on Thursday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the DSCC E.H. Lannom Jr. Gymnasium on the Dyersburg campus. Students, including high school agriculture/FFA students, are especially invited to attend and learn about opportunities during and after higher education. Those who currently have careers or an interest in agriculture are also encouraged to attend.

Highlighting the night's event will be guest speaker Rep. Andy Holt of District 76. Holt serves as the vice chair for the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and is also a farmer in Weakley County. Music will be provided by DSCC alumnus and national award-winning banjo player Kurt Stephenson and Stone Country Connection.
Roots of Rhythm, a University of Tennessee at Martin world percussion ensemble, will perform six shows in six counties Monday through Wednesday, according to a news release from UT Martin.

The Monday show is set for 7:30 p.m. at the Latta in McNairy County. The ensemble will travel Tuesday to Decatur, Stewart and Cheatham counties. Shows are set for 9:30 a.m. at Riverside High School; 3 p.m. at Stewart County Middle School in Dover; and 7:30 p.m. at Sycamore Middle School in Pleasant View. The ensemble will wrap up its mini tour at 11 a.m. Wednesday at John Overton High School in Nashville and at 3:45 p.m. at Portland High School in Sumner County.

The concert will give listeners a chance to learn about world geography, world history, live music demonstrations and authentic world percussion instruments by exploring the migration of rhythm throughout history as taken by African nations across the globe through slave trade, the release said.

"This complete program allows audiences to gather information through listening, participating, observing and visualizing," said Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music and director of percussion studies. "The possibility for community and student enrichment with the context of multicultural education is limitless."
**CONFERENCE ATTENDEES** — The recent West Tennessee Non-Profit Conference at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital was attended by (from left) Brenda Horner, Shelby Kee and Leah Blackburn. The conference was sponsored by the WestStar leadership program. Ms. Horner is with the USDA Rural Development office in Union City, Ms. Kee is with the Gibson County Chamber of Commerce and Ms. Blackburn is with the Exchange Club Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse in Jackson. The conference focused on the development and success of non-profit organizations across West Tennessee.

**Ninth annual Mike Munkel Barbecue is today at UT Martin**

The ninth annual Mike Munkel Barbecue will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. today at Pacer Pond at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“The event has become a great way to celebrate the end of another great year at UT Martin,” said John Abel, the interim director of the Boling University Center, in a news release. The barbecue is named for Mike Munkel, former director of dining services who died in October 2005.

The activities planned include a Sodexo barbecue dinner. Abel said Sodexo will close the dining hall and move the evening dining to Pacer Pond. Meal plans will be accepted and faculty, staff and members of the community can eat for $7 each. Children younger than 12 can eat for $4 each.

The Student Activities Council will host its annual Double Dare Obstacle Course. UT Martin students, in teams of four, will compete to be the fastest to finish this year’s obstacle course. “After the contest, the inflatables will be open for all to enjoy,” Abel said.

Balloon artist Dave Evans and a relaxation station featuring an oxygen bar and water massage tables also will be available, the release said.

Sodexo Dining Service Manager B.J. Long said that there would be several food options, including barbecue bologna, pulled pork, chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, brownies, cookies and watermelon. In addition, vegan and vegetarian options will be offered.

**Sumner students join honor society at UT Martin**

Four Sumner County students have been recognized for their academic achievements at the University of Tennessee at Martin with induction into Phi Eta Sigma. The local students who were recognized are Laura Elise Coker of Castalian Springs, Alexandra Mullins of Portland, Austin Swafford of Gallatin, and Ashley Tuttle of Bethpage. Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that recognizes high academic achievement in the freshman year. Students who achieve a 3.5 average at the end of their first year of study are eligible for membership.

http://www.tennessean.com/
Secretary of State will deliver commencement address at UT Martin

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A live commencement webcast will be available courtesy of the OVC Digital Network.

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Nell Gullet, UT Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the procession marshals will be Dr. Jeffrey S. Rogers, faculty senate president; Dr. Brian Donavan, faculty senate vice president; Nancy J. Yarbrough, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Andrew A. Wilson, vice chancellor for university advancement.

Delana Easley, UT Martin accompanist, will perform the processional, and Tomaso Albinoni will perform special music.

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Hargett was elected by the Tennessee General Assembly to serve as Tennessee's 37th secretary of state in 2009 and re-elected in 2013. He is the chief executive officer of the department of state with oversight of more than 300 employees. He also serves on 15 boards and commissions, on two of which he is the presiding member, impacting every department and agency in state government.

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In 2010, Hargett was chosen as a Henry Toll Fellow, an honor given to 40 of the nation's top state government officials. Additionally, he is a member of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NAS), where he serves as president.

HARGETT

WORKS OF EDNA HIBEL ON DISPLAY AT UTM

The works of Edna Hibel are on display through Aug. 31 in the J. Houston Gordon Museum located in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Paul Meek Library.

Hibel has been influenced by many of the great artists including Renoir, Van Gogh, Monet and Rembrandt. She appreciates the early Renaissance artists (before oil painting) like Giotto's frescoes. She's also been influenced by Piero della Francesca and Leonardo DaVinci.

When it comes to media, Hibel enjoys working with oils, watercolors and lithographs. She's enjoyed going to Zurich, Switzerland, two to three times each year for many years to create lithographs, utilizing large, smooth blocks of stone. Stone lithography is an old art form, in which the artist draws each separate color on a different stone, then makes the stones match up perfectly. The stones are then used to generate the final image on acid-free rag or japaon papers. Hibel created the image directly on the stone, often changing colors throughout the process as the lithograph is being produced, causing the image to be produced in very limited edition lithographs.

The late Dr. Terry and Mary Ruth Cruthirds, formerly of Martin, presented a large portion of their framed Hibel lithographs to the university in a series of gifts. Two of the lithographs displayed are the "David Suite" depicting the life of the biblical figure King David and "The International Year of the Child Suite."

Several other Hibel lithographs are on display at the J. Houston Gordon Museum, the gallery is adjacent to the Corbitt Special Collections reading area, to the left of the library circulation desk.

Museum hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday and by special arrangement.
UTM campus student-operated radio station wins platinum awards

WUTM, 90.3 "The Hawk," the campus student-operated radio station, was honored with a Platinum award at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) national conference, held this past month at the Pennsylvania Hotel in New York City. The Platinum award is the highest honor given by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System for overall broadcast excellence. This is the fourth consecutive year that WUTM has received this designation from the organization. The criteria for the award covers overall broadcast excellence, including operations, efficiency, effectiveness and professionalism in all areas of the station's operations.

"WUTM once again has added to its award-winning tradition at the national level. While the consistency of these awards might make them seem almost routine to some, that is far from reality," said Dr. Robert Nanney, communications department professor and chair. "These awards reflect the hard work and dedication of our talented students, day in and day out. They also reflect the vision and tradition of excellence that their adviser, Dr. Richard Robinson, has instilled in them. I could not be more proud."

In addition, WUTM was a top-five finalist in 11 categories of competition, more than any other college or university in the country. This included the category of "Best College/University Radio Station in the Country" (for colleges and universities with under 10,000 enrollment). Other categories included Best Newcast, Best Spot News Story, Best Public Affairs/Event Promotion, Best Sports Play-by-Play for Basketball, Best Sports Play-by-Play for Volleyball, Best Liner/Sweeper, Best Talk Program, Best Radio Drama, Best Celebrity/Artist Interview, and Best Public Service Promotion.

"This year we saw a more than 100 percent increase in the number of entries to the awards, which means the competition all around is going to be tougher. But we didn't see a decrease in the number of finalists from WUTM, which in and of itself speaks volumes about the quality of the program. Dr. Richard Robinson and his students have put together," said Chris Thomas, president of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System. "To consistently be a finalist in these awards is truly an honor, and WUTM has not only been a finalist, but has won many awards as well, including Best Overall Station in 2012, which honestly makes them one of the best of the best in the entire nation," Robinson, now a regular session presenter at the IBS national conference in New York City, made four presentations this year. His presentations included What Can Campus Radio Do For You?; Innovative Programming; Why Different Can Be Better; University Policies and Regulations; Working with Administration; and How to Go About Station Renovations.

Robinson co-presented with Evan Sanford of the University of Redlands, Calif., WUTM program director Matt Borden, Scott Vyverman, faculty adviser from Radio DePaul, and Jacob Alderman, program director from Radio DePaul.

In addition to his presentations, Robinson participated in the Faculty Advisers roundtable with five college station advisers. The group discussed issues, trends and challenges facing college radio stations today.

"This was an incredibly competitive year for this national competition. But our students finished in the top five in more categories than any other college or university. The Platinum award is quite an achievement. IBS issues only a handful of those each year. This is the fourth consecutive year for WUTM to receive it, and I'm extremely proud of our students and their efforts to achieve it," said Robinson, the faculty adviser for WUTM.
UT Martin radio station wins award at national conference

The Jackson Sun

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From left: WUTM staff members Amy Bilger, of Martin; Matt Borden, of Martin; and Mary-Lynn Williams, of Franklin, show off the hardware that the radio station won this past year in the IBS national contests. The three students traveled to New York with Dr. Richard Robinson for the annual convention and awards banquet. Photo courtesy of UT Martin
African-American Leadership Conference Takes Place in Jackson

http://www.wbbjtv.com/

WEST MADISON COUNTY — Leaders in West Tennessee met in Jackson on Tuesday to voice their opinions on legislative laws and community advancement.

UT Martin and the West Star Group hosted the 16th Annual African-American leadership conference, where several local professionals voiced concerns over issues like voting and stand your ground laws.

Dr. Verna Ruffin with Jackson-Madison County Schools and NAACP president Gloria Sweet-Love were just some of the speakers.

“They have a plethora of people from the community to really inform the community in a lot of ways of things that are going on, things that are relevant to them as leaders,” Sweet-Love said.

Other guest speakers included Dr. Jerry Woods with Lane College and Judge Nathan Pride.

WEST TENNESSEE NON-PROFIT CONFERENCE — Brenda Horner, Shelby Kee and Leah Blackburn from Union City and Trenton attended the recent West Tennessee Non-Profit Conference sponsored by WestStar. The event was held at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. Horner (left), an Area Specialist with USDA Rural Development; Kee (center), Executive Director of the Greater Gibson County Chamber of Commerce; and Blackburn, Executive Director of Gibson County Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, attended the conference. The purpose of the conference was to promote the development and success of all non-profit organizations in fundraising, legality issues, start-ups, etc., throughout the West Tennessee region.

Dyersburg UTM to host Ag Appreciation Night

Dyersburg State Community College will host an Ag Appreciation Night in conjunction with UT Martin on Thursday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the DSCC E.H. Lannom, Jr. Gymnasium on the Dyersburg campus.

Students, including high school agriculture-FFA students, are especially invited to attend and learn about opportunities during and after higher education. Those who currently have careers or an interest in agriculture are also encouraged to attend.

Highlighting the night’s event will be guest speaker Representative Andy Holt of District 76. Representative Holt serves as the vice-chair for the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and is also a farmer in Weakley County. Music will be provided by DSCC alumnus and national award-winning banjo player Kurt Stephenson and Stone Country Connection. Other special activities include a rock-climbing wall, a demonstration of two natural gas-fueled vehicles, door prizes including a turkey cooker, as well as information on DSCC’s and UT Martin’s 2+2 transfer programs.

A free barbecue dinner will also be served to those in attendance; however, a RSVP by April 24 is strictly required for those who wish to attend the dinner.

To RSVP, please contact Beverlee Weatherly at 731-286-3303 or weatherly@dscc.edu.
‘Crossfire’ co-host Van Jones Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

CNN’s Crossfire co-host Van Jones made the most of his visit April 14 to the University of Tennessee at Martin. He was keynote speaker at noon for the Department of Communications Awards Banquet and participated in an investigative journalism panel discussion that afternoon. His day concluded as he received the department’s Distinguished Alumni Award following a dinner hosted by department faculty members in the Dunagan Alumni Center.

Jones, a Jackson, Tenn., native and a 1990 UT Martin graduate with a double major in communications and political science, is the first UT Martin journalism sequence graduate to receive the award. He later earned a law degree from Yale University and has become known internationally as both an environmental and a social activist. In 2007, Jones was named UT Martin’s Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient.

“Well, it’s good to be home,” Jones told the awards banquet audience. “... The emotions I felt coming up here today after 24 years, it’s just hard to put into words.” He referred to Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin provost, as “coach” throughout his remarks in appreciation for Ogg’s personal advice and support during and after the time Jones attended the university.

In addition to having Ogg in several classes, Jones was editor of The Pacer student newspaper during the time that Ogg served as the paper’s adviser. In a 2002 story about Jones that appeared in UT Martin’s alumni magazine, Ogg said of this former student, “Van was certainly one of the most gifted students I have had the pleasure of teaching. What stood out even more than his intelligence, however, was his passion.

“I was a student here (at UT Martin) in the mid-70s, and Van had the same zeal to make a difference you associate with that era.”

Dr. Robert Nanney, communications department chair, has known Jones since his days as a UT Martin student.

“Our students were inspired by his passion, his journey and his heart,” Nanney said. “Van has countless awards from groups across the country and beyond, but it was especially gratifying that he was truly touched to receive our department’s Distinguished Alumni Award. It meant the world to him.”

Besides his association with CNN, the Los Angeles resident is president and co-founder of Rebuild the Dream, which VanJones.net says is “a platform for bottom-up, people-powered innovations to help fix the U.S. economy.” He has written two New York Times Best Sellers: The Green Collar Economy and Rebuild the Dream. In 2009, Jones was the green jobs adviser to the Obama administration.

Jones also co-founded two social justice organizations: the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and Color of Change. He has received many honors and recognitions, including the NAACP’s Image Award.

Rolling Thunder Guest Speaker

Dr. Lloyd Duncan, retired Martin surgeon, addressed the group sharing information about the UTM American Legion Post which meets every third Tuesday morning at the Hearth Restaurant. The Rolling Thunder Chapter applauded his dedication to keeping the post active. Mike Rea, genealogy researcher, also spoke about his efforts to uncover details about those soldiers listed on the monument at the Dresden Courthouse.
SFHS students sweep UTM math competition

Three South Fulton High School students made a clean sweep of a recent math competition at University of Tennessee-Martin.

Seniors Skylar Britt, Josh Hollowell and Carter Arnold placed first, second and third, respectively, at the recent Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association competition held on the UTM campus, achieving the highest rankings scored testing in Statistics.

According to Charyl Craddock, math teacher for grades nine through 12 at SFHS, each of the students have taken the opportunity to study statistics through Dyersburg State Community College offering dual credit courses at South Fulton, netting the students high school and college credits.

Britt scored a 99 to nab his first place finish in the competition. He plans to study pharmacy at University of Mississippi after graduation.

Hollowell and Arnold will both attend University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall. Hollowell will major in Kinesiology while Arnold’s choice of study will be animal science.

While none of the three profess a love of math, all agree they have abilities in the area of study.

“I was not surprised,” said Craddock, referring to their top finishes in the competition, which included hundreds of students from the Northwest Tennessee area. “They all three do well in class, and I have taught each of them in levels including Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus and Statistics.”

Each of the winners received a trophy for their top finishes.

MASTER MATHEMATICIANS - South Fulton Fifth graders recently won the elementary division of the University of Tennessee, Martin, Quiz Bowl. The group is pictured on campus with a statue of South Fulton Schools alumnus Dr. Paul D. (P.D.) Blaylock, son of Paul Blaylock of South Fulton and the late Ruth Blaylock. Dr. Blaylock is a lawyer and a doctor in Portland, Ore. Members of the team are, back row, left to right, Grace Ann Merritt, Jake Lilly, John Grant McConnell; second row, Michelle Henderson, Beau Britt, Garrett Slaughter, Jonathan Morris; and front, Drew Barclay. Not pictured is Halle Gore. (Photo submitted)
Pictured are front, left to right, Josh Hollowell and Skylar Britt, and back, left to right, Carter Arnold and Charyl Craddock, math teacher at SFHS. Hollowell, Britt and Arnold made a clean sweep at a recent math competition, garnering first, second and third place. (Photo by Benita Fuzzell)

Secretary of State Hargett to deliver UTM spring commencement address

The University of Tennessee at Martin commencement will be May 3 with Secretary of State Tre Hargett delivering the commencement address. Set for 11 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, 769 graduates are eligible to receive diplomas.

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Nell Gullet, UT Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer, and the processional marshals will be Dr. Jefferson S. Rogers, faculty senate president; Dr. Brian Donavant, faculty senate vice president; Nancy J. Yarbrough, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Andrew A. Wilson, vice chancellor for university advancement.

Delana Easley, UT Martin accompanist, will perform the processional and Tomaso Albinoni will perform special music.

Immediately following commencement, a reception will be hosted in Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Hargett was elected by the Tennessee General Assembly to serve as Tennessee’s 37th Secretary of State in 2009 and re-elected in 2013. He is the chief executive officer of the department of state with oversight of more than 300 employees. He also serves on 15 boards and commissions, on two of which he is the presiding member, impacting every department and agency in state government.

Hargett earned a B.B.A. in accounting with honors from Memphis State University and his M.B.A. from the University of Memphis. A native of Ripley, he now lives in Hendersonville with his wife, Dawn, and their two sons.

Each graduate will receive up to six free tickets to admit his or her guests.

Overflow seating with a video and audio feed of the ceremony will be provided in the fieldhouse for all guests without tickets. Graduates can get their tickets at the Grand Finale Senior Walk on April 23 and later that afternoon - immediately following the student commencement practice in the Elam Center. Tickets for graduating students will remain available in the Office of Academic Records until 4:30 p.m., May 2.

Any tickets not claimed by 4:30 p.m., May 2, will be distributed to the general public at a designated area outside the Elam Center beginning at 9 a.m. before the spring commencement ceremony, May 3.
Ruffin speaks at leadership conference

Education requires ‘committed community’

By Nick McFerron
nmcferron@jacksonsun.com

Jackson-Madison County Schools Superintendent Dr. Verna Ruffin was the keynote speaker Tuesday at the African-American Leadership Conference, where she spoke about the need for community involvement in education.

"Money is not the only thing that matters to be able to get things better on behalf of children," Ruffin said. "It takes a committed community, it takes all of you playing a significant role, not only in the jobs you do, but by participating in various committees and various groups that can help propel the system forward on behalf of children."

Ruffin also spoke about taking the position of superintendent in Jackson-Madison County and the questions people asked her about the decision.

"I've been asked a number of times, 'Why, why would you go there? Why did you choose Jackson?'" Ruffin said. "Even in the interview process a number of times, being challenged like, 'Why do you want this job?' and I'm thinking, 'Why wouldn't I want this job?'"

Ruffin continued to encourage WestStar Leadership Program members to push forward and to look at their past as preparation for their future.

"For a very long time, I feel that I was prepared for this job as you are prepared to go out and lead within your communities," Ruffin said. "Your experiences that you have before you land where you are are better where you are."

The conference continued with speakers presenting topics ranging from financial strategies to the future of historically African-American colleges and universities.

Other speakers at the conference included Glenn Vaulx, interim president at Lane College; Terry Moore, a financial adviser with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management; Robert Nunley, coordinator for the Martin Housing Authority's Learning Enrichment Center; Gloria Sweet-Love, NAACP state president; and Circuit Court Judge Nathan Pride.

The conference was held at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center on Tuesday. NICK MCFERRON/THE JACKSON SUN

Nick McFerron, 425-9643
Ripley resident holds book signing

Ripley resident Latonia Peat-Bailey, daughter of Pastor Charlie and Delois Peat of Ripley, will be celebrating the release of her first book, "Love In All the Wrong Places" with a book signing at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Ripley Center at 1 pm. on Saturday, May 3. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin cum laude.

2 schools offers help to Mid-Continent students

MAYFIELD, KY (KFVS) - Kentucky Wesleyan College has announced it will offer a residential scholarship to students transferring from Mid-Continent University. The University of Tennessee Martin is also offering to help out displaced students.

The scholarship made up of guaranteed funds will help assist students in their transition to campus life at KWC.

Representatives from admissions and financial aid at Kentucky Wesleyan will be on hand at KWC on Monday, April 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Los Pinos at 1106 Cuba Road in Mayfield.

They will discuss the admissions process, scholarships, transferring of credits, online degree options, and information on the nearly 40 academic majors and pre-professional programs available.

"For students who want to stay in the environment of a small, private, church affiliated college in close proximity, Kentucky Wesleyan College would be a good fit," said Director of Admissions, Rashad Smith. "Our goal is to ensure their credits will transfer to KWC and to make the process for them go as smoothly as possible," he added.

Kentucky Wesleyan College has a rolling admissions deadline and there is no cost to apply, according to the school.

Mid-Continent University students are also invited to a University of Tennessee at Martin information night, 4-7 p.m., Tuesday, April 29, at the Commerce Center in Mayfield. The center is located at 201 East College Street, across from the Majestic Steakhouse.

A financial aid counselor will be on hand to answer questions about financial aid.

Students in Fulton, Graves and Hickman counties can attend UT Martin without paying out-of-state tuition.

The application fee will be waived for Mid-Continent students applying to attend UT Martin, according to the school.

Students may apply free, online at www.kwc.edu/apply or call the admissions office at 270-852-3120.
Lego camps offered for youth by UTM Parsons

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering LEGO camps for children and youth at 9-11 a.m., June 9-13, at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

The first camp, taught by Jennifer Franklin, is titled "Early Simple Machines," and it is held for children ages 5-7. Participants will build fun and simple models like a seesaw, rolling vehicle, spinning top, raft and many more. By playing with and manipulating the models, they experience pulleys, levers, gears and wheels and axles, while exploring energy, buoyancy and balance. Duplos are used for projects.

The second camp, taught by Powell Franklin, is titled "Advanced Simple and Powered Machines," and it is held for youth ages 8-12. Participants will build and explore machines and mechanisms, investigate motorized machines, calibrate and capture wind and study gearing mechanisms.

The activities enable students to work as young scientists, engineers and designers and provide them with settings, tools and tasks that promote design technology, science and mathematics. Participants involve themselves in real world investigations and problem solving. They make assumptions and predictions, and they design and make models, then observe the behavior of these models. They reflect and re-design, then record and present their findings. Participants work in teams of two or three.

The cost is $140 per camper (T-shirt included), and enrollment is limited.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082, or register at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/lego.php.

Writers Clubhouse for Children offered by UTM-P Center

UTM is sponsoring a Young Writer's Clubhouse course. The course will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon, June 18, on the UTM Parsons Center campus. Children, 3rd-5th grade, will have the opportunity to sharpen their writing skills in a relaxed environment. The course, titled "Picture Your Words," will show students how pictures inspire many forms of writing, such as poetry, songs and stories. Registration fee to attend is $35, with limited enrollment. To register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
TN secretary of state to address UTM grads

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The program is set for 11 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center and 769 graduates are eligible to receive diplomas.

A live commencement webcast will be available courtesy of the OVC Digital Network at http://www.ovcdigitalnetwork.com/showcase/?Live=1579.

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes will preside over the exercises and confer degrees. Dr. Nell Gullet, UT Alumni Association Alumni Distinguished Service Professor, will be the mace bearer and the processional marshals will be Dr. Jefferson S. Rogers, faculty senate president; Dr. Brian Donavant, faculty senate vice president; Nancy J. Yarbrough, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Andrew A. Wilson, vice chancellor for university advancement.

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Previously, he served as chairman of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. Before that, he was regional vice president for a publicly traded emergency services provider.

Hargett also served for 10 years in the Tennessee House of Representatives, during which time he was twice elected Republican leader by his colleagues. He was a driving force behind several measures to increase transparency in government, including increased electronic disclosure of campaign contributions and increasing the requirements of officials' public statements of interest.

A native of Ripley and a graduate of Ripley High School, Hargett earned a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting with honors from the former Memphis State University and a master of business administration degree from the University of Memphis.

He now lives in Hendersonville with his wife, Dawn, and their two sons.
UTM team to compete for national Agricultural Innovation prize

Three University of Tennessee at Martin students will compete for the national Agricultural Innovation Prize on Friday and Saturday at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Agriculture majors Shawn Butler, of Jackson, Austin Scott, of Hickory Valley, and Daniel Wiggins, of Friendship, will compete in a 30-team field that includes MIT, Yale, Harvard, Penn State, Purdue and other nationally known universities.

The UT Martin team was a first alternate for the competition but was added when another team was disqualified for exceeding $100,000 in receipts for its company. The team will now receive $1,000 for making the field and is eligible to win one of four semifinalist awards at $25,000 each or the $100,000 grand prize.

According to its website, the Agricultural Innovation Prize encourages "cutting-edge technology in agricultural and food systems." The site notes that the Ag Prize "seeks students who are interested in transforming global food systems into one that facilitates sufficiency and resilience."

The UT Martin team is called FarmSpec and has invented a "flex roller crimper," a piece of farm equipment used to destroy cover crops in sustainable agricultural practices. Faculty members have assisted the students in their work and will prepare them for the contest. The students have submitted a provisional patent for their invention through the University of Tennessee Research Foundation.

"This (the competition) will definitely give our university very positive visibility in the national agricultural community and will greatly help our efforts with NextFarm," said Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Science. "We are excited and very proud of the team."

The students are developing their company in cooperation with the NextFarm Agricultural Innovation Accelerator, a project of Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center, Memphis Bioworks Foundation and Ag Innovation Development Group. NextFarm's goal is to help start and grow new agricultural businesses in Tennessee.

Carol Reed, Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center director, and Dr. Rachna Tewari, assistant professor of agricultural economics, will travel with the team to Wisconsin.

LATONIA PEAT-BAILEY, the daughter of Charlie and Delois Peat, of Ripley, and a cum laude graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin, will celebrate the release of her first book, Love In All the Wrong Places, with a book signing at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 3rd at The University of Tennessee at Martin, Ripley Center. The public is invited.
UTM to hold info event

Mid-Continent University students planning to attend another institution are invited to a University of Tennessee at Martin information night Tuesday from 4-7 at the Commerce Center in Mayfield, Ky.

The center is located at 201 East College St., across from Majestic Steakhouse.

UT Martin officials will be on hand to discuss undergraduate and graduate programs, both traditional and online. Among the university’s academic offerings is the bachelor of interdisciplinary studies, designed for working adults.

A financial aid counselor will also attend to answer questions about financial aid.

Students in Fulton, Graves and Hickman counties in western Kentucky can attend UT Martin without paying out-of-state tuition. The application fee will also be waived for Mid-Continent students applying to attend UT Martin.

For more information, call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at (731) 881-7020.

It was recently announced that officials at the financially struggling Mid-Continent University have decided to close the school on June 30. The final day of classes is set for May 2 and graduation is May 10.

Mid-Continent had announced in February that financial woes might force it to close. The financial situation stems from the U.S. Department of Education’s rejection of financial aid paperwork.

UTM students to compete for national ag prize

April 24th, 2014 - By Steve James

Three West Tennessee UT-Martin students compete tomorrow and Saturday for the national Agricultural Innovation Prize at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Ag majors Shawn Butler of Madison County, Austin Scott of Hardeman County, and Daniel Wiggins of Crockett County, will compete in a 30-team field that includes MIT, Yale, Harvard, Penn State, Purdue and other nationally known universities.

The UTM team is called FarmSpec and has invented a “flex roller crimper,” which is a piece of farm equipment used to destroy cover crops in sustainable agricultural practices.

The students are developing their company in cooperation with the NextFarm Agricultural Innovation Accelerator, a project of Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center, Memphis Bioworks Foundation and Ag Innovation Development Group. NextFarm’s goal is to help start and grow new agri-businesses in Tennessee.

Dean of the UTM College of Agriculture and Applied Science Dr. Todd Winters says the competition gives UTM very positive visibility in the national agricultural community and will greatly help their efforts with NextFarm.

http://wcmt.com/
Reading clinic set for June at UTM

A reading clinic for children in grades 2-12 will be offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies June 2-26 on campus.

The event will be held 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

This clinic is a sequential and intensive course for reading improvement taught by experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center. The clinic is for students in grades 2-12 who need extra support and practice in reading.

Students 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. Students meet twice per week for one hour per meeting.

The clinic will be offered on either a Monday/Wednesday; Tuesday/Thursday; or Monday-Thursdays schedule, with appointments scheduled at 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30.

The cost is either $100, plus a $25 workbook fee, for two meetings per week; or $200, plus a $25 workbook fee, for four meetings per week.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082.

Variety of classes available during annual Kid College

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer Kid College for children in kindergarten through fifth grades June 2-12.

Kid College is a nine-day program with a goal to provide a fun-learning experience for children. There are over 60 classes for children to choose from and they select the classes they want to take based on their interests and grade level. They may take one class or as many as five classes.

Classes for kindergarten through second grade include Space Camp, Personality Pets, Magnificent Mad Scientists, Crafting Like Crazy, Creepy Crawly, Fun in the Sun, Chemical Reactions, Drawing and Painting Masters, T-Rex and Friends, Football Fun, CheerLEADing and Marvelous Messy Fun.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082.

UT Martin robotics camps offered for children, youth

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering Robotics Camps from June 16-25 at UT Martin.

WeDo Camp for ages 5-7 will be held from 9-11 a.m. June 16-20.

Participants will design, build and control motorized robots. They will also program the robot and add sensors to complete challenges.

The LEGO Education WeDo Construction set is an easy-to-use introduction to robotics for young students. They will be able to build LEGO models featuring working motors and sensors; program their models; and explore a series of cross-curricular, theme-based activities while developing their skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The camp will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, and 9 a.m.-noon on Wednesday through Friday.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or register online at www.mindstormseducation.com.

Students also become more skilled in communication, organization and research, which helps prepare them for future success in higher levels of schooling and in the workplace.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/summer.php.
Weakley County students receive scholarships to attend University of Tennessee at Martin

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

- Lakyn Bell, daughter of Stephanie Legens, of Martin, and David Bell, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor’s Award.
- Andrew Maxwell, son of Steven and Tammy Maxwell, of McKenzie, will be a freshman. He received the UTM McWhorter Scholarship/Workshop.
- Mercedes Love Rubio, daughter of Ben and Debra Rubio, of Martin, will be a junior. She received the Raymond & Maxine Bratcher Award and the Fats Everett Memorial Scholarship.
- Amber G. Taylor, daughter of Donna Tackett, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Abe Plough/Andy Holt Award.
- Cassidy Wren, daughter of Dale and Christy Wren, of Greenfield, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

Two locals join Phi Kappa Phi

Corey Schaal and Megan Gielis, both of Paris, recently were initiated into Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

Schaal was initiated into the University of Mississippi chapter. Gielis was initiated into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter.

Membership is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors, who have completed at least 72 semester hours, are eligible for membership. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation’s oldest collegiate honor society.

AWARD PRESENTED — The Department of Military Science and Leadership at The University of Tennessee at Martin recently held their awards ceremony in the Russell Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center. Aline Roberts, honorary Tennessee state regent of The Daughters of American Colonists, presented an award to (left) Cadet Kelly James. She is a health and human performance major from Brookeville, Md. Cadet James is a three-year Army ROTC scholarship cadet and a member of the UT Martin Rifle Team. The DAC Society was pleased to present this award.
UTM’s Butler to play in WNBA

The University of Tennessee at Martin senior guard Heather Butler will continue her dreams of playing professional basketball with the WNBA’s San Antonio Stars after signing a training-day contract as announced by head coach and general manager Dan Hughes last week. Butler becomes the first Skyhawk and second Ohio Valley Conference player to be invited to a WNBA training camp.

“This is an absolute dream come true,” said Butler. “Ever since I was little I have dreamed of playing at the next level and to be able to compete against some of the best players in the world. When Coach Hughes called to see if I was interested, I was completely surprised that an opportunity like this happened so quickly. Being able to have this opportunity is a complete shock and honor. Having your dreams right in the palm of your hands is a true blessing. I am just ready to go play and prove myself.”

Butler will go down as one of the greats to ever wear a Skyhawk jersey. The 5-4 guard closed her career as the top scorer in UT Martin and Ohio Valley Conference history with 2,865 points which ranked 16th on the NCAA’s all-time leader-board. Named the 2014 OVC Player of the Year, Butler ranked ninth in the country in scoring with 23.6 points per game along with setting her third NCAA three-point record with 392 career three-pointers made. Included in her high scoring output was a truly historical level of consistency. Butler scored in double figures in 129 consecutive games – every game of her career – ranking as the second longest streak in NCAA history. Her 129 game double figures streak ranks fifth on the all-time NCAA list.

A native of Medina, Tenn., Butler was tabbed a Senior CLASS Award All-American first team selection. Along with her numerous accomplishments on the court – including four All-OVC first team honors, two outright OVC season championships, four OVC Tournament championships and four consecutive NCAA Tournament berths – Butler was named a Final Five finalist for the Nancy Lieberman Award. She was also a nominee for the AllState WBCA Good Works team, CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-America second team and OVC Scholar-Athlete.

San Antonio added three players in the WNBA Draft welcoming Notre Dame’s Kayla McBride, Astou Ndour and Bri Kulas from Missouri. The Stars training camp begins on Sunday, April 27. The team will open the preseason, on May 2 against the Tulsa Shock, with the regular season opener set for Friday, May 16 at the defending Eastern Conference champion Atlanta Dream.

Weakley County Students Receive Scholarships to Attend UT Martin

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Weakley County students receiving scholarships included Lakyn Bell, daughter of Stephanie Legens, of Martin, and David Bell, of Martin; Andrew Maxwell, son of Steven and Tammy Maxwell, of McKenzie; Mercedes Love Rubio, daughter of Ben and Debra Rubio, of Martin; Amber G. Taylor, daughter of Donna Tackett, of Martin; and Cassidy Wren, daughter of Dale and Christy Wren, of Greenfield.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Inman students show off math skills in regionals

BY MELANIE HOWARD
POST-INTELLIGENCER

Inman Middle School students brought home two first-place team awards and several individual honors from a recent regional math competition.

The Inman students were among 310 students from 20 different public and private schools in West Tennessee who participated in the April 22 math competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Students were given awards in each grade level based on individual test scores.

In the team competition the top four from each school were totaled to get the team score.

Inman seventh-graders Kester Nucum and Robert Kenworthy won the first- and second-place spots, respectively, in the seventh-grade math competition.

The seventh-grade team, which included Delia McDevitt and Luke Weatherly as well as Nucum and Kenworthy, won the first-place team award for the seventh grade.

Inman students also brought home the first-place team award for sixth grade with team members Alec Watkins, Kara Barnhart, Ben Murphey and Jack Foster.

In the eighth-grade competition Joshua Safin tied for second place with a student from Evangelical Christian School.

Watkins won third place in the sixth-grade individual competition while Murphey took the fifth-place spot in that grade.
UTM holds art competition

The University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center Student Ambassadors, led by English Professor Ashley Goulder, hosted an Earth Day art competition at the center for K-12 students in Lauderdale County. Children of faculty, staff and students at the Ripley Center were also welcome to make art pieces designed from trash and recyclables. Trophies and cash prizes were given for first, second and third place winner. Volunteer judges included Library Science Professor Nancy Dodson, Art Professor Gene Gott, Communications Professor Owen Lilly, and local artist, Doph Smith.

The student winners were as follows:

Overall, Christopher Hildreth of Halls High School for “The War.”

Group One-High School
First place, Melisha Polk of Ripley High School for “Girl Magazine.”
Second place, Rodney Phillips of Ripley High School for “Mountain Dew Dragon.”
Third place, Kelsey Ruff of Ripley High School for “What Time is it? It’s Time to Recycle.”

Group Two-third through sixth grade
First place, Alexis Paris of Halls Elementary School for “Toy Box.”
Second place, Heather Conrad of Halls Elementary School for “Can You Dig it?”
Third place, Makayla Henderson of Ripley Primary School for “UTM.”

Group Three-first through third grade
First place, Jeremy Jackson of Ripley Primary School for “Godzilla.”
Second place, Kiaya Lenderman Ripley Primary School for “Watering Hole.”
Third place, Layla King of Ripley Primary School for “Reaching High.”

Group Four-Pre-K through second grade
First place, Sean Henderson of Ripley Primary School for “helicopter.”
Second place, Ruth Goulder of Munford Elementary School for “Spring.”
Third place, Allie Henderson of Ripley Primary for “Birdfeeder.”

Students show art talent

Local students won several awards at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center’s Earth Day art competition.
The Student Ambassadors of the UTM Parsons Center sponsored a 5K to benefit Relay for Life on Saturday, April 26. Pictured above from left were the winners: Jacie Hinson (1st), Andrea Davis (2nd), Andrea Yeiser (3rd), Tianiita Duke (4th) and LaDonna Haggard and Lea Glass (tie for 5th). The Student Ambassadors wish to thank everyone who came out to help support this worthy cause.
Cookbook author comes home to Queen City

MARTIN – Rebecca Russell Jones, the author of Sassy in the Kitchen, continues her cookbook tour. The month of May will open in Middle Tennessee, Clarksville, for the author better known as Sassy.

"The Queen City is where I grew up, lived, loved almost everything about going to school, cherished my friends and neighbors, rode around town on Friday and Saturday nights until curfew time came, danced until the music stopped, and talked way too much in class during high school when I should have been listening more."

Jones said she will never forget her hometown. "Clarksville is a place where I will always remember my humble roots and through the years have learned to cherish my past. The mere thought of returning home brings back the vintage of aromas, a simple heritage and times when just holding hands mended more than a prescription."

It all began in Clarksville, and you can read about how Sassy (Jones) became the person she is in the cookbook itself. "Most of who I am began in the kitchen and I'm still in God's design as unfinished," Sassy said.

"It's going to be a grand visit. I'll see three of my former home economics teachers from high school and some others who are especially dear who inspired me to believe in myself," she said.

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 a slotted spoon from 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.

"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.

After signing first edition copies of the cookbook before Christmas at Kirkland's Antiques Gift Interiors and Lighting in Martin, Sassy has soared. The cookbook is now in 26 states, Australia, England, Denmark and Germany.

"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.

Jones graduated in 1973 from UT Martin and earned her master's degree as well. She has experience in teaching culinary and hospitality to students ranging from ages 5 to 75.
"Whether you are a novice cook, experimental or haven't succeeded just yet," Jones said she delights in sharing of 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.

"A percentage of the proceeds from "Sassy In The Kitchen" during this Mother's Day month, go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as a celebration for the life of my son, Harris, as a cancer survivor."

The Clarksville events will be 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Friday, May 2, at Smith-Trahern Mansion (Tastings and cookbook signing), and 2-4 p.m, Sunday, May 4, at Gingham Cafe (Recipe tastings and cookbook signing).

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Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Inducts New Members

The following local residents recently were initiated into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines:

Ryan Clark of Gleason, Abbey McDaniel of Greenfield, Laura Croom of Greenfield, Stephanie Sellers of Greenfield, Robert DeYeso of Martin, Andrew Jordan of Martin, Matthew Graner of Martin, Danielle Fuller of Martin, Christy Lee of Martin, Saumil Patel of Martin, Brianna Foss of Martin, Mallory Simpson of Martin, Clinton Smith of Martin, Todd Winters of Martin, Anton Garcia-Fernandez of Martin, Brien Luck of Martin, Mary Jerrolds of Martin, Andrea Argo of Martin, Charles Julian of Martin, and Jessica Silva of Martin.

These residents are among approximately 32,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors, having at least 72 semester hours, are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff, and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.