Special education seminar set

Denise Connell, board certified behavior analyst, will speak at the Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar from 5-8 p.m. Monday in room 111 of Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Registration will be held from 4:30-5.

Ms. Connell earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from UT Martin in 1988 and a master's degree in psychology from East Tennessee State University in 1991. She worked in the mental health field, serving children and families, until 2002, when she joined UT Martin as a lecturer in psychology.

She completed the behavior analysis and therapy program at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and became a board certified behavior analyst in 2007. She provides consultation to local schools, children and their families in the West Tennessee area.

Her presentation will discuss the role a behavior analyst plays in consultations with schools and families, as well as components and barriers to effective consultation.

She will walk participants through the process, including referral, assessment, support plans, staff training and goal monitoring.

Participants may obtain 0.3 continuing education credits through UT Martin at a cost of $10 per person. CEU request forms will be available at the seminar.

The Bettie Graham Seminar Series on Diagnosis and Early Intervention of Learning Difficulties is hosted by the UT Martin College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences and is made possible by a generous endowment from Newell and Bettie Graham of Union City.

For more information, contact the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences at (731) 881-7125.

At the college level

Two Obion County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-16 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Amanda Embrey and Zackary Williamson each received a Freshman Scholarship. Miss Embrey is the daughter of Sandy Clark of South Fulton, while Williamson is the son of Jim and Amy Williamson of Union City.

Both students will be freshmen.
Weakley County Students Receive Scholarships To Attend UT Martin

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement.

* Alexis Cashion, daughter of Chris and Janice Cashion, of Dresden, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.
* Rachel Graves, daughter of Billy and Lavonda Graves, of Greenfield, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.
* Catherine Mathews, daughter of Jeff and Beth Mathews, of Sharon, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.
* Brianna Maya, daughter of Danny and Alicia Donaldson, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner Scholarship.
* James Rance Morris, son of Rusty and Angie Morris, of Gleason, will be a freshman. He received the Freshman Scholarship.
* Katelyn M. Sweatt, of Dresden, daughter of Bobby and Sarah King, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.
* Hilary Whitten, daughter of Todd and Tina Whitten, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman 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.

Spring Dance Scheduled For April 9-10

"Language of the Soul"

Students in the University of Tennessee at Martin K-12 dance education licensure program will present their spring ensemble performance, "Language of the Soul," at 8 p.m., April 9-10, in the Fine Arts Building's Harriet Fulton Theatre. Admission is $10 for adults and $5 for students. Children 12 years and younger are free.

This performance will feature new student choreography. Student choreographers include Leslie Howard, a senior from Saulsbury; Corey Smith, a senior from Dyersburg; Bria Evans, a senior from Antioch; Jenna York, a junior from Dickson; Erin Windham, a sophomore from Nolensville; Emily Summersville, a sophomore from Wingo, Ky.; D'Angelous Stevenson, a senior from Memphis; Ciera Fielding, a junior from Jackson; and Jayla Brown, a sophomore from Memphis.

reshonda Battas, a senior from Memphis, and Fielding will perform new solo choreography created by Sarah McCormick, assistant professor of dance.

All the students are dance education majors except for Howard, who is a dance minor, and Summerville, who is earning a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies. The K-12 dance education licensure program is part of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

Tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information, contact McCormick at 731-881-7335 or by email at smmccormick@utm.edu.

UTM scholarships announced

Several area students have been awarded a scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement.

Ályssa Ridenour, of Fulton, daughter of Turner Ridenour III and April Elkins, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner Scholarship.

Amanda Embrey, daughter of Sandy Clark, of South Fulton, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.

Zackary Williamson, son of Jim and Amy Williamson, of Union City, Tenn., will be a freshman. He received the Freshman Scholarship.

Alexis Cashion, daughter of Chris and Janice Cashion, of Dresden, Tenn., will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.

Rachel Graves, daughter of Billy and Lavonda Graves, of Greenfield, Tenn., will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.

Catherine Mathews, daughter of Jeff and Beth Mathews, of Sharon, Tenn., will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.

Brianna Maya, daughter of Danny and Alicia Donaldson, of Martin, Tenn., will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner Scholarship.

James Rance Morris, son of Rusty and Angie Morris, of Gleason, Tenn., will be a freshman. He received the Freshman Scholarship.

Katelyn M. Sweatt, of Dresden, Tenn., daughter of Bobby and Sarah King, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.

Hilary Whitten, daughter of Todd and Tina Whitten, of Martin, Tenn., will be a freshman. She received the Freshman 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.
Members of the UT-Martin Selmer Center's student ambassador program Sec. Amber Nixon, Pres. Ashley Jolly and V.P. Averi Yalda work to prepare an Italian meal March 25 outside the campus library as Darryl Weatherford enjoys his freshly prepared food. The ambassadors were working to raise money for their student program and Relay for Life with half of the proceeds going to each cause. The Student Ambassador program is designed to provide local UT-Martin students with more opportunities and events focused on them. For more information on the program call Jolly or the UT-Martin Selmer Center's Director Allen Youngerman at (731) 646-1636.

INDEPENDENT APPEAL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015

By Jeff Whitten
Head News Writer

There is a new group at the University of Tennessee-Martin McNairy County/Selmer Center.

The UTM Student Ambassadors were established a month or two ago, according to UTM McNairy/Selmer Center Director Alan Youngerman.

"We don't have a lot of social organizations at the campus here, but they wanted to form a social/service group," Youngerman said.

The group will help with recruiting for the campus, with community service and community outreach.

The ambassadors will help to organize the Spring Fling and Fall Festival so students will have some fun activities, as well as a couple of Student Appreciation Days during the year.

The group is raising money to help pay for some of these activities. On March 25, the group held an Italian Dinner Night to raise funds for Relay for Life and the Student Ambassador Fund and did a popcorn sale in February. They also sold cookies to professors and students.

Youngerman said fund-raising is going pretty well and that the group is self-supporting. There are about 16 ambassadors at present. Future ambassadors will have to fill out an application form that will be reviewed by the group's officers. They will have to be at least in their second quarter and have decent academic records.

"It's open to everybody," Youngerman said about the group.

Ashley Jolley is the president, Averi Yalda is the vice-president and Amber Nixon is the secretary.

Youngerman, Sandy King and Kathy Donnenworth serve as advisers for the group.

The ambassadors may also be helping with the Kids College program, which will be this summer for young students in kindergarten through the fifth grade from June 22 through June 26.

"They will be taking some really fun classes," Youngerman said.

This includes science, photography and countries around the world, in which they will study a different country each day.

"They will learn some language, eat some food and play some games of the different countries," Youngerman said.

Students will also do things like building volcanoes in the science class.

Youngerman said they are trying to get someone to come and talk about rockets and space travel.

"It's going to be a fun week. They'll learn a lot and have a good time," Youngerman said.
Fayette Academy Students Selected for Honor Band

Last December, eleven Fayette Academy band students applied for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 36th Annual Honor Band Festival. On February 22, 2015, nine of these students selected by the UT-Martin Music Department traveled to Martin, Tennessee to participate in one of the UT-Martin’s 2015 Honor Bands. These fine young musicians spent Thursday and Friday rehearsing several noteworthy musical selections with clinicians from around the country, and performed a splendid concert at the UT-Martin Fine Arts Recital Hall on Saturday, February 24. Participating Fayette Academy students were (pictured from left to right, front to back): Casey Melton (8th grade), Anna Green (Senior), Emily Webb (Junior), Nick Polzin (Junior), Jacob Cronogue (8th grade), Ryan Gersava (Sophomore), Madison Morris (Junior), Caleb Weatherly (Sophomore), and Emma Park (8th grade, not pictured). Fayette Academy’s Band Director is Daniel Hinson.

http://www.chattanoogan.com/

Student Investors Produce Solid Return For TVA In 2014

Thursday, April 2, 2015

University students in the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Investment Challenge Program produced a double-digit return on their stock portfolios for the federal corporation in 2014, "The students exercised diligence and responsibility managing their investment portfolios," said TVA Vice President and Treasurer Tammy Wilson. "They produced solid results for TVA and gained valuable experience for what we hope will be rewarding careers within TVA’s service territory.”

The return for the total program, involving student teams from 25 colleges and universities in the seven-state TVA service area, was 10.53 percent. Three teams exceeded the Standard & Poor’s average and will receive performance awards. The winners and their returns on investment are:

- Austin Peay State University, 22.67 percent;
- University of Kentucky, 17.83 percent; and
- Alabama A&M University, 16.33 percent.

TVA’s Investment Challenge Program is a partnership between TVA and the universities that provides a unique hands-on experience in financial asset management for the students and performance-based awards the universities can use to enhance their business school resources.

Student teams actively manage real stock portfolios for TVA, designing long-term investment strategies and selecting investments under the guidance of faculty members and within investment guidelines established by TVA.

Thousands of students have participated in the program since it began in 1998, and a number of them have been hired by TVA and other employers in the region after graduation.

TVA initially provided $1.9 million from its long-term asset retirement funds to start the program. Through 2014, the program has grown to over $13 million.

The other participating universities are: Belmont University, Christian Brothers University, East Tennessee State University, Lipscomb University, Middle Tennessee State University, Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, Murray State University, Tennessee State University, Tennessee Tech University, Trevecca Nazarene University, Union University, University of Alabama at Huntsville, University of Memphis, University of Mississippi, University of North Alabama, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, University of Tennessee at Martin, Vanderbilt University, Western Carolina University and Western Kentucky University.
HALL OF FAME INDUCTION — Savant Learning Systems, Inc., was inducted into the West Tennessee Innovation Hall of Fame at an Igniting Innovation event on March 26. The event was sponsored by the Ned Ray McWherter Institute for Collaboration and Innovation. Companies or individuals chosen for inclusion in the Hall of Fame have made significant and impactful contributions to their communities and West Tennessee through innovation. Savant Learning Systems, Inc., strives to be a community partner by using local resources and revitalizing Weakley County through employment opportunities and strategic investments. Pictured are (from left) Rachael Wolters, an animal science major from Culleoka; Taylor Martin, a business management major from Union City; Randy Brundige, mayor of Martin; Jared Presson, an electrical engineering major from Paris; Spencer Atkins, a philosophy and English major from Munford; Shelby Johnson, a theatre major from Chapmansboro; Emily McCartney, an accounting and finance major from South Fulton; Dr. Nassar Nassar, president and CEO, Savant Learning Systems, Inc.; Dr. Michelle Arant, chief academic officer, Savant Learning Systems, Inc.; Tommy Legins, executive vice president and CFO, Savant Learning Systems, Inc.; Rebecca Lund, an accounting and finance major from Martin; and Kristen Welch, a health and human performance major from Beach Bluff. The students are all members of the sophomore Innovators class. Not pictured is Andrea Murrell, a nursing major from Memphis.
Leadership Conference is April 17

Lane College president will be keynote speaker for 17th annual event

The 17th annual African American Leadership Conference, sponsored by UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program, will focus on “Challenges and Opportunities.”

The conference is scheduled for 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on April 17 at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson. Dr. Logan Hampton, president of Lane College, will serve as this year’s keynote speaker.

The conference schedule is as follows:

- 8 a.m. – Registration and continental breakfast.
- 8:30 – Welcoming remarks: Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor, the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Charlie Deal, executive director, WestStar Leadership Program.
- 8:45 – Keynote address: Hampton.
- 9:30 – “Education: Common Core panel discussion,” moderated by Dr. Charlotte Fisher, director of operations/deputy supervisor, Tipton County Schools (WestStar class of 2014).

Conference from Page 1

- 10:15 – Break.
- 11:15 – “Suicide Prevention and the African American,” Gwen Hamer, director of education and development, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.
- Noon – lunch.
- 1 p.m. – “Fighting Crime in West Tennessee,” Tyreece Miller, captain, Jackson police department, and Bill Rawls, major, city of Brownsville.
- 2:30 – Awards and door prizes.

Marcus Heaston, principal, Covington High School; Tiffany Taylor, principal, Denmark Elementary School; and Dr. June Murry, principal, Liberty Technology Magnet High School, will serve on the education discussion panel.

In addition to WestStar, the program is made possible by AT&T, the city of Brownsville, the city of Covington, First South Bank, Brownsville, Jackson State Community College, West Tennessee Healthcare, the UT Center for Public Service, and Hardin, Crockett and Haywood counties. Evelyn Robertson Jr., of Whiteville, will serve as conference emcee. Robertson is a 1997 WestStar Leadership graduate.

Registration is $35 per person, which includes breakfast and lunch. All participants must be registered by April 13. Credit cards are accepted online at www.utmforever.com/aa2015. Payment may also be mailed to WestStar-UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. All checks should be made payable to WestStar.
**Ex-Microsoft employee to speak**

**Phi Kappa Phi induction slated**

The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society will induct new members during a ceremony at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center.

Both junior and senior students, as well as graduate students and faculty, will be included.

The ceremony will be followed by a banquet at 6:30 in Duncan Ballroom.

Harold Duane Campbell, former Microsoft employee and a UT Martin graduate, will speak on “My Life at UT Martin and Microsoft” during the banquet. He will also perform “Deux Arabesques-I” by Claude Debussy.

Campbell is originally from Saurbly. He graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor of arts degree in music in 1981 and later received a master of arts degree in mathematics, with a concentration in computer science, from the former Memphis State University in 1983.

Campbell worked for Microsoft from 1985-2013. He held a variety of positions and spent most of his time working with Microsoft Word and Excel programs.

He and his wife currently live in the Seattle area.

Both the induction ceremony and the banquet are open to the public. Tickets are $20 and may be purchased at the UT Martin information desk on the second floor of the Boling University Center through April 2.

The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi is America’s oldest all-discipline collegiate honor society and awards its members more than $700,000 annually to finance further academic study.

For more information, contact Dr. BeckY Cox, associate professor of education, by email at beckyc@utm.edu.

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**Nitrogen the focus of UTM lecture**

Dr. Hugh Gorman, professor of environmental history and policy at Michigan Technological University, will present a lecture titled “Welcome to the Anthropocene! A Social History of the Nitrogen Cycle and the Challenge of Sustainability” at 7:30 p.m. April 9 in Watkins Auditorium at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Gorman is a historian and published author on historical interactions involving technological innovations, uses of the environment and system of governance. He plans to use history to inform policy discussions triggered by technological change, especially change that alters human relationships with the environment.

“Dr. Gorman has extensive experience studying and writing about the historical implications of technological innovations in our society,” said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of UT Martin Honors Programs.

“These topics have of course played a vital role in our development as a world superpower and in the massive population growth of the last century.”

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Crews at (731) 881-7436 or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.

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**UT Martin Pitcher more than just a good story**

**http://www.wpslocal6.com/**

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**Advanced photo course**

An advanced digital photography course will be offered at the Lee Academy for the Arts in Paris beginning Tuesday.

The course will be offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

Class times are 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays through April 28.

The course is intended as a follow-up to the basic digital photography class. Former Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agent Roger Hughes will be the course instructor.

Registration fee is $125 a person. For more information, call 731-881-7082.
UT Martin Students volunteer with Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center

Twenty students from UT Martin have partnered with Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center in South Fulton to provide a variety of services not otherwise available to the all-volunteer establishment.

Students will be working with the center to develop fundraising strategy and create print materials and presentations to solicit financial donors and additional involvement from area medical providers. Students will also be providing the center with marketing and branding support, as well as public relations materials.

“I am excited to be working with a very capable team to get the word out about the Good Samaritan and to encourage people to get involved,” said Janie Peery, a freshman public relations student from Fayetteville. “It’s an awesome task but definitely worthwhile.” Peery is one of the project’s two student team leaders.

“The Good Samaritan is doing incredible work already and our goal is just to make sure they get the support they need, as well as bring awareness to this wonderful clinic,” said Sara Palmer, a senior international studies major from Brentwood. “The university has many talented and driven students who are really pushing this forward and I know we will bring great things to this clinic.” Palmer leads the second student volunteer team.

The Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center is a Christian-based ministry providing primary medical care to the working uninsured in Weakley and Obion counties in Tennessee and Fulton and Hickman counties in Kentucky. The center has no paid staff and all healthcare providers offer their services free of charge.

“Health care is critical to the future of any community. It is at the core of success for the population of the community, from students to the workforce,” said Joyce Washington, adjunct instructor, UT Martin Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems. “Good Samaritan’s work is about providing access to wellness and health care for those who otherwise couldn’t afford it.” Washington is overseeing the student volunteer efforts.

Others interested in participating in this effort can contact Washington at 636-0220 or by email at jwash13@utm.edu.
S.H.A.P.E. Club Color Run set for Saturday

The second annual 5k Color Dash and Fun Run will take place Saturday at 9 a.m. beginning in front of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

A color run is a unique event in which bystanders spray participants with colored powder. Runners are encouraged to wear white clothing to capture the powder design as a keepsake.

The run is hosted by the UT Martin S.H.A.P.E. Club and the Martin Housing Authority. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. the day of the race and costs $25 per person. The first 150 registered runners will receive a 2015 race T-shirt. Proceeds will benefit the Martin Housing Authority’s after-school programs. Overall and age division awards will be presented, as well as a series of door prizes following the race.

Those interested may register online at www.raceit.com by searching for events in the Martin area.

COLOR RUN — Runners in the 2014 S.H.A.P.E. Club Color Run cross the finish line as bystanders spray them with colored powder. The 2015 Color Run is scheduled for Saturday.

UT MARTIN JACKSON CENTER OFFERS ONE-DAY ACT PREP CLASS

MARTIN—The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer a one-day ACT prep class from noon–4 p.m., April 11, at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

This comprehensive one-day course covers the wide range of subjects tested during the ACT, including mathematical skills, grammar usage and reading comprehension. Alex Beene, college and ACT advisor for Fayette County Schools, will instruct the course just in time for the April 18 testing date.

For more information, please visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php or call the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.
Highway Patrol to Host Shredding Event at UTM

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/

The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be helping local residents keep safe with proper disposal of their personal papers and materials.

This Friday on the campus of UT-Martin, the Highway Patrol’s Crimes Unit will host an event called “Shred-It”.

From 10:00 until 2:00, at the Bowling University Center, anyone is welcome to drop off documents for shredding at no charge.

Highway Patrol officials say they encourage people in the area to take advantage of the free service, which will help protect them from becoming victims of identity theft.

Community Members To Join UT Martin Piano Ensemble

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present a concert at 7:30 p.m., April 14, in the Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall. The performance is free and open to the public.

The student ensemble, directed by Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, will present works by a variety of composers, including Dvorak, Mozart, Beethoven, Joplin and Vandall.

Special guest performers from the surrounding community will also join the ensemble. Guest performers include Anna Johnson, of Dresden; William McDonald, of McKenzie; Grant Larcom, of Union City; Dan McDonough, of Martin; and UT Martin alumnae Linda Farmer, of Dresden, and Tori Russell, of Martin.

For more information, contact Harriss at 731-881-7411 or by email at claineh@utm.edu.
Rand Paul's appeal to young voters

Posted: Apr 08, 2015 5:09 PM CDT
Updated: Apr 08, 2015 11:02 PM CDT
By Amanda Roberts

Now that Kentucky Senator Rand Paul is running for president, there's speculation on how well he will fare with younger voters.

Exit polls show President Obama won the youth vote with 60 percent in 2012, and it's the young voters who could hold Rand Paul's ticket to the White House.

Allison Bruff, a baccalaureate student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, says she was checking the Internet as usual when she first found out Rand Paul was running for president. And, although she's interested in politics, she says she prefers it in digestible pieces, "A lot of us with technology today don't like to read long articles or watch the news for hours on end, so Twitter, with 125 characters, that could be huge," Bruff says.

This is what Political Science Assistant Professor Alexander Starling describes as the first part of the campaigning battle with millennials today.

"Reaching out to young people is a two part job," Starling says. "Not only do you have to vote for them, you have to get them to vote."

Starling says Paul shows promise with the younger generation: not only because of his online reach, but also some of his "younger" politics when it comes to his platform on the National Security Agency.

"Young people are connected on the Internet, social media, things like that. They really care about that message," Starling says.

Especially because many young people are generally turned off by Washington politics, like Bruff. She identifies as an independent, and says, "The closer he is to the middle, that will catch people of my age."

Although it's early, Bruff and her friends are at least intrigued by someone who could match their enthusiasm. "He seems youthful," Bruff says. "He seems young and energetic, and that appeals to people my age."

Starling says any presidential campaigner has to win the young vote to win the White House but, as for conversation in the classroom, he expects it to heat up — as it always does — closer to election.

Starling says Paul's positions on gay marriage and gay rights are issues on the candidate's platform that are potentially contentious with young voters.
47th Annual Spring College Rodeo Kicks Off April 9

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 47th annual spring college rodeo starting on Thursday, April 9 and going through Saturday, April 11 at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

Action starts at 7:30 p.m. on all three dates. All tickets are $6 on Thursday while adult tickets are $10 on Friday and $12 on Saturday. Tickets for ages 6-12 are $7 for both Friday and Saturday. UTM Students with ID can get in Friday and Saturday for $7. A $20 weekend pass is also available for all three nights. Ages 5 and under are free with a paid adult.

The UT Martin rodeo has been named the Ozark Region “Rodeo of the Year” for nine consecutive years. The event serves as a platform for the upcoming College National Finals Rodeo, which will be held in Casper, Wyo. on June 14-20.

Along with UT Martin, teams from the University of Arkansas-Cossatot, University of Arkansas-Monticello, East Mississippi Community College, Missouri Valley College, Murray State University, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Southern Arkansas University, University of Tennessee, Three Rivers College and University of West Alabama will take part in the festivities.

The defending national champion, the UT Martin men’s team currently ranks fifth nationally with 4,585 points. The UT Martin women’s squad currently ranks sixth in the Ozark Region with 1,065 points.

A crawfish supper will be held at the American Legion building on Wednesday, April 8 at 5:30 p.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available in addition to corn on the cob and new potatoes. Tickets are $10 per person and $25 per family.

Thursday night is Performance Night. Timed events and rough stock events – including bull riding – will be featured while fans can enter a drawing for a chance to win an MTD riding lawnmower.

Friday is Performance Night. Timed events and rough stock events (including bull riding) will be featured. A second drawing for an MTD riding lawnmower will take place while Friday also serves as “Tough Enough to Wear Pink” night to raise money for breast cancer awareness.

Saturday is Championship Finals, where the top-10 Ozark Region NIRA contestants will compete in a battle of the best of the best. On Saturday, a free barbecue lunch will take place at 11 a.m. at the downtown Martin Festival Park while a scholarship auction will follow at 12:30 p.m.

All proceeds will go to the UT Martin Rodeo Scholarship Fund.
AWARDS ACCEPTED — Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin campus radio station, WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” and student newspaper, The Pacer, staffs recently won several awards at the Southeast Journalism Conference in Atlanta. Among them were (from left, front) Blake Stevens, a senior from Brighton; Sheila Scott, a senior from Kenton; (middle) Ashleigh Burton, a junior from South Fulton; Lyndsey Hayslett, a junior from Union City; (back row) Chance Farmer, a senior from Union City; Toshya Leonard, a senior from Cordova; and Justin Glover, a sophomore from Hermitage.

Student radio, newspaper staffers earn recognition

Staff members from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s student-run radio station, WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” and campus newspaper, The Pacer, attended the Southeast Journalism Conference recently in Atlanta. WUTM was named the best college radio station in the South for 2014. This is the fifth time the station has won this award since 2007. Students participated in on-site competitions in a variety of categories, including television and radio reporting, hard news and feature writing, and layout design.

Ashleigh Burton, a junior from South Fulton, won first place in the radio news reporting competition, and Blake Stevens, a senior from Brighton, brought home second place for television news anchoring. Ms. Burton is the production director and Stevens is the news director for WUTM.

Students also submitted entries to the “Best of the South” competition in November 2014. Among the winners were WUTM staff members Tori Seng, a junior from Union City, best radio hard news reporter, first place; Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge, best radio feature reporter, fifth place; and Stevens, best radio journalist, sixth place.

The radio station also won second place for best college audio news program, or “podcast,” and was named Best College Radio Station in the South for 2014.

The Pacer staff members who earned honors included Joey Plunk, a sophomore from Bells, best news-editorial artist/illustrator, second place; Sheila Scott, a senior from Kenton, best feature writer, third place (tie); and Ashley Marshall, a senior from Union City, best newspaper page layout designer, ninth place.

The newspaper also placed second in the best college website competition and eighth in both the best college magazine and best college newspaper categories.

This year’s competition included 533 entries representing 33 schools in eight states.

Locals featured in piano concert

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall. The performance is free and open to the public.

The student ensemble, directed by Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, will present works by a variety of composers, including Dvorak, Mozart, Beethoven, Joplin and Vandall.

Special guest performers from the surrounding community will also join the ensemble.

Guest performers will include Anna Johnson of Dresden, William McDonald of McKenzie, Grant Larcom of Union City and Dan McDonough of Martin; and UT Martin alumnae Linda Farmer of Dresden and Tori Russell of Martin.

For more information, contact Dr. Harriss at (731) 881-7411 or by email at elainenb@utm.edu.
UT Martin students volunteer to help at SF’s Good Samaritan

Twenty students from the University of Tennessee at Martin have partnered with the Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center in South Fulton to provide a variety of services not otherwise available to the all-volunteer establishment.

Students will be working with the center to develop fundraising strategy and create print materials and presentations to solicit financial donors and additional involvement from area medical providers.

Students will also be providing the center with marketing and branding support, as well as public relations materials.

“I am excited to be working with a very capable team to get the word out about the Good Samaritan and to encourage people to get involved,” said Janie Peery, a freshman public relations student from Fayetteville.

“It’s an awesome task but definitely worthwhile.” Ms. Peery is one of the project’s two student team leaders.

“The Good Samaritan is doing incredible work already and our goal is just to make sure they get the support they need, as well as bring awareness to this wonderful clinic,” said Sara Palmer, a senior international studies major from Brentwood. “The university has many talented and driven students who are really pushing this forward and I know we will bring great things to this clinic.”

Ms. Palmer leads the second student volunteer team.

The Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center is a Christian-based ministry providing primary medical care to the working uninsured in Weakley and Obion counties in Tennessee and Fulton and Hickman counties in Kentucky. The center has no paid staff and all healthcare providers offer their services free of charge.

“Health care is critical to the future of any community. It is at the core of success for the population of the community, from students to the workforce,” said Joyce Washington, adjunct instructor in UT Martin’s Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems.

“Good Samaritan’s work is about providing access to wellness and health care for those who otherwise couldn’t afford it.”

Ms. Washington is overseeing the student volunteer efforts.

Others interested in participating in this effort can contact Ms. Washington at (731) 636-0220 or by email at jwashi13@utm.edu.
Master of arts degree added starting in fall at university

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a master of arts degree in strategic communication beginning in the fall 2015 semester.

The program, approved recently by the UT Board of Trustees during its winter meeting at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, is subject to final approval this month by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

The executive-style degree is intended to prepare professionals to plan, create and manage communication to achieve organizational goals. The program will be presented primarily online, with periodic on-campus weekends required.

"Extensive research indicated the need and desire for a master's degree that was professionally focused — as opposed to theoretical preparation for a doctoral program — on developing strategic communication management skills," said Dr. Tracy Rutledge, assistant professor of communications and graduate program coordinator.

"Our graduate program is unique in this region because of the integrated curriculum. Strategic communication is a very broad area that pulls together communications disciplines that are typically separated. ... This integration reflects a strong demand in the workplace for professionals who understand how to plan and manage many types of communication initiatives."

Strategic communication integrates skills and concepts from organizational and management communication; marketing communication and sales; public relations; technical communication; and mass communication, and is applicable across a wide variety of career fields. It requires a strong knowledge of traditional, social and mobile media; the ability to produce effective oral, written and visual messages; and strategic management communication and leadership skills.

The degree program is appropriate for students and professionals from a variety of academic backgrounds, including but not limited to public relations, marketing, mass communication, advertising, business administration, agricultural business and political science.

The coursework is designed to allow working professionals the flexibility to accommodate busy schedules through online assignments, as well as develop networking relationships with faculty mentors and peers through on-campus weekends. The program was developed based on industry research conducted by the Commission on Public Relations Education and the educational standards of the Association of the Education of Journalism and Mass Communication.

All program participants will complete a minimum of 33 credit hours with no final course letter grade lower than a "B." Students will complete 15 hours of core courses, including three professional seminars, each requiring an on-campus weekend at the beginning and end of the semester. These seminars focus on research and writing skills, academic advising and the development, defense and completion of a capstone project. Other core courses include applied research methods for professionals and media and communication theory for professionals.

Students will also complete three credit hours in either organizational communication or leadership theory and practice, depending on their career goals. Electives will finish the last 18 hours of credit and will be offered in online, face-to-face or hybrid options as appropriate for the course material. Electives are offered in public relations and marketing communication; mass communication, media management and media production; technical communication; and issues in strategic communication.

Students will work with an academic advisor to choose the elective courses which best benefit their individual career paths.

Interested participants must meet the university-wide requirements for graduate admission, as well as the specific requirements for the strategic communication program, noted in the UT Martin graduate catalog.

Students may request to transfer up to six semester credit hours from other appropriate graduate programs at accredited universities, subject to approval by the UT Martin Department of Communications graduate faculty.

For more information, contact Dr. Rutledge at (731) 881-7554 or by email at trutledge@utm.edu.
STRONG RELATIONS — Jennifer Kroubo-Dagnini, from the Université d’Orléans in France, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin during International Week in March. Kroubo-Dagnini, head officer for institutional cooperation, made her visit to renew and strengthen UT Martin’s longstanding partnership with the Université, initiated in 1997 by Dr. Paul Crapo, former chair of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages. At the heart of this relationship is a student exchange program, which brings French students to UT Martin for one or two semesters of study and sends UT Martin students to Orléans for academic year or summer programs. Pictured are (from left) James Eskew, a sophomore mathematics major from Kenton; Jessica Stephens, a senior international studies major from Fairview; Sandra Koch, coordinator of international studies; Dr. Lucia Florido, associate professor of French; Kroubo-Dagnini; Jenna Wright, associate professor and chair, Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages; Amy Fenning, instructor and director, Office of International Programs and International Admissions; Dr. Malcolm Koch, lecturer of political science, and Jordan Jensen, a senior history major from Martin. Eskew is currently attending the Université d’Orléans; Stevens attended last semester, and Jensen intends to participate in the fall.

Shredding event planned

The Tennessee Highway Patrol’s Identity Crimes Unit will be hosting a “Shred-It” event Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the UT Martin campus.

The event will be located in the Boling University Center next to the library.

Anyone is welcome to drop off documents that are confidential (i.e., contains personal identifiers) so that those items may be shredded at no charge. THP encourages people to do this in an attempt to better protect themselves from becoming victims of identity theft.

Items do not have to be confidential documents only. Any documents a person wants destroyed are accepted.

In concert: Performers from surrounding communities to play with piano ensemble

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s piano ensemble will present a concert Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

The performance is free and open to the public.

The student ensemble, directed by Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, will present works by a variety of composers, including Dvorak, Mozart, Beethoven, Joplin and Vandall.

Special guest performers from the surrounding community will also join the ensemble.

Guest performers include Anna Johnson, of Dresden; William McDonald, of McKenzie; Grant Larcom, of Union City; Dan McDonough, of Martin; and UT Martin alumnae Linda Farmer, of Dresden, and Tori Russell, of Martin.
THE WINNER IS – For the second consecutive year, Christie’s Photography in Historic Downtown Martin is the winner of the annual Rodeo Week Window Decorating contest. The contest was judged on Tuesday by rodeo royalty, including Miss Dixie National Summer Weldon, Miss UTM Rodeo Taryn Lester and Little Miss UTM Rodeo Katie Crook, along with celebrated rodeo clown Brian White and Katie Brooks White, president of the Rodeo Booster Club.

City celebrates Rodeo Week

It’s Rodeo Week in Martin! The City of Martin and University Tennessee at Martin are in full swing gearing up for the 47th annual UTM Rodeo.

The UTM rodeo brings thousands of visitors to Weakley County each year and local businesses add to the week with additional activities in various ways, including the annual window decorating contest.

“We are excited to bring part of the rodeo to Historic Downtown Martin,” said Brad Thompson, the city’s director of community development. “It is great to see the community and small businesses show their support of their university and the UTM rodeo team. This is another example of a great partnership that the Town and Gown Association wants to highlight. Great things happen when we all work together.”

The Rodeo Week Window Decorating Contest consisted of five businesses in the Historic Downtown Martin decorating windows, doors and storefronts. The decorations included pictures from past rodeos along with western-themed décor.

The contest was judged on Tuesday by rodeo royalty, including Miss Dixie National Summer Weldon, Miss UTM Rodeo Taryn Lester and Little Miss UTM Rodeo Katie Crook, along with celebrated rodeo clown Brian White and Katie Brooks White, president of the Rodeo Booster Club.

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, Vicki’s Designer Touch, Kirkland’s Gifts, Furniture and Lighting, and Claire & Schuster Interiors. For the second year in a row, Christie’s Photography was chosen as the winner.

“There is just something special about Martin’s UTM rodeo week,” said Katie Brooks White. “The week is kicked off with the crawfish supper which is more like a family reunion, then three nights of action packed rodeo and 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.”

The City of Martin invites everyone to attend the UTM Rodeo’s Edward Jones BBQ and auction Saturday beginning at 11 a.m.

“We want everyone to come out Saturday to Festival Park in downtown Martin to enjoy music, free barbecue and participate in the live auction,” Thompson said. “It is sure to be a great time.”
Leadership expert to give academic presentation

Steve Wiley, entrepreneur, author and influential speaker, will present a lecture titled “Lessons in Leadership: A Transformational Journey from Gettysburg” at 7:30 p.m. on April 20 in Watkins Auditorium at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Wiley is the founder of three companies: two international franchise organizations and a national chain of fleet management centers. He is also president of the Lincoln Leadership Institute at Gettysburg and founder of the institute’s Communicating with Executive Presence Program and Transformational Journey from Gettysburg Leadership Development Experience. Venture Magazine, USA Today and Entrepreneur Magazine have recognized him for his strong leadership skills.

“Mr. Wiley has devoted his life to the development of strong leadership skills and has garnered accolades across the spectrum of our society,” said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of UT Martin Honors Programs. “I am glad our students have this unique opportunity to get an introduction to leadership from one of its master instructors.”

The presentation is free and open to the public.

IBS RECOGNITION — UT Martin’s campus radio station – WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk” – received its fifth consecutive platinum award at the 75th annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting System International Conference. Chuck Hammer, a junior from Martin, and Quinton Stevens, a senior from Bernie, Mo., won first place in the baseball play-by-play competition for their submission “UT Martin vs. Missouri State baseball.” Blake Stevens, a senior from Brighton, and Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge, both took home first place for best news director and best production director, respectively. Hammer; Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty advisor; and Stevens, all conference attendees, are pictured from left.

WUTM ‘The Hawk’ nets fifth consecutive Platinum Award

UT Martin’s campus radio station – WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk” – received its fifth consecutive platinum award at the 75th annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting System International Conference, held recently in New York City.

The platinum award is the highest peer-reviewed designation for overall broadcast excellence at the college level. All areas of the station are considered when selecting this distinction, including education, engineering, faculty oversight, management, music, news, production, programming, promotions, public affairs, public relations, sports, traffic, training and underwriting. WUTM was also a national finalist for “Best College Radio Station (under 10,000 students enrolled),” which the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System reports as the most competitive category each year.

The station and its staff were national finalists in eight categories and brought home three awards. WUTM Program Director Chuck Hammer, a junior from Martin, and Quinton Stevens, a senior from Bernie, Mo., won first place in the baseball play-by-play competition for their submission “UT Martin vs. Missouri State baseball.” Blake Stevens, a senior from Brighton; and Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge, both took home first place for best news director and best production director, respectively.

“I am proud of the talented and dedicated staff of WUTM and their adviser, Dr. Richard Robinson, for these impressive awards at IBS in New York,” said Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chair, Department of Communications. “Once again they have proven at the national level that our program is among the very best.”

“Despite the fact that this was the most inexperienced staff in many years at WUTM, the students and the station were extremely successful, once again, at the national level,” said Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty advisor. “The Intercollegiate Broadcasting System awards represent the absolute best in the nation. It is really gratifying to see the hard work and commitment of these students be recognized and rewarded by these prestigious honors.”

Robinson, Hammer and Stevens attended the conference on behalf of the radio station and staff.
Welcome to Martin:

Home of the defending national champs!

Privately, both John Luthi and Nelson Davis had visions of the University of Tennessee at Martin men’s rodeo team taking home top honors at the 2014 College National Finals Rodeo. When those thoughts occurred, though, may have served as a surprise.

“I never told anybody but I thought this group could go and have the experience and opportunity to win our first title when they were freshmen,” said Luthi, UT Martin’s head rodeo coach since 1997. “We’ve taken some very talented teams to the CNFR and this was another good group.”

“I knew when the seniors were freshmen,” said Davis, UT Martin rodeo assistant coach and athletic trainer who has been a part of the program since 1988. “That bunch carried us for four years and we had two guys that qualified for the finals as freshmen, sophomores and juniors that just barely got shut out this year and didn’t get to make the trip.”

Fast forward four years later and both predictions were spot on. In June 2014, the UT Martin men’s team disproved traditional rodeo wisdom and became the first team east of the Mississippi River to claim a national championship. UT Martin accumulated 755 overall points at the CNFR in Casper, Wyo., edging out Tarleton State University (730 points).

Not only did the UT Martin team make geographical history but all of its six finals participants (and one cowgirl) were born and raised on the east side of the Mississippi River.

“I feel rodeo in this part of the country is finally getting the credit it deserves,” Luthi said. “When I first came to the Ozark region, we weren’t looked at as being a very tough region. I feel like with the coaches that we have in the region, our competitiveness has escalated in a big way. It’s a neat deal to do something that nobody has ever done.”

Davis was also glad to dispel the unfair notion.

“Being the first team east of the Mississippi River to win is a major deal because we’ve been told for years that we couldn’t compete,” Davis said. “They used to say if you had a kid around here that could rope, they thought they had to go to Oklahoma or Texas. You’re not supposed to have cowboys this side of the Mississippi River. But for the last several years, we’ve had national individual champions from our region.”

While the final margin of victory wound up being just 25 points, UT Martin’s cowboys took a lead after Day 2 of the seven-day event and did not concede the top spot in the standings. Will Lummus (steer wrestling and calf roping), Tyler Waltz (bareback riding), Clark Adcock (calf roping, team roping), Tanner Phipps (bareback riding), John Alley (team roping), Colt Kitaif (bareback riding) represented the men’s team while Nealey Dalton (barrel racing) also qualified for the CNFR from the women’s squad.
"They weren't intimidated at all with the stage," Luthi said. "There wasn't really a situation all week that I didn't feel like they did all they could do. When Tyler and Clark won the first round, that was a great start. As the week went on, I knew we were doing well but we had to finish. I could tell they were loose, relaxed and ready when we went into the short round on Saturday."

Luthi and Davis did not spend much time dwelling on the points or place in the standings. They were given periodic updates from Luthi's wife Diane and daughter Katelyn, who both spent the week in Casper for the first time in nearly eight years. It was actually Katelyn who was the first to inform her father that UT Martin had won the team championship, as she pulled up the final standings on her smartphone.

"They were calculating points and figuring out stuff all week and I just left that to them," Luthi said with a chuckle. "I was tickled that they both got to be there to share that moment with me."

Overall, UT Martin competed in 10 rodeos in 2013-14 and finished first in eight of them. The other two finishes were second place outings. But what made this title so special was the contributions from each and every cowboy throughout the season.

"It wasn't only the guys that went to the finals that helped us do that, it was the team all year long," Luthi said. "Everybody on the team had an impact on us being able to win just by doing their part in the region. It was a great team effort - everybody came together and was supportive and helpful with each other."

"Every kid we took out there got points so it was a true team championship," Davis said. "Even after they knew they were out of it as an individual, they still buckled down to get those team points to help us win when they could've gotten disgusted and said 'I'm done'. They just kept coming and competing hard every round."

Of course, some of the credit has to be deflected to Luthi. One year after garnering National Coach of the Year honors by the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, the humble Luthi saved his best coaching performance for 2014, the same year he notched his 13th Ozark Region championship in 17 years and led the program to its 41st consecutive CNFR appearance.

Davis was on the seven-person search committee to hire Luthi at UT Martin. After Luthi emerged as the clear-cut top candidate for the job, Davis and a few other members of the rodeo's booster club personally drove to Fort Scott, Kan. on their own dime to help Luthi make the move from Fort Scott Community College to UT Martin.

"From Day One - this is what we have been working towards," Davis said. "It's still hard to believe - just all of the hard work, the headstrongness, the perseverance, the people that came before us - this is the culmination of that. We thought Coach Luthi was the man to help save our program and keep it going strong. I fully believe that if we hadn't hired him, we wouldn't be talking about a national championship right now. There's no one else like him. He would be the last one to take any credit for anything but he lives it."

If you assume the UT Martin coaching staff is going to sit back and enjoy the 2014 national championship, you've got another thing coming. Although Luthi concedes that the 2014-15 recruiting was completed before he left for Wyoming, both he and Davis will return to the state later this month to attend the National High School Finals Rodeo in Rock Springs to identify potential UT Martin cowboys and cowgirls for 2015-16 and beyond.

It's been a whirlwind of firsts for Luthi. In addition to UT Martin becoming the first team east of the Mississippi River to win the national rodeo title, it also is the first-ever national team championship for any UT Martin athletic program.

"I'm thankful to be able to be a part of bringing home a national title to UT Martin," Luthi said. "So many things could have happened in that situation, God must have just thought it was our turn. I'm really appreciative of all the support that we get from the university, the booster club and the community. This wouldn't have been possible without all of that."
The University of Tennessee at Martin proudly hosts the 47th annual Spring College Rodeo starting today and going through Saturday at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

Action starts at 7:30 p.m. on all three dates. All tickets are $6 today, while adult tickets are $10 on Friday and $12 on Saturday. Tickets for ages 6-12 are $7 for both Friday and Saturday. All tickets are $6 today, while adult tickets are $10 on Friday and $12 on Saturday. Tickets for ages 6-12 are $7 for both Friday and Saturday.

Saturday's event can be viewed online and free of charge courtesy of the Ohio Valley Conference Digital Network. Action from all three nights can also be heard locally on WCMT 101.3 FM.

The UT Martin rodeo has been named the Ozark Region “Rodeo of the Year” for nine consecutive years. The event serves as a platform for the upcoming College National Finals Rodeo, which will be held in Casper, Wyo., on June 14-20.

Along with UT Martin, teams from the University of Arkansas-Cossatot, University of Arkansas-Monticello, East Mississippi Community College, Missouri Valley College, Murray State University, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Southern Arkansas University, University of Tennessee, Three Rivers College and University of West Alabama will take part in the festivities.

The UT Martin men’s team, the defending national champions, currently rank fifth nationally with 4,585 points. The UT Martin women’s squad currently ranks sixth in the Ozark Region with 1,065 points.

Tonight is Tyson, Obion County Complex Performance night. Timed events and rough stock events – including bull riding – will be featured while fans can enter a drawing for a chance to win an MTD riding lawnmower.

Friday is Tennessee Tractor, LLC Performance night. Timed events and rough stock events – including bull riding – will be featured. A second drawing for an MTD riding lawnmower will take place, while Friday also serves as “Tough Enough to Wear Pink” night to raise money for breast cancer awareness.

Saturday is Martin Paving Company Championship Finals, where the top-10 Ozark Region NIRA contestants will compete in a battle of the best of the best. Edward Jones Investments is also holding a free barbecue lunch at 11 a.m. at the downtown Martin Festival Park while a scholarship auction will follow at 12:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to the UT Martin Rodeo Scholarship Fund.
Davis named Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society college trainer of the year

Nelson Davis, who has served as an assistant athletic trainer at the University of Tennessee at Martin since 2007, was awarded the Eugene Smith/Mickey O'Brien College Athletic Trainer of the Year award as part of the 2015 Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society annual meetings in Nashville.

Davis was selected after nominations from his colleagues and peers in the sports medicine and athletic training profession. The College Athletic Trainer of the Year award, annually given out since 1990, is named for former head athletic trainers Eugene Smith of then Memphis State University and Mickey O'Brien, who served at the University of Tennessee. Davis is only the second UT Martin athletic trainer to earn this prestigious award, following Linda Barker in 2000. An Illinois native, Davis earned his athletic training license from the state of Tennessee in 1998. He also became a certified athletic trainer through the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification during that same year.

In addition to his athletic trainer duties, Davis also serves as an assistant coach with the UT Martin rodeo team. He helped guide the men's team to the 2014 College National Finals Rodeo championship last spring, marking the first time a team from the east of the Mississippi River captured the nation's top rodeo honors.

Davis was inducted to the UT Martin Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2007 after he was named an honorary rodeo team member in 1997. He was recognized with a service award by the Ozark Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and also earned sports medicine service awards from the Tennessee High School Rodeo Association in 1998 and from the National High School Rodeo Association in 2013.

Davis graduated cum laude from UT Martin in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in physical education and health, with a minor in sports medicine. He is married to the former Lynn Houston of Martin and has three children – Taiga, Jordan and Dusty – from a previous marriage.
Nelson Davis, center, tends to a cowboy during last year's UT Martin rodeo. (Photo courtesy of Christie's Photography)
SMACS AWARDS — Ten students from the UT Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society participated in the 249th national meeting of the American Chemical Society, March 22-24, in Denver, Colo. The group, accompanied by Dr. S. K. Airee, professor, Department of Chemistry and Physics, and SMACS faculty advisor, received a commendable chapter rating and a Green Chapter Award. The UT Martin chapter leads the nation with 37 total outstanding and commendable chapter ratings and 13 Green Chapter Awards. The group also presented a poster highlighting their chapter activities during the 2014-15 academic year and participated in chemistry demonstrations. Pictured are (l-r): Heather Streckert, of Dyersburg; Amber Taylor, of Martin; Stephanie Gourley, of Martin; Layla Gargus, of Martin, SMACS president; Jacob Thompson, of Linden; Dr. Donna Nelson, member, American Chemical Society; Byron Brown, of Obion; Dr. David Constable, director, Green Chemistry Institute; Kristan McCrillis, of Bradford; Dr. Diane Krone, member, Society Committee on Chemical Education; Benjamin Ide, of Dover; Airee; Krysten Harris, of Martin; and Sofia Oliva, of Greenfield.

Before accepting this position, Abel served UT Martin as assistant director and then interim director of the Boling University Center, managing not only the building’s daily operations, but supervising Office of Student Life activities and directly advising the Student Government Association. He has been responsible for the Boling University Center in some capacity since 1999, when he began as the building’s operations manager.

While he says he will miss his daily, constant interaction with students, Abel will use his new appointment to improve the student experience at UT Martin.

"The overriding goal (of this position) will always be to improve the support and services we provide students from the Division of Student Affairs," said Abel. "As the assistant vice chancellor, I will be able to work with all the departments of student affairs to achieve this goal. Effective and efficient budgeting will also be a priority."

Abel received both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration from UT Martin in 1999 and 2002, respectively.

He can be contacted via email at jabel@utm.edu.

John Abel named vice chancellor for student affairs

John Abel, of Martin, has been promoted to assistant vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is completing his first semester in this new position.

"John brings many years of experience in student affairs and knowledge of this university with him," said Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs.
Hugh Gorman to speak at UT Martin

Hugh Gorman, professor of environmental history and policy at Michigan Technological University, will present a lecture titled “Welcome to the Anthropocene!: A Social History of the Nitrogen Cycle and the Challenge of Sustainability” at 7:30 p.m. today in Watkins Auditorium at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Gorman is a historian and published author on historical interactions involving technological innovations, uses of the environment and system of governance. He plans to use history to inform policy discussions triggered by technological change, especially change that alters human relationships with the environment, according to a press release.

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Lionel Crews, director of UT Martin Honors Programs, at (731) 881-7436 or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.

Sprin dance performance at UTM

Students in the University of Tennessee at Martin K-12 dance education licensure program will present their spring ensemble performance, “Language of the Soul,” at 8 p.m. today and Friday in the Fine Arts Building’s Harriet Fulton Theatre. Admission is $10 for adults and $5 for students. Children 12 years and younger are free.

This performance will feature new student choreography. Student choreographers include Leslie Howard, a senior from Saulsbury; Corey Smith, a senior from Dyersburg; Bria Evans, a senior from Antioch; Jenna York, a junior from Dickson; Erin Windham, a sophomore from Nolensville; Emily Summerville, a sophomore from Wingo, Ky.; D’Angelous Stevenson, a senior from Memphis; Ciera Fielding, a junior from Jackson; and Jayla Brown, a sophomore from Memphis.

Reshonda Batts, a senior from Memphis, and Fielding will perform new solo choreography created by Sarah McCormick, assistant professor of dance.

Tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information, contact McCormick at (731) 881-7335 or by email at smmccormick@utm.edu.

Students Awarded UTM Scholarships

Jordan Hannah Harrald, daughter of Joe and Tamara Harrald, of Ripley; Leah Jacobs, daughter of Mike and Tonya Jacobs, of Halls; and Jessica Sorrell, daughter of James and Deborah Sorrell, of Gates, were awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the fall academic year. They were each awarded the freshman scholarship.
Night two of the UTM rodeo tonight

The second of three nights of the 47th annual rodeo begins at 7:30 at the Ned McWherter Ag Pavilion.

Approximately 2,500 were in attendance to watch the cowboys and cowgirls compete for points that will allow the to move forward to the college rodeo finals.

Timed events and rough stock events including bull riding will be featured tonight. A second drawing for an MTD riding lawn mower will take place. It's also Tough Enough to Wear Pink night to raise money for breast cancer awareness.

The UT Martin Rodeo team is under the direction of Coach John Luthi.

The rodeo booster club is hosting a free county wide barbeque and auction that begins at 12:30 Saturday.

TBI report shows increase in 2014 violent crime at Tennessee schools, but few incidents happen on West Tennessee campuses

Crime

Continued from Page A1

assault, kidnapping, robbery and sex offenses. According to the TBI report, robberies decreased in 2014, but overall violent crimes at Tennessee colleges increased 21 percent — from 154 incidents in 2013 to 187 in 2014.

West Tennessee college officials said they have improved campus safety by adding security cameras, emphasizing zero-tolerance policies for weapons and creating programs to raise students' awareness.

Violent crime

Among the West Tennessee schools, only Union University reported a homicide in 2014. Student Olivia Greenlee was shot to death in February of last year. Her fiancé, Charlie Pittman, is charged with her murder.

"The trial is set for next month," said Vance Pettigrew, director of safety, security and risk mitigation at Union. "We'll see what happens. It's a sad time, for sure."

Union also reported one weapons violation after a student involved in a prank made a plastic bottle explode. The case was reported because students were bothered by the incident, Pettigrew said. The campus had no reports of violent crime in 2013.

Pettigrew said Union will continue to work with the Jackson Police Department to address campus safety.
"We're partnering with JPD and we're intentional with how we patrol," Pettigrew said. "It's a matter of patrol and intervention. We try to do what we do as a deterrent and a service to students."

Union officials also plan to add more security cameras this year, including at the library that's under construction, and the university is working to develop a new safety program for students in the fall.

Lane College reported six violent crimes in 2014, down from 14 offenses in 2013. The college reported three aggravated assaults, two robberies and one forcible fondling last year. In 2013, Lane reported 10 robberies and four aggravated assaults as well as three weapons law violations.

"The rates of incidents are down in most categories," Darlette Carver Samuels, Lane College chief of staff, said. "We are committed to ensuring that the campus remains a safe and vibrant learning environment."

There were no reports of shots fired on the campus last year and no weapons law violations, but on April 2 of this year a student was accused of shooting another student in the leg. Samuels said the student charged in the shooting has been suspended and awaits a hearing on expulsion in accordance with the college's zero-tolerance policy on weapons.

"There are some things we know we need to work on," she said. "We acknowledge that there are some culture changes that are needed at the college. Our mission is to improve the whole student, and that includes spiritual growth."

Following this month's shooting, "We have heightened security and emphasis again that we have a zero-tolerance policy on this campus," she said. "Any student involved in dangerous behavior or dangerous acts will be suspended or expelled."

She also noted the connection the school has with the CME church. Students attend weekly chapel services.

"Some students, though they may be a minority, come here underdeveloped morally and spiritually," Samuels said. "However, we have a responsibility to work with them."

Jackson State Community College had one weapons law violation last year, but no other violent crime. A student with three loaded guns and a knife was arrested in September.

Darron Billings, Jackson State director of environmental health and chief of police, said, "In the past, we've had an unarmed security force. Now we've moved more toward a campus police force."

"We encourage students and the community that if you see something, say something," Billings said. "If you see something unusual, don't question it, just call."

Freed-Hardeman University reported one aggravated assault in 2013, but no violent crime last year. Head of Security Rodney Weaver said the university will add security cameras in 2015.

"As the campus continues to grow, so does the risk of crime. Therefore, continuous evaluation and assessment of risk areas is important," Weaver said. "FHU will install more video surveillance cameras throughout campus, which will aid in protecting the campus. Video surveillance serves as a good deterrent to crime and also helps identify criminal conduct when it occurs."

UT Martin reported an increase in violent crimes in 2014, with three sex offenses and three aggravated assaults. In 2013, the university reported two sex offenses and one aggravated assault.

With more than 6,600 students in 2014, UTM had the largest enrollment in the region.

"We have more security cameras on campus," UTM spokesman Bud Grimes said. "Those are a deterrent to and help in solving crimes. It's one major change we've added over time."

UTM Director of Public Safety Scott Robbins said the police department has designated a community relations officer to talk to students about security issues and alcohol.

"We've been doing the same thing for years. We hold talks during orientation week for students on safety."

Robbins said the talks make freshmen aware of policies and how to stay safe.

Bethel University reported no violent crime in 2013, and one forcible fondling last year.

Bethel security personnel speak to every freshman class to provide guidance about safety.

"Our goal is to raise awareness about safety measures from the moment students arrive on campus," said Jennifer Glass, Bethel director of public relations. "We have also added more cameras across campus, and we do feel this measure has helped us provide an even greater level of safety to our students."
Sex offenses

Statewide reports of sex offenses—including rape and forcible fondling—rose 74 percent last year. In 2013, universities reported 26 rapes and 17 cases of forcible fondling. In 2014, those numbers increased to 46 rapes and 34 forcible fondling reports.

"I'm not sure it's an increase in crime as much as it is an increase in reporting," said Daryl Chansuthus, executive director of the WoMen's Resource and Rape Assistance Program in Jackson. "I was surprised. I gulped when I saw the sharp increase ... I'll be really alarmed if I see the numbers continue to rise in a three-year report."

Chansuthus said West Tennessee universities partner with WRAP to provide support and counseling to students who report sex offenses.

At UT Martin, reported sex offenses increased from two in 2013 to a total of three in 2014. Lane College and Bethel University each reported one offense, up from zero in the previous year. The other West Tennessee colleges didn't report any sex crimes in 2014.

"We believe it's probably this renewed emphasis (on raising awareness of sexual assault) will increase reporting," Grimes, the UTM spokesman, said. "We hope that in itself will be a deterrent."

Bethel students complete an online, interactive educational program — called Haven — that addresses sexual violence, and housing and security personnel undergo training, Glass said.

"Bethel has taken the opportunity to apply for grant funding to address sexual violence on campus," she said. "Also, a bystander intervention program is being put into place. This helps students realize the critical role bystanders can play in maintaining an optimal level of safety."

Reach Maranda Faris at 425-9657. Follow her on Twitter at @MarandaFaris.

Education

UT Martin Chancellor to Step Down Next Month

The head executive at University of Tennessee's Martin campus is stepping down.

University officials say Tom Rakes will return to teaching at the end of next month.

Rakes was elected chancellor in 2007 but has served as vice chancellor for academic affairs since 2002 and provost since 2005.

"The university is solid financially, and the main campus infrastructure and extended-campus centers are in excellent condition," said Rakes. "I am proud to have been a part of this university. I believe this is an exciting time for UT Martin and look forward to seeing the campus move forward under new leadership."

UT System President Joe DiPietro says Rakes oversaw "major milestones" and "notable growth" during his administration including over $100 million in capital and maintenance projects.

"Chancellor Rakes has served UT Martin both in his current capacity and for five years as provost, and I am glad he has chosen to continue to serve in the classroom as he enters this new chapter," said DiPietro. "He is a strong advocate for the needs of students, and he has a great understanding of both the student population and its needs that UT Martin serves."

Rakes' last day in the post is May 31st. An interim or replacement chancellor has not yet been announced.
MARTIN, Tenn. — Dr. Tom Rakes, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor since 2007, will step down from his position and return to teaching, effective May 31 of this year.

Rakes held various administrative positions during his 23-year tenure at the University of Memphis through 1995. He came to UT Martin in 2002 from the University of Louisiana at Monroe where he was provost and vice president for academic affairs and interim president. Rakes came to UT Martin to serve as vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of educational studies. He was named provost in 2005, followed by his election as chancellor two years later by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

The university has registered notable growth during his administration in online enrollment and the completion of over $100 million in capital and maintenance projects. Academic successes by students and student-athletes both in competition and in the classroom also marked his time at UT Martin.

"The university is solid financially, and the main campus infrastructure and extended-campus centers are in excellent condition," said Rakes. "I am proud to have been a part of this university. I believe this is an exciting time for UT Martin and look forward to seeing the campus move forward under new leadership."

UT System President Joe DiPietro described Rakes' service as chancellor as "an exciting time for UT Martin, a unique and important part of the UT System, and Chancellor Rakes has led, nurtured and guided UT Martin in distinguished fashion through a strategic effort to expand the campus' reach into West Tennessee to better serve the needs of non-traditional and working students in surrounding communities with satellite centers at Parsons, Selmer, Ripley and Jackson. In addition, under Chancellor Rakes' leadership, the campus has built and opened state-of-the-art new facilities, including a fine arts building, student housing, and the student-driven and student-funded recreation center.

"His leadership was key to the outstanding success UT Martin had in the system-wide, $1 billion Campaign for Tennessee, in which UT Martin became the first UT campus to meet its campaign goal, $43 million, and continued its fundraising success until the campaign's official conclusion in 2011 with a total of $57,254,633 raised for UT Martin."

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Specific milestones during Dr. Rakes' administration include the university's highest-ever enrollment of 8,469 students in the fall of 2010, the opening of a new Student Recreation Center during that same year, the expanded Fine Arts Building in 2013, and a major renovation and remodeling of the university’s dining facilities and bookstore that reopened in the fall of 2014 in the Boling University Center. Expansions were also completed at UT Martin centers in Parsons, Ripley, and Selmer. A new Jackson Center location opened in the fall of 2011.

Rakes is a member of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission Performance Funding Standards Review Committee, the Complete College Act Funding Formula Committee, and a founding member of the Tennessee Campus Compact Board of Directors. He is past chair and currently serves on the Ohio Valley Conference Council of Presidents. Rakes is also a member of the executive committee of the Tennessee College Association.

Active in public service, Rakes serves on the Weakley County United Way Board of Directors and the Weakley County Economic Development Board where he serves as chair of the WCED Committee on Professional Services, Health, and Education.

"I look forward to returning to the faculty and working more directly with UTM students," said Rakes, who during his university teaching career has over 160 refereed presentations and publications along with 24 books to his credit. "The University of Tennessee at Martin has a bright future, and I look forward to my new role within the institution."
UT Martin chancellor to step down

By WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
By news@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Apr 13, 2015 at 4:51 PM CDT
[Story Updated: Apr 13, 2015 at 8:52 PM CDT]

MARTIN, Tenn. -- The University of Tennessee at Martin announced Monday its chancellor will step down at the end of May.

Dr. Tom Rakes has served as chancellor since 2007.

University officials say the school has seen notable growth in online enrollment during Rakes' administration and the completion of more than $100 million in capital and maintenance projects.

There is no word yet on when his replacement could be named.

Rakes plans to make return to teaching

The Jackson Sun

Dr. Tom Rakes, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor since 2007, will step down from his position and return to teaching effective May 31, according to a news release.

A timeline for selecting his replacement as chancellor has not been announced.

Rakes held various administrative positions during his 23-year tenure at the University of Memphis through 1995. He came to UT Martin in 2002 from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where he was provost and vice president for academic affairs and interim president.

At UTM, Rakes first served as vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of educational studies. He was named provost in 2005, and elected as chancellor two years later.

The university registered notable growth during his administration in online enrollment and the completion of over $100 million in capital and maintenance projects, the release said. Academic successes by students and student-athletes also marked his time at UTM.

"The university is solid financially, and the main campus infrastructure and extended-campus centers are in excellent condition," Rakes said. "I am proud to have been a part of this university. I believe this is an exciting time for UT Martin and look forward to seeing the campus move forward under new leadership."
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UT Martin Rodeo:
Men tie for third; women finish second

By RANDY CAVIN
Press Sports

Another successful UT Martin spring college rodeo is in the books, as 16 teams from the Ozark Region completed the 47th annual installment of the rodeo over the weekend.

The UT Martin men’s team tied for third with 360 points, while the UT Martin women’s squad posted its season-high tally of 345 points, finishing in second place only 10 points behind winner Arkansas-Monticello. West Alabama won the men’s side with 620 points.

A pair of UT Martin cowboys earned points in bareback riding.

Tanner Phipps split first and second in both average (153) and in the short go (77) after placing second in the first round with a 76. Colt Kitaif earned 72 points in the second round, which was good enough for a fifth-place finish.

Jacob Dagenhart contributed to the point total in calf roping, as his performance of 10.5 in the first round was the third-best time of the 10 cowboys in the event.

On the women’s side, a trio of UT Martin cowgirls amassed points in the breakaway roping event.

Natalie Fletcher earned second place finishes in average (14.8), the first round (2.6) and in the second round (12.2). Kaytlyn Franklin and Megan Crow each posted identical scores of 3.3 in the first round, which split fifth in that round and split sixth in average.

In steer wrestling, Tucker Kail finished fourth with a 12.8 average after his 4.4 performance in the short go was the top time in the event. Slade Bronson placed fifth in both average (14.4) and in the second round (6.2) while Lane Mitchell split second in the first round (5.0) and split sixth in average (5.0 on 1).

Micayla Gray secured points in all three phases of goat tying. She placed third in average (13.8), third in the short go (6.7) and fifth in the opening round (7.1).

Two UT Martin teams racked up points in team roping, as the duo of Savannah Warner and Vann Figgeroa finished fifth in both the average (25.8) and in the second round (17.3). The team of Dagenhart and Zack Mabry also performed well early, placing second with a time of 6.3 in the first go.

The women’s squad boasted four cowgirls who amassed points in barrel racing.

Dacia Horne led all competitors with a 28.07 average after placing first in the opening round (14.02) and second in the short go (14.05). Nealey Dalton finished second with a 28.19 average after a first-place effort in the short go (13.99) and splitting second in the first round (14.2). Ashley Brooks placed sixth in average (29.09) and in the first go (14.49) while Kayla Edmondson tallied a fourth place time in the short go (14.49).

Heath Simpson rounded out the scoring for the men’s team when his 71 points in the first round of bull riding split third and split second in average.

UT Martin continues its spring schedule when it travels to Arkansas-Monticello Thursday through Saturday.
BARREL RACING – Ashley Brooks worked her horse to near perfection as she qualified for Saturday’s short round with the top time on Friday, as she finished her round with a 14.49 mark in barrel racing.
UT Martin sponsors retirement planning workshop in Milan

The University of Tennessee at Martin is sponsoring a retirement planning workshop in Milan for individuals and families interested in learning about the six elements of estate planning.

The in-depth, six-hour course will be offered in two, three-hour sessions on Tuesday, April 21 and Tuesday, April 28 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 2050 Rhino Crossing in Milan.

The workshop is offered through the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. Topics include: creating your retirement; assessing retirement costs; evaluating income sources; investing for the future; protecting your health and wealth; receiving funds from your retirement plans; and managing your estate distribution.

No specific products or investments are discussed in this educational course. Patrick McDowell, an investment advisor with the regional wealth management firm of Radian Partners, LLC, will serve as the instructor.

Registration is $59 for two people and covers instructional materials, including a 134-page textbook. To register, please contact UT Martin at 731-881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/general/finance.php. Seating is limited.

Student Chamber Recital To Feature Musical Variety

Blankenship Recital Hall

Music students from the University of Tennessee at Martin will showcase their talent in ensembles of all sizes and styles during a student chamber recital at 7:30 p.m., April 19, in the Blankenship Recital Hall.

The recital will feature 10 chamber groups composed of woodwind and brass instruments. Ensembles include two brass quintets, a saxophone quartet, a trombone trio, two flute ensembles and four clarinet ensembles.

The program will showcase a wide variety of musical styles and eras, from the Baroque to the modern, including early American art music, transcriptions from famous operas and Klezmer, which is a musical tradition of the Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern Europe.

The concert is free, and music lovers of all ages are welcome to attend.
Open forum Thursday to discuss UTM Chancellor position

Posted on April 15, 2015 by Steve James

An open forum will be held Thursday to discuss the current and future status of the UTM Chancellor’s position.

UTM officials will be joined by UT President Joe DiPietro as he offers an update and answers questions about the position’s status in the coming weeks and months.

Current UTM Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes announced earlier this week that he will be stepping down from the position and return to teaching effective May 31st.

The open forum will be Thursday afternoon at 1:00 in the Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

The forum is open to UTM students, faculty, staff and the public.

Humboldt Chronicle, Wednesday, April 15, 2015 Page 7

UT Martin students place third in engineering competition

Eight engineering students from the University of Tennessee at Martin participated in the SAE Aero Design East competition, held March 13-15 in Lakeland, Fla. The team placed third overall, as well as third in the “technological report” and “closest to target” categories. UT Martin was also the highest-ranked American team.

This year’s participants include Gauri Patel, a junior from Humboldt, Tenn.; Alex Taylor, a senior from Cleveland, Tenn., Eric Wilson, a senior from Martin, Tenn.; Jared Miller, a junior from Dickson, Tenn.; Brad Jones, a senior from Lexington, Tenn.; Cory Bullard, a senior from Booneville, Miss.; Michael Dawson, a senior from Henderson, Tenn.; and Jan Brotherton, a senior from Hollow Rock, Tenn.

Dawson is an electrical engineering major while the other students are mechanical engineering majors. Miller and Patel are projected to serve as team leaders in the 2016 competition in Fort Worth, Texas.

The competition, sponsored by SAE International, is designed to expose graduate and undergraduate engineering students to real-life challenges encountered in the work environment. The event is divided into three classes – regular, advanced and micro – and emphasizes not only product design, but written and oral communication skills as well. Seventy-two teams from nine countries participated in this year’s event.

The UT Martin team competed in the advanced class, which requires students to integrate aeronautical, mechanical, electrical and computer engineering to achieve a pre-determined goal. This year, teams were required to design and build an eight-pound aircraft capable of carrying 15 pounds of static weight and a three-pound “humanitarian package,” which was then dropped into a target zone using video feed and telemetry.

“Our team was one of only a few who did not have an aerospace engineering program at their institution, and we still blew many of the aerospace programs out of the water,” said Dr. Doug Sterrett, professor of engineering and team pilot. “I am incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication. The students had to develop their own unique design, and they had one of the best flying aircraft there.”

For more information, contact Sterrett at 731-881-7389 or by email at dsterret@utm.edu.
Forum set at UT Martin

An open forum to discuss the current and future status of the chancellor’s position at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday in Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center on campus.

University officials will join UT president Joe DiPietro as he offers an update and answers questions about the position’s status in the coming weeks and months.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor since 2007, announced Monday he will step down from the position and return to teaching effective May 31.

The open forum is expected to last about an hour. University students, faculty and staff and the public are invited to attend.

Concert set for Sunday

Music faculty members Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor; Charles Lewis, lecturer; and Dr. Christa Frye, adjunct instructor, will present a trio performance titled “Something Old, Something New” at 3 p.m. Sunday in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

Dr. Harriss (piano), Lewis (flute) and Dr. Frye (clarinet) will combine new material with earlier works to celebrate the passage of time.

The concert is free and open to the public, a spokesman said.

Dr. Miles fills chair at UTM

Dr. Morgan Miles has been hired as the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

He is completing his first full semester there.

The purpose of the Hendrix Chair of Excellence is to enhance research and instructional capabilities within the College of Business and Global Affairs and promote entrepreneurship within the UT System and West Tennessee.

Miles has taken a collaborative approach to give students a broad view of how entrepreneurship affects other disciplines. Students from his marketing management class have been researching market feasibility and creating commercialization plans for products developed by senior engineering students.

He is also working with the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences to integrate entrepreneurship into agricultural programs.

He works with the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center to give direct management assistance to local small businesses in addition to his on-campus duties.

Making Music — Hillcrest Elementary School eighth-grader Jessica Narr, daughter of Jackie and Terry Narr, was recently part of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Junior High Honor Band. She was nominated by her director, Beth McDavid, and then auditioned for a spot and practiced with other students from across West Tennessee for two days. The group performed several compositions for the public in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin campus.
Leadership expert to give presentation

Steve Wiley — entrepreneur, author and influential speaker — will present a lecture titled “Lessons in Leadership: A Transformational Journey from Gettysburg” at 7:30 p.m. Monday in Watkins Auditorium at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Wiley is the founder of three companies: two international franchise organizations and a national chain of fleet management centers.

He is also president of the Lincoln Leadership Institute at Gettysburg and founder of the institute’s Communicating with Executive Presence Program and Transformational Journey from Gettysburg Leadership Development Experience.

Venture Magazine, USA Today and Entrepreneur Magazine have recognized him for his strong leadership skills.

“Mr. Wiley has devoted his life to the development of strong leadership skills and has garnered accolades across the spectrum of our society,” said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of UT Martin Honors Programs. “I am glad our students have this unique opportunity to get an introduction to leadership from one of its master instructors.”

The presentation is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Crews at (731) 881-7436.

Ionic liquids subject of lecture next week

Dr. Kevin Miller, assistant professor of chemistry at Murray (Ky.) State University, will present a lecture on “Ionic Liquids: Green Chemistry and Electrochemical Applications” at 6:30 p.m. April 22 in room 317 of the Johnson EPS Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ionic liquids have become a focus of recent research in the field of reaction solvents due to their low vapor pressure and ability for recycling. Many new and traditional reactions can be carried out in ionic liquid solvents without causing the atmospheric pollution associated with other volatile solvents.

Miller earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the University of Dayton and a doctoral degree in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame.

He served as senior research scientist at Rohm and Haas Chemicals (now part of the Dow Chemical Company) for six years before joining the Murray State faculty in 2010.

His recent recognitions include the 2013 Emerging Scholar Award from the Murray State University Alumni Association, the 2014 Neil V. Weber Award for Excellence from the Murray State University College of Science, Engineering and Technology, and the Karl F. Hussung Professorship of Chemistry for the 2013-14 academic year.

The lecture is sponsored by the UT Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society, in conjunction with Earth Day celebrations.

There is no admission charge and the public is welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Dr. S. K. Airee, professor of chemistry and SMACS faculty advisor, at (731) 881-7454.

SUCCESSFUL CHAPTER — Ten students from the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society participated in the 249th national meeting of the American Chemical Society recently in Denver. The group, accompanied by Dr. S. K. Airee, professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics and SMACS faculty advisor, received a commendable chapter rating and a Green Chapter Award.

The UT Martin chapter leads the nation with 37 total outstanding and commendable chapter ratings and 13 Green Chapter Awards. The group also presented a poster highlighting their chapter activities during the 2014-15 academic year and participated in chemistry demonstrations. Among those who participated were (from left) Heather Streckert of Dyersburg, Amber Taylor of Martin, Stephanie Gourley of Martin, SMACS president Layla Gargus of Martin, Jacob Thompson of Linden, American Chemical Society member Dr. Donna Nelson, Byron Brown of Obion, Green Chemistry Institute director Dr. David Constable, Kristan McCulllars of Bradford, Society Committee on Chemical Education member Dr. Diane Krone, Benjamin Ile of Dover, Dr. Airee, Krysten Harris of Union City and Sofia Oliva of Greenfield.
Tom Rakes to step down as UT Martin chancellor

Dr. Tom Rakes, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor since 2007, will step down from his position and return to teaching, effective May 31.

Rakes held various administrative positions during his 23-year tenure at the University of Memphis through 1995. He came to UT Martin in 2002 from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where he was provost and vice president for academic affairs and interim president.

He came to UT Martin to serve as vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of educational studies. He was named provost in 2005, followed by his election as chancellor two years later by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

The university has registered notable growth during his administration in online enrollment and the completion of over $100 million in capital and maintenance projects. Academic successes by students and student-athletes both in competition and in the classroom also marked his time at UT Martin.

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Specific milestones during Rakes’ administration include the university’s highest-ever enrollment of 8,409 students in the fall of 2010, the opening of a new student recreation center during that same year, the expanded Fine Arts Building in 2013, and a major renovation and remodeling of the university’s dining facilities and bookstore that reopened in the fall of 2010, the expanded Fine Arts Building in 2013, and a major renovation and remodeling of the university’s dining facilities and bookstore that reopened in the fall of 2010, the expanded Fine Arts Building in 2013, and a major renovation and remodeling of the university’s dining facilities and bookstore that reopened in the fall of 2010.

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Open forum for UT Martin chancellor

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‘Sax O’Clock’ ensemble performance to include local band directors, students

The Sax O’Clock ensemble will present its first recital performance at 7:30 p.m. on April 26 in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

Sax O’Clock is a saxophone quartet composed of Dr. Douglas Owens, assistant professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin; Jared Nobles, UT Martin alum and band director at Dyersburg High School; Jeffrey McLemore, band director at Rose Hill Middle School in Jackson; and Wesley Brockman, band director with Gibson County schools.

The quartet will perform “Rhapsody” by Eric Ewazen and “Tango Virtuoso” by Thierry Escaich alone, and will be joined by Charles Lewis, UT Martin alum and lecturer of music, on the piccolo for Jeff Scott’s composition “The Gift of Life.” The second half of the concert will include “As the Sun Sets” by Daniel Baldwin, during which the quartet will be joined by five current UT Martin saxophone majors.

The group will close the recital with “Heart Breakers,” a multi-media composition by Jacob ter Veldhuis which incorporates video and pre-recorded music.

The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Owens at 881-7414 or by email at dowens14@utm.edu.
SOAR — UT Martin will host its first summer orientation and registration session April 25. Pictured are Weakley County students who graduated from Westview High School and attended a 2014 SOAR session. All are current UT Martin students: (from left) Brooke Morrow, a criminal justice major; Leanna Coleman, an educational studies major; Kelly Reed, an undeclared major; Matt Castleman, a special education major; Seth Daniels, an undeclared major; and Seth Carr, a communications major. For additional SOAR information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.

UT Martin to host summer orientation, registration activities for incoming freshmen

Graduating high school seniors who have applied for admission to the University of Tennessee at Martin and received a tentative or final acceptance letter are encouraged to attend summer orientation and registration to learn more about the resources available on the UT Martin campus. Students will also select their classes for the upcoming fall semester. Several SOAR sessions are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The first of these is scheduled for April 25. Additional sessions are scheduled for June 5 and 19 and July 17. The registration fee is $45 for students and $20 for each accompanying parent, guardian or sibling. The fee includes all meals and breaks.

The April 25 session will begin with registration and ID card pictures at 8 a.m. The morning’s activities will include informational sessions on financial aid, campus technology, student activities, campus housing, Greek life and meal plans. Participants may attend two of these sessions. See SOAR, Page 5

SOAR
From Page 1

Lunch will be served in the newly renovated Skyhawk Dining Hall at 11:30 a.m., and students will begin meeting with faculty advisors and selecting their fall classes at 1:30 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend a parent panel and question-and-answer session during this time. All events will be held in the Boling University Center, located at 11 Wayne Fisher Drive on the UT Martin campus.

Pre-registration is required. To register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soarregister.php. All SOAR registration fees must be paid at the time of registration by check, money order, Visa or MasterCard. Checks should be made payable to the UT Martin Office of Admissions and mailed to 200 Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238.

Tuition and course fees will not be collected until the start of the fall semester and are not due at SOAR.

For additional information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.
Percussion ensemble to present spring concert

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble will present a spring concert at 3 p.m. on April 26 in the Fine Arts Building’s Harriet Fulton Theatre.

The concert will feature works by Pulitzer Prize-winning composers David Lang and Christopher Rouse. The ensemble will perform Lang’s “The So-Called Laws of Nature” and Rouse’s “Ku-Ka-Illimoku.” The concert will also include Brett William Dietz’s “Sanctus Bells,” a new marimba quartet by Dwayne Rice, Clif Walker’s “Promise Music” and Stephen Snowden’s “Tacoma Narrows.”

The performance will feature a variety of unique instruments, including marimbas, glockenspiels, vibraphones, tea cups, flower pots, chains, tin cans, metal pipes, gongs and cymbals.

The concert is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Daniel Heagney at dheagney@utm.edu.

Low brass chamber recital set for April 23

Community music lovers are welcome to attend a low brass chamber recital presented by student musicians at 7:30 p.m. on April 23 in the Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

The performance will feature the UT Martin tuba and euphonium ensemble and include both original compositions and pieces transcribed from full orchestral works. The ensemble will present music from a variety of styles, including “Power” by John Stevens, “Finlandia” by Sibelius, “Russian Sailors Dance” by Gliere, and “Semper Fi March” by Sousa.

Bill Waterman, instructor of music and director of athletic bands, will direct the performance. The concert is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Waterman at 881-7401 or by email at wwaterman@utm.edu.

ROTC’s ‘I am Strong’ 5K race slated for April 25

The University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC program will host the “I Am Strong” 5K race beginning at noon, April 25, in front of CrossFit Martin, near the new E.W. James.

Participants can register until the day of the race for $20 per person. Groups of five or more registrants will be offered a special discount. T-shirts will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Interested parties can register online by visiting www.active.com and searching “I Am Strong” in the Martin area. Participants can also obtain a registration form by contacting Mercie Eubank by email at merleuba@ut.utm.edu.

The race is being held to celebrate 99 years of the Army ROTC program nationwide and to raise public awareness of the consequences of sexual harassment.

UT Martin chancellor’s position to be discussed at open forum

An open forum to discuss the current and future status of the chancellor’s position at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be held today at 1 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium located in the Boling University Center. University officials will join UT President Joe DiPietro as he offers an update and answers questions about the position’s status in the coming weeks and months.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor since 2007, announced Monday that he will step down from the position and return to teaching effective May 31.

The open forum is expected to last about an hour. University students, faculty and staff and the public are invited to attend.
Saxophone ensemble to perform April 26

The Sax O’Clock ensemble will present its first recital performance at 7:30 p.m. April 26 in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Blankenship Recital Hall.

Sax O’Clock is a saxophone quartet composed of Dr. Douglas Owens, assistant professor of music at UT Martin; Jared Nobles, UT Martin alum and band director at Dyersburg High School; Jeffrey McLemore, band director at Rose Hill Middle School in Jackson; and Wesley Brockman, band director with Gibson County schools.

The quartet alone will perform “Rhapsody” by Eric Ewazen and "Tango Virtuoso" by Thierry Escaich and will be joined by Charles Lewis, UT Martin alum and lecturer of music, on the piccolo for Jeff Scott’s composition “The Gift of Life.” The second half of the concert will include “As the Sun Sets” by Daniel Baldwin, during which the quartet will be joined by five current UT Martin saxophone majors.

The group will close the recital with “Heart Breakers,” a multimedia composition by Jacob ter Veldhuis which incorporates video and pre-recorded music.

The performance is free and open to the public.

Seniors invited to SOAR at UTM

Graduating high school seniors who have applied for admission to the University of Tennessee at Martin and received a tentative or final acceptance letter are urged to attend Summer Orientation and Registration to learn more about resources available on campus.

Students will also select their classes for the upcoming fall semester.

Several SOAR sessions are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The first of these is scheduled for April 25.

Additional sessions are scheduled for June 5, June 19 and July 17.

The registration fee is $45 for students and $20 for each accompanying parent, guardian or sibling. The fee includes meals and breaks.

The April 25 session will begin with registration and ID card pictures at 8 a.m. The morning’s activities will include informational sessions on financial aid, campus technology, student activities, campus housing, Greek life and meal plans. Participants may attend two of these sessions.

Lunch will be served in the newly-renovated Skyhawk Dining Hall at 11:30 and students will begin meeting with faculty advisors and selecting their fall classes at 1:30 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend a parent panel and question-and-answer session at this time.

All events will be held in Boling University Center at 11 Wayne Fisher Drive.

Pre-registration is required. To register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soarregister.php. All SOAR registration fees must be paid at the time of registration by check, money order, Visa or MasterCard. Checks should be made payable to the UT Martin Office of Admissions and mailed to 200 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238.

Tuition and course fees will not be collected until the start of the fall semester and are not due at SOAR.

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

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro told an audience Thursday that an interim UT Martin chancellor could be named before the university's May 2 commencement.

Members of his staff joined DiPietro as he discussed the current and future status of the chancellor's position during a 1 p.m. open forum in UT Martin's Watkins Auditorium. The forum was open to the university and community.

Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor since 2007, announced Monday he is stepping down from the position and will return to teaching effective May 31.

DiPietro thanked Rakes and his wife, education professor Dr. Glenda Rakes, for their service and acknowledged the uncertainty that comes with leadership change.

“This wasn’t something that came to light in an immediate sense from the standpoint of process, but instead it was a decision Tom made,” he said.

The president said talks are under way with several individuals about the interim appointment. He (See Page 6, Col. 5)

DiPietro said a national search will be conducted and he is not opposed to internal candidates applying for the permanent position. He plans an inclusive search committee that involves faculty, staff, students, a UT Board of Trustees member and a community representative.

DiPietro answered questions from the audience, one asking about student involvement in the search process. He said that student representation on the search committee could come either from the Student Government Association or a student member of the UT Board of Trustees, but either way, students will have a voice in the search.

He was also asked about the selection process and the UT board's role in the final selection. DiPietro explained that both the interim and permanent chancellor appointments must be elected by the board.

He closed by saying he has personally experienced considerable change at other institutions and UT Martin will be fine because the university is not dependent on one person to succeed.

"The place will go on, and it's because of the people," he said. "It's because of the people who serve the institution and move it forward, and it's really all of you. "So we will be in really good shape."

UT Martin...

(Continued from Page 1)

reported "significant interest" in the position but has conditions under which candidates will be considered.

“One, I feel it's very important, whoever takes the interim role, that they do not want to pursue the job permanently," he said. "I need somebody in this role who's not a caretaker but instead who's going to actively be engaged in managing this university. There are things that need to be done."

Declining enrollment is among DiPietro's concerns for UT Martin and he expects the interim chancellor to find ways to reverse this trend.

"We're looking for somebody in the interim role, as well as the permanent role, who really believes in shared governance," he said. "Martin has an incredible track record of (shared governance)."

He gave the example of the faculty senate's having "a seat at the chancellor's cabinet," which is rare at other universities, and the interim chancellor needs to respect this Martin tradition.

"We need an individual who has plenty of experience ... and has managed hopefully through some of the issues you all face," he said.

The person selected for the interim position could expect to serve for up to a year as the search for a permanent chancellor proceeds.
UT president discusses open chancellor position

TYLER WHETSTONE
	twheatstone@jacksonsun.com

MARTIN — On Thursday afternoon, University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro came to the University of Tennessee at Martin to speak to the faculty and staff about the changes ahead after Chancellor Tom Rakes announced he would be stepping down earlier this week.

DiPietro said he hoped to appoint an interim chancellor by commencement, May 2.

On Monday, Rakes announced he would be leaving the chancellor’s office to step back into the classroom. Rakes has served as chancellor since 2007.

Rakes’ decision comes with just over three weeks until graduation. His resignation will be effective May 31.

“These are always times, let’s just admit it, where there is uncertainty — and that’s uncomfortable for people, and I understand that completely,” DiPietro told the crowded Watkins Auditorium.

Rakes said he taught educational studies and language arts, among other subjects, for 16 years before he entered an administrative role. He said being a tenured professor is one of the best jobs in the world.

“All of these jobs are temporary jobs,” Rakes said. “When you take them, you understand that you’ll only be there a finite amount of time — and when the time comes, you need to recognize that a change needs to be made.”

One of the things Rakes will be remembered for is the implementation of the UTM extension campuses in Selmer, Parsons, Ripley and Jackson.

The campuses are still growing. Jackson’s enrollment is up 24 percent this year, according to Jackson’s director Kayce Beam.

Beam said the change in leadership at UTM will affect every aspect of the campus, even the ones miles away.

“I’m sure it will affect us,” Beam said. “It’s a very big opportunity for the next successor to come in and take up this role.”

The search

DiPietro said the interim chancellor would likely serve approximately one year — long enough for a permanent successor to be named. He said the search for the permanent position would be opened nationally, but he would consider people from within Martin’s current administration.

He said being chancellor at UTM would be a “whale of a job,” for someone, and he won’t limit it to one academic expertise over another.

DiPietro also said he would be looking at other qualities like, “What is their leadership style? How do they do with people? What are their interpersonal skills like? Are they good communicators? Have they been effective in administrative roles previously?”

Moving forward

DiPietro said UTM will be fine in the days ahead.

“The beauty of great universities like UT Martin is while Tom has done a wonderful service for you all, and I have too, but if both of us decided to go off fishing tomorrow — or worse yet, I drop dead — the place will go on,” he said. “And it’s because of the people who serve the institution and move it forward.”
Lane College President Logan Hampton gave the keynote address during the 17th Annual African American Leadership Conference on Friday.

LOGAN HAMPTON: ‘YOU MUST WALK YOUR TALK’

Lane College president addresses African American Leadership Conference

DAVID THOMAS
dgthomas@jacksonsun.com

Lane College President Logan Hampton did not mince words when he delivered the keynote address to the 17th Annual African American Leadership Conference on Friday. The conference — sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program — was held in the J. Walter Barnes Conference Center at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

“Over the last few weeks and months, I have had some rather intense conversations on black leadership,” Hampton said. “I believe the lack of leadership by black folks for black folks in black communities is part and parcel the challenge of the African-American community. As I said many a time to my student leaders, you can govern yourself or you can submit to the governance of others, but make no mistake about it — you will be governed.”

Hampton said in protest marches that have been held
Hampton

Continued from Page A1

throughout the nation, he was inspired by one particular chant.

“Black Lives Matter,” Hampton said. “It is a chant that is packed with symbolism, history and meaning. It challenges us and calls us to live, govern, patrol and act as though we believe black lives matter.”

Hampton said reality is, African Americans chant this message to whites, the police and the power structure.

“We want them to respect the fact that black lives matter,” Hampton said. “I agree. For too long, African Americans have been stigmatized, demonized and ostracized for being black. W. E. B. DuBois opined in the early 1900s, ‘The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line.’ Well, we still have work to do in the 21st century. Power concedes nothing without a demand.”

Hampton said oddly for him, the group that he thinks needs to hear, believe and live like black lives matter most is the African-American community.

“We rush to the streets and TV cameras when a law enforcement officer or someone other than an African American harms one of us, but seldom offer any objection to black on black assaults, crimes or offenses,” Hampton said. “Talk is cheap. When you chant this phrase, you must walk your talk.”

Hampton said if black lives matter, “You will not take the life of your brother or attempt to take his life because he stepped on your Jordans.

“When you lead and live like black lives matter, you will not sell drugs to your sister or brother, and you will not steal and sell your grandmother’s TV to buy the drugs,” Hampton said.

“When you lead and live like black lives matter, you will not have a harem of baby mamas or baby daddies while trying to get another one with no one taking care of the children you already have.”

Hampton challenged those in attendance to imagine what African-American communities would look like if blacks lived and led as though black lives matter to blacks.

Hampton questioned a recent shooting that took place in Memphis.

“While attending church in Memphis this past weekend, I heard the tragic report of a 15-year-old shot while sleeping in her bed and a 7-year-old shot in her front yard while playing with her friends. I was, and still am, stunned that there have been no protests, no news conferences, no righteous indignation, no arrests.”

Hampton delivered a few sobering statistics from USA Today.

“Nearly two times a week in the United States, a white police officer killed a black person during a seven-year period ending in 2012, according to the FBI,” Hampton said. “Overall, more than half the nation’s homicide victims are African American, though blacks make up only 13 percent of the population. Black victims were killed by blacks 94 percent of the time.”

Hampton said we can and should critique the police and the state of relations between city officials and blacks in Ferguson, Missouri.

“On the other hand, Ferguson is 67 percent black, five of the six council members and the mayor were all white,” Hampton said. “In the April 2013 municipal election, whites were three times more likely to vote than African Americans. Where were all those protesting and picketing black folks on Election Day? Marches and chants are good tools for protests, but if you vote, you can make real and systemic change, and you can elect leaders who will hire people who are sensitive to the community needs.”

Hampton said when blacks live and lead like black lives matter, he believes Lane College will break attendance records semester after semester.

“Because black folks will take up their cross daily to get students saved and educated, knowing that the saved and educated make more money, have better health outcomes, vote at higher rates, pay higher taxes, use less government resources and live longer, healthier and happier lives.”

Reach David Thomas at (731) 425-9637. Follow him on Twitter: @dgthomabsiz
Robinson spurs revival of UT Martin program

CRAIG THOMAS
cthomas2@jacksonsun.com

MARTIN—There's been some redecorating of the UT Martin baseball club- house since coach Rick Robinson arrived last summer. Several of the new coach’s favorite motivational sayings are marked on the walls.

An example: “Don't be surprised with the results you don't get for the work you didn't do.”

It's hardly unique for a new coach to try to change the way players think and act, but Robinson might have had more changes to make than most.

The Skyhawks have not had a winning season since they joined the Ohio Valley Conference in 1993. As athletic di- rector Julio Freire assessed the school’s athletic programs last winter, he said the baseball team was even further behind than a men's basketball team that rated as one of the worst in Division I.

Bubba Cates, the baseball team's head coach since 1999, was removed from his position just before Freire's arrival, and Freire fired interim coach Brad Goss after last sea- son, citing a poor student-athlete “experience.”

Upon arrival, Robinson saw a need to emphasize fundamental skills, but he also saw a need to conduct business differently and deliberately.

“I think the biggest thing that we have done as a coaching staff is we basically have instilled discipline in ev- ery area of the program, not just between the lines but in the clubhouse,” Robinson said.

Players must run to their positions on the field before the game. They place their gloves on the field and stand at attention for the national anthem, and they hang their uniforms a specific way. They have specific dress codes for travel and vari- ous events, and they must shave. Helmets must be handed to the coach, not tossed, after an at-bat.

“It was pretty intense,” Carter Smith, a senior starting pitcher from St. Louis, said. “A lot of people thought he was crazy. I think some people probably still do, but it was defi- nitely what we needed. We needed some discipline and we needed some or- der.”

Freire said one player, who he didn’t name, broke a rule and was likely subject to community ser- vice based on the student handbook. But Robinson required the player to run 100 miles to be allowed to stay with the team. (Freire was pleasantly sur- prised to learn the player didn't quit but completed the task.)

Robinson said he had to stick by those rules so ev- eryone knew he was seri- ous, but he insists there wasn't much pushback from players. UTM, after all, was 33-123 in the three years before this one.

“I think they were basically willing to stand on their head if someone told them it was going to help them win a baseball game,” Robinson said.

Robinson spent the previous 16 seasons at Young Harris College in Georgia, which was originally a junior college and eventually became a member of NCAA Division II. He won over 70 percent of his games there.

“There's now an expectation that we will be competitive. We will be winning,” Freire said.

After Robinson addressed the Skyhawks as a group for the first time, he burned a copy of last year's statistics at home plate.

“I said I don't care about what's happened here in the past [and] I don't care what the stats were,” Robinson said. “I don't care whether you were a good player or a bad player, play [or] didn't play, it didn't make any difference. Everybody's starting off with a clean slate.”

Robinson divided the team into six “account- ability groups” of a few players each that started meeting in the offseason. Each of the three team captains is responsible for two groups.

One off-field task was for groups to find a moti- vational speech and re- port to the other groups on what they liked about it. One group chose a speech to the Alabama football team by Marcus Luttrell, a Navy SEAL on whom the movie “Lone Survivor” is based.

“I think it was cool be- cause the video kind of represented your group,” Smith said.

Freire said baseball teams are usually the third weakest academically on any campus, ahead of only football and men's basketball. Robin- son said he divided play-
ers by class to meet with a coach each week during the fall to discuss academic progress, and the team GPA has improved to over 3.0.

"They look better as a team. They look better as student-athletes," Freire said.

Robinson was flattered to get a similar compliment from Vanderbilt coach Tim Corbin, who said the Skyhawks looked better in how they presented themselves as a team.

Vanderbilt won that game 15-2, and far weaker teams than the defending national champions have still handled UTM. Team bonding and good grades won't satisfy Skyhawk supporters who are tired of embarrassing baseball seasons or have lost interest in the baseball team, but they were aspects of discipline Robinson wanted to address.

"I've heard that so many times. How do you change the culture? How do you change that?" Robinson said. "Well, to me I think that you have to expect them to act like champions (and) play like champions, discipline them like champions before they're actual champions.

The Skyhawks entered Saturday 11-24 overall and 5-13 in OVC games. Those aren't good records, but UTM won nine games overall and five in conference last year and still has several weeks left in this season.

Their touch-and-go progress so far might be best summarized by a recent weekend series against OVC member Belmont.

UTM won 7-4, then won 5-4 in 10 innings and then lost 34-10. The Bruins scored 20 runs in one inning of that third game. Smith started it and gave up five runs in two innings, and then he watched it get out of hand with relievers on the mound.

"You can't let it stick with you, whereas maybe in the past if we had lost big we'd let it stick with us," he said.

Attitude changes can help, but there were baseball-specific needs, too. In the Ohio Valley Conference last season, UTM ranked worst in batting average (.226), worst in ERA (6.67) and worst in fielding percentage (.949).

Recruiting is critical to improve that, but Robinson also wanted to remind current players about basics like sliding into second base to make the throw harder and running through first base to get there sooner.

"The Baseball 101 was probably tougher for them than the discipline part of it, just because they've all played baseball since they were five years old and they thought they were playing the game the right way," Robinson said.

With a 4.47 ERA, Smith is the team's best starting pitcher. Regular starter Alex Martin (Jackson State) has an ERA over 7. Jackson Christian grad Matt Poteete, a freshman, had eight strikeouts in a complete game win Friday over No. 15 Missouri State. Greenfield product Dalton Potts pitched a scoreless inning of relief over the weekend but has struggled in limited action as a senior.

Camden and Jackson State product Taylor Douglas is again the leading hitter for the overall year (.345). UTM's team batting average for the overall year is up from .225 to .261. Opponents' on-base percentage, though, is .431 compared to UTM's .341.

In league games, UTM ranks 10th of 11 teams in batting average, ninth in team ERA and seventh in fielding percentage.

Freire said any change in the funding model for baseball has been negligible, unlike men's basketball for which considerably more money is being spent than in the past. UTM baseball can't expect more money until the overall athletic department budget increases.

Meanwhile, the conference tournament will be at The Ballpark at Jackson again this year. UTM hasn't been since 2011. Participation seems like a logical, worthy goal for this season.

"I expect that next year we'll compete in the upper half of the conference," Freire said, adding he hopes to see UTM in serious conference title contention within two years.

Robinson said he favors recruiting good athletes and then figuring out what positions they can play. Of his 16 signees from next year, 12 are from a junior college.

They've heard about Robinson's plan for the team, they'll see the quotes on the wall, and he hopes they'll help make UTM baseball what it should be. That's what current players are learning now.

"We've tried to instill all that stuff in them from the very beginning which basically deals with playing hard and expecting success," Robinson said. "Even when you're not successful, you have to expect success."

Craig Thomas, 425-9634.
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Julio Freire, athletics director at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been selected as one of 12 members on the NCAA Women’s Basketball Oversight Committee.

Freire was nominated by Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner Beth DeBauche and was one of 400 nominees for a spot on one of seven committees in the NCAA’s new governance structure.

“It is obviously a tremendous honor and responsibility but more importantly it is a platform to help not only our university and the OVC but all mid-major institutions,” said Freire, who is in his second season as UT Martin’s athletics director. “I am thankful to Commissioner DeBauche for the confidence to nominate me and to the NCAA for selecting me.”

Freire is one of four athletics directors on the prestigious panel, which is comprised of representatives from each divisional subgroup. Freire joins chair Jean Lenti Ponsetto (DePaul University), Warde Manuel (University of Connecticut) and Kevin Anderson (University of Maryland) as athletics directors voted onto the panel. Also representing the committee is Connie Hurlbut (deputy commissioner, Western Athletic Conference), Bernadatte McGlade (commissioner, Atlantic 10 Conference), Dawn Staley (head coach, University of South Carolina), Heather Gores (senior associate athletics director/senior woman administrator, Gonzaga University), Janice Ruggiero (senior associate athletics director/senior woman administrator, University of New Mexico), Nora Lynn Finch (senior associate commissioner, Atlantic Coast Conference), Dru Hancock (senior associate commissioner, Big 12 Conference) and a student-athlete to be determined at a later date.

Non-voting members of the committee include Danielle Donehew (executive director, Women’s Basketball Coaches Association), Chris Dawson (associate commissioner and chair, Division-I Women’s Basketball Committee) and a faculty athletics representative to be determined at a later date.

The Women’s Basketball Oversight Committee will ensure that appropriate oversight of women’s basketball is maintained, will enhance the development and public perception of the sport and make recommendations related to regular season and postseason women’s basketball. The committee will prioritize enhancement of the student-athlete educational experience (academically and athletically) and in doing so, promote student-athletes' personal growth and leadership development.

The Women’s Basketball Oversight Committee will supervise qualifications and/or selection procedures for the NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Championship. The committee will review recommendations from the NCAA Division-I Women’s Basketball Committee and process other issues related to the administration of the championship. The committee will assume many of the duties of the former NCAA Division-I Women’s Basketball Issues Committee and will provide direction to the NCAA Division-I Women’s Basketball Rules Committee regarding playing rules.
SAVANT INDUCTED — Savant Learning Systems Inc. was inducted into the West Tennessee Innovation Hall of Fame at an Igniting Innovation event recently. The event was sponsored by the Ned Ray McWherter Institute for Collaboration and Innovation. Companies or individuals chosen for inclusion in the Hall of Fame have made significant and impactful contributions to their communities and West Tennessee through innovation. Savant Learning Systems Inc. strives to be a community partner by using local resources and revitalizing Weakley County through employment opportunities and strategic investments. Taking part in the presentation were (from left) Rachael Wolters, an animal science major from Culleoka; Taylor Martin, a business management major from Union City; Randy Brundige, mayor of Martin; Jared Presson, an electrical engineering major from Paris; Spencer Atkins, a philosophy and English major from Munford; Shelby Johnson, a theater major from Chapmansboro; Emily McCartney, an accounting and finance major from South Fulton; Dr. Nassar Nassar, president and CEO, Savant Learning Systems Inc.; Dr. Michelle Arant, chief academic officer, Savant Learning Systems Inc.; Tommy Legins, executive vice president and CFO, Savant Learning Systems Inc.; Rebecca Lund, an accounting and finance major from Martin; and Kristen Welch, a health and human performance major from Beach Bluff. The students are all members of the sophomore Innovators class. Not pictured is Andrea Murrell, a nursing major from Memphis.
UTM's Athletic Director joins NCAA Oversight Committee

By Justin Walters
By jwalters@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Apr 20, 2015 at 10:07 PM CDT
Story Updated: Apr 20, 2015 at 10:07 PM CDT

MARTIN, Tenn. - University of Tennessee at Martin's athletic director Julio Freire is assuming an important role in women's college basketball.

The Skyhawks AD has been selected as one of 12 members on the NCAA Women's Basketball Oversight Committee.

'It is obviously a tremendous honor and responsibility but more importantly it is a platform to help not only our university and the OVC but all mid-major institutions," said Freire in the school's news release.

'I am thankful to Commissioner DeBaucuie for the confidence to nominate me and to the NCAA for selecting me.

Freire's new duties include enhancing the development and public perception of women's basketball and making recommendations related to regular season and postseason.
University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro told an audience Thursday that an interim UT Martin chancellor could be named before the university’s May 2 commencement. Members of his staff joined DiPietro as he discussed the current and future status of the chancellor’s position during a 1 p.m. open forum in UT Martin’s Watkins Auditorium. The forum was open to the university and community.

Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor since 2007, announced April 13 that he is stepping down from the position and will return to teaching effective May 31. DiPietro thanked Rakes and his wife, Dr. Glenda Rakes (education professor), for their service and acknowledged the uncertainty that comes with leadership change. “This wasn’t something that came to light in an immediate sense from the standpoint of process, but instead it was a decision Tom made,” he said. The president said talks are under way with several individuals about the interim appointment. He reported “significant interest” in the position but has conditions under which candidates will be considered.

“One, I feel it’s very important, whoever takes the interim role, that they do not want to pursue the job permanently,” he said, adding, “I need somebody in this role who’s not a caretaker but instead who’s going to actively be engaged in managing this university. There are things that need to be done.” Declining enrollment is among DiPietro’s concerns for UT Martin, and he expects the interim chancellor to find ways to reverse this trend.

“We’re looking for somebody in the interim role, 

SEE CHANCELLOR, PAGE 3
as well as the permanent role, who really believes in shared governance,” he said. “Martin has an incredible track record of (shared governance).” He gave the example of the faculty senate’s having “a seat at the chancellor’s cabinet,” which is rare at other universities, and the interim chancellor needs to respect this Martin tradition.

“We need an individual who has plenty of experience … and has managed, hopefully, through some of the issues you all face,” he said. The person selected for the interim position could expect to serve for up to a year as the search for a permanent chancellor proceeds.

DiPietro said a national search will be conducted, and he is not opposed to internal candidates applying for the permanent position. He plans an inclusive search committee that involves faculty, staff, students, a UT Board of Trustees member and a community representative.

“It will be an open process when we get to the campus phase of the search, and it’ll occur in two steps,” he explained. Hotel or fly-in interviews will be the first step to determine which persons will be brought to campus for public interviews, which could begin in the fall. However, DiPietro would not commit to a search timetable, wanting first to have the interim chancellor in place and the campus functioning smoothly before campus interviews begin.

A decision on whether to use a search firm has not been made. He invited nominations for both the interim and permanent positions and asked that nominations for the interim position be made within the next week.

DiPietro then answered questions from the audience, one asking about student involvement in the search process. He said that student representation on the search committee could come either from the Student Government Association or a student member of the UT Board of Trustees, but either way, students will have a voice in the search.

He was also asked about the selection process and the UT Board’s role in the final selection. DiPietro explained that both the interim and permanent chancellor appointments must be elected by the board, “So I make a recommendation to them, and they will hopefully approve it.”

He closed by saying that he has personally experienced considerable change at other institutions, and UT Martin will be fine because the university is not dependent on one person to succeed. “The place will go on, and it’s because of the people,” he said. “It’s because of the people who serve the institution and move it forward, and it’s really all of you. “So we will be in really good shape.”
Dr. John Barker to deliver UTM commencement address May 2

Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, will address graduates at the university’s spring commencement exercises at 11 a.m. May 2 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Barker, a Humboldt native, graduated summa cum laude from UT Martin in 1989 with a bachelor’s degree in history. He served as student body president during the 1988-89 academic year before graduating and continuing his education at Vanderbilt University. He earned a master’s degree in public policy from Vanderbilt in 1990 and a doctoral degree in education and human development, also from Vanderbilt, in 1997.

He spent seven years in administrative roles at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Miss., before returning to Tennessee in 2002. He then spent many of the next 11 years working in the Memphis City School System as research evaluator; executive director of the Department of Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Student Information; and chief of staff. In 2013, Barker left Memphis to begin his current position as chief accountability officer with Chicago Public Schools, where he leads the district’s efforts in student

SEE ADDRESS, PAGE 3

ADDRESS
FROM PAGE 1

Each graduating student can receive up to six commencement tickets. Any tickets that remain unclaimed by 5 p.m., May 1, will be distributed beginning at 9 a.m. on commencement day outside the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The commencement ceremony will be broadcast live over the internet, and can be viewed at the following link: http://www.ovcdigitalnetwork.com/watch/?Live=2486

For more information on commencement, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 881-7615.
Town & Gown plans to produce food guide

By CAMERON GRAHAM
Special to The Press

It comes as no surprise that the Weakley County and surrounding areas in West Tennessee are rich in agricultural tradition. With families that have lived in the area for decades, farming and local markets are of great value to the cultural setting. For some, however, tradition alone is not enough to highlight the amount of potential for aggressive expansion.

In another combined effort by the Town and Gown Association of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin, Mayor Randy Brundige said he is proud to announce a new program to be initiated relatively soon. Partnering with Dr. Aaron Rowland’s “Community and Urban Sociology” course, the Town and Gown Association looks forward to developing a “Local Food Guide” to community supported agriculture in the area.

“We are excited to have this opportunity to establish a Local Food Guide for Martin,” Brundige said.

Brad Thompson, the city’s director of community development, will also be assisting in the administrative and organizational structure for what is to come. He, along with Brundige, are currently engaged in some of the preliminary preparations for this opportunity.

Given the complexity of the project at hand, Thompson also has the aid of Samantha Goyret and Ashley Kite-Rowland, both undergraduate students of the sociology course at UTM. Under the academic guidance SEE GUIDE, PAGE 3 of Dr. Aaron Rowland for this particular community based research, Samantha and Ashley will be leading the charge with their fellow classmates in understanding the dynamics of local food markets, availability, food security and even access to more nutritional foods.

“This will obviously be good for the people who want access to these options, but also the local producers as well,” said Rowland.

With the academic support of UTM, Thompson and Brundige are grateful for their noble efforts as both students and citizens. To further detail the extent of the project, the Local Food Guide hopes to cater to both the consumer and producer in an affordable and healthy approach. Of the methodology in producing such an index, Goyret and Kite-Rowland propose to have a list of the contact information to local farms, markets, vendors, stands, stores and U-Pick farms that produce locally grown foods. This list would be made publicly available for local residents to find desired goods. While the local agriculture industry is evident around the region, the awareness of such options for locals isn’t as strong.

The Local Food Guide hopes to change this and provide more insight towards what’s out there.

“Once this project is complete, we will have an accessible link on our website for people to view the guide and have printed copies available on the distribution at Martin City Hall,” said Brundige.

Thompson, Rowland, Goyret, and Kite-Rowland also hope to show the importance of buying locally produced foods. A clear reason to do such would be the community support of buying from small businesses. More so, the nutritional value of fresh vegetables and other goods is much more beneficial to the human body versus many items sold in supermarkets. A functional, and larger, farmer’s market is expected to also be a part of this specific endeavor included with the list. Progress for this cause is already under way, and Thompson is excited about getting everything up and going for the final push. He also invites those who may be interested or curious to come by and share their concerns.

“I would encourage anyone who sees any need in our community to feel free to stop by and talk to me anytime. That is why we are here at Martin City Hall,” said Thompson.

Though the Local Food Guide is in its early stages of development, it hopes to focus on the surrounding area entirely, further than just Martin. The economic impact of a vibrant farmers’ market is highly anticipated by local activists. With the combined power of scholarly research and the leadership of the city’s officials, this project is expected to be completed in the very near future. Closer toward the summer, a date will be announced detailing more about the presentation of such work. With the area already holding strong roots to the world of agriculture, Town and Gown, as well as UTM, hope this will strengthen community relations and keep consistent with the growing changes of Weakley County.
WestStar group impressed by local students

Lauderdale County students impressed the WestStar Leadership group on April 9 as Superintendent Shawn Kimble hosted a segment of Education Day for WestStar participants at Ripley High School. Pictured with Superintendent Kimble are, from left, Caitlyn Gitchell of Ripley High School, Kamryn Gitchell of RHS, and Chad Lewis of Halls High School. Lewis, President of the HHS FFA, was recently elected Tennessee State FFA treasurer and spoke of his experiences in FFA at the local and state levels. Caitlyn and Kamryn Gitchell each have 37 hours of dual enrollment college credits including six hours of Governor’s School for Agriculture and described their dual enrollment experiences.
Brass recital set for Thursday night

Community music lovers are welcome to attend a low brass chamber recital presented by student musicians at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The performance will feature the UT Martin tuba and euphonium ensemble and include both original compositions and pieces transcribed from full orchestral works.

The ensemble will present music from a variety of styles, including “Power” by John Stevens, “Finlandia” by Sibelius, “Russian Sailors Dance” by Gliere and “Semper Fi March” by Sousa.

Bill Waterman, instructor of music and director of athletic bands, will direct the performance.

Thursday night’s concert is free and open to the public, according to a UT Martin spokesman.

Ensemble to give spring concert

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble will present a spring concert at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Fine Arts Building’s Harriet Fulton Theatre.

The concert will feature works by Pulitzer Prize-winning composers David Lang and Christopher Rouse. The ensemble will perform Lang’s “The So-Called Laws of Nature” and Rouse’s “Ku-Ka-Ilimoku.”

The concert will also include Brett William Dietz’s “Sanctus Bells,” a new marimba quartet by Dwayne Rice, Clif Walker’s “Promise Music” and Stephen Snowden’s “Tacoma Narrows.”

The performance will feature a variety of unique instruments, including marimbas, glockenspiels, vibraphones, tea cups, flower pots, chains, tin cans, metal pipes, gongs and cymbals.

The concert is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Daniel Heagney by email at dheagney@utm.edu.

West TN Writing Project applications due by Monday

The West Tennessee Writing Project is accepting applications for the 22nd Invitational Summer Institute, to be held June 1-11 on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

The sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. A mandatory orientation will be held May 9.

The institute is designed to help current teachers find innovative ways to meet standards, learn to apply differentiated instruction, give both teacher-driven and student-driven assessments and develop critical thinking in students.

Chosen applicants will participate in teaching demonstrations, discussions and reading, as well as afternoon writing workshops.

Twelve participants will be selected through an application and interview process.

Teachers from all subject areas, grades K-12, are invited to apply.

Applications must be received before Monday.

All teachers will participate in 52 hours of professional development and will receive 5.2 continuing education units through UT Martin.

“The institute) has given me fresh ideas and a new perspective on writing,” said Vanessa Nelson, a Crockett County Middle School teacher and 2014 institute participant.

“Being a part of this project has really made a difference in me, not only as a writer and an individual but also as a teacher,” said Amy Duncan, a Hillcrest Elementary School teacher and former institute participant.

Participation in the institute is paid for by a grant from the National Writing Project.

Lodging is available on campus in student residence halls, paid by individual participants. The rate for on-campus lodging is $12 per night.

Applications are available for download from www.utm.edu/wtwp. Anyone interested may also contact Dr. David Carithers, WTWP director and associate professor of English, at (731) 881-7290 or by email at dcarithers@utm.edu.
UT Martin commencement to feature Chicago educator

Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, will address graduates at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring commencement exercises May 2 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m.

Barker, a Humboldt native, graduated summa cum laude from UT Martin in 1989 with a bachelor’s degree in history. He served as student body president during the 1988-89 academic year before graduating and continuing his education at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

He earned a master’s degree in public policy from Vanderbilt in 1990 and a doctoral degree in education and human development, also from Vanderbilt, in 1997.

He spent seven years in administrative roles at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Miss., before returning to Tennessee in 2002. He then spent many of the next 11 years working in the Memphis City School System as research evaluator; executive director of the Department of Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Student Information; and chief of staff.

In 2013, Barker left Memphis to begin his current position as chief accountability officer with Chicago Public Schools, where he leads the district’s efforts in student assessment, teacher/principal evaluation, performance management and data quality.

Barker is currently a member of the board of directors of both City Year Chicago in Chicago and Special Kids and Families Inc. in Memphis. He is also a member of the American Association of School Administrators, the American Education Research Association and the American Evaluation Association.

Each graduating UT Martin student can receive up to six commencement tickets. Any tickets that remain unclaimed by 5 p.m. May 1 will be distributed beginning at 9 a.m. on commencement day outside the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

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For more information on commencement, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.
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ART CENTER EXHIBIT FEATURES STUDENTS - Twelve students from the University of Tennessee at Martin have been chosen to exhibit their artwork in the 14th annual Artists of the 21st Century exhibition, on display at the West Tennessee Regional Art Center in Humboldt through April 24. Among them are (from left, front row) Alex Stover, a junior from Sparta; Rachel Melton, a freshman from Sharon; Chara Brown, a junior from Linden; Carly Christiansen, a senior from Cordova; Beth Crocker, a junior from McKenzie; Jacquelynn Blackmon, a senior from Martin; (back row) Caitlyn Dowland, a sophomore from Bradford; Michael May, a senior from Camden; Melanie O’Neil, a senior from Dickson; Ethan Appleby, a junior from Savannah; and Aaron Burks, a senior from Fulton, Ky. Not pictured is Mary Kathryn Day, a senior from Dyersburg. All the students are fine and performing arts majors.

Student art featured at Art Center

Twelve students from the University of Tennessee at Martin were chosen to participate in the 14th annual “Artists of the 21st Century” exhibition, sponsored by the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts and the West Tennessee Regional Art Center in Humboldt.

College artists from all southeastern states were invited to submit material. Artist Andrea Steele served as this year’s juror and reviewed more than 170 submitted art pieces from six states. Of the 24 works chosen for display, 12 were created by UT Martin students. Students included in the exhibition are Ethan Appleby, a junior from Savannah; Jacquelynn Blackmon, a senior from Martin; Chara Brown, a junior from Linden; Aaron Burks, a senior from Fulton, Ky.; Carly Christiansen, a senior from Cordova; Beth Crocker, a junior from McKenzie; Mary Kathryn Day, a senior from Dyersburg; Caitlynn Dowland, a sophomore from Bradford; Michael May, a senior from Camden; Rachel Melton, a freshman from Sharon; Melanie O’Neil, a senior from Dickson; and Alex Stover, a junior from Sparta. All the students are fine and performing arts majors.

Christiansen was awarded the Best of Show prize as the juror’s pick for top piece in all categories. Brown was awarded third place in the 3D category.

All the selected works will be on display at the West Tennessee Regional Art Center until 4:30 p.m., April 24. The center is located at 1200 Main Street in Humboldt. The gallery is open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, and admission is free.

For more information, contact Bill Hickerson, WTRAC director, at 731-784-1787.
Twelve students from the University of Tennessee at Martin have been chosen to exhibit their artwork in the 14th annual ‘Artists of the 21st Century’ exhibition, on display at the West Tennessee Regional Art Center in Humboldt through Friday. Pictured are Alex Stover, a junior from Sparta; Rachel Melton, a freshman from Sharon; Chara Brown, a junior from Linden; Carly Christiansen, a senior from Cordova; Beth Crocker, a junior from McKenzie; Jacquelynn Blackmon, a senior from Martin; Caitlyn Dowland, a sophomore from Bradford; Michael May, a senior from Camden; Melanie O’Neil, a senior from Dickson; Ethan Appleby, a junior from Savannah; and Aaron Burks, a senior from Fulton, Kentucky. Not pictured is Mary Kathryn Day, a senior from Dyersburg.

Budding UT Martin artists display work

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All the selected works will be on display at the West Tennessee Regional Art Center, open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The exhibition will remain on display until 4:30 p.m. Friday. Admission to the gallery is free.

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For more information on commencement, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

SOAR Planned At UT Martin Center

A summer orientation and registration (S.O.A.R.) program will be held April 25th with registration beginning at 8 a.m. at University of Tennessee at Martin.

For more information, call 731-881-7020.

TINA EDWARDS, of Ripley received the Outstanding Upper Division Management, Marketing and Information Systems Student Award April 12th during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Outstanding student awards were given from each of UT Martin’s five colleges, as well as many departmental and university-wide scholarships.
Local student receives award at UT Martin Honors Day

Cassandra Rogers, of Bethel Springs, recently received the Richard D. Chesteen Sr., Award during the annual Honors Day celebration April 12 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Outstanding student awards were given from each of UT Martin’s five colleges, as well as many departmental and university-wide scholarships.

UT Martin to host Summer Orientation and Registration

Graduating high school seniors who have applied for admission to the University of Tennessee at Martin and received a tentative or final acceptance letter are encouraged to attend summer orientation and registration to learn more about the resources available on the UT Martin campus. Students will also select their classes for the upcoming fall semester.

Several SOAR sessions are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The first of these is scheduled for April 25. Additional sessions are scheduled for June 5 and 19 and July 17. The registration fee is $45 for students and $20 for each accompanying parent, guardian or sibling. The fee includes all meals and breaks.

The April 25 session will begin with registration and ID card pictures at 8 a.m. The morning’s activities will include informational sessions on financial aid, campus technology, student activities, campus housing, Greek life and meal plans. Participants may attend two of these sessions. Lunch will be served in the newly renovated Skyhawk Dining Hall at 11:30 a.m., and students will begin meeting with faculty advisors and selecting their fall classes at 1:30 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend a parent panel and question-and-answer session during this time. All events will be held in the Boling University Center, located at 11 Wayne Fisher Drive on the UT Martin campus.

Pre-registration is required. To register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soar/register.php. All SOAR registration fees must be paid at the time of registration by check, money order, Visa or MasterCard. Checks should be made payable to the UT Martin Office of Admissions and mailed to 200 Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238.

Tuition and course fees will not be collected until the start of the fall semester and are not due at SOAR.

For additional information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Martin Middle School eighth grade students competed against four area high schools in the Egg Drop portion of UT Martin’s Engineering Day against Trinity Christian Academy, McNa'iry High School, Westview, and Bruceton Hollow Rock High School. Mrs. Farlow’s students received first, second and third places in the competition.

1ST PLACE — Abbigail Gardner, Emily Patrick, Bobby Gardner and Austin Wilson.
Three in a row — For the third consecutive year, a team from Westview High School won the bridge building contest at UT Martin's annual Engineering Day. The team consisted of Westview students John Sterrett, Bruce Hicks, James Pritchett and Collin Stricklin. Sterrett and Hicks are pictured from left.
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For more information, contact Bill Hickerson, WTRAC director, at 731-784-1787.
Attending WestStar Training

SHAWN KIMBLE, second from left, Lauderdale County Superintendent of Schools, accompanied by Lauderdale County students, Caitlyn Gitchell and Kamryn Gitchell, both of Ripley High School, and Chad Lewis, of Halls High School, hosted a segment during education day for the WestStar Leadership program April 9th at Ripley High School. Chad, president of the HHS FFA, was elected TN State FFA treasurer and spoke of his experiences in FFA at the local and state levels. Caitlyn and Kamryn each have 37 hours of dual enrollment college credits including six hours of Governor's School for Agriculture and described their dual enrollment experiences.
Students inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

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


Tomasso tapped to lead School of Fisheries

http://www.oanow.com/

Tomasso also holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education from the University of Tennessee-Martin and taught junior high science for two years before enrolling in graduate school at Middle Tennessee State in 1976.

Jansen will remain at Auburn through Aug. 31 to facilitate the transition in leadership and then will resume his position as fisheries professor emeritus, a title he has held since his retirement from Auburn in 2007.

Submitted photo
Dr. Joseph R. Tomasso Jr.
From cotton picker to college president

http://oakridgetoday.com/.

Shirley Raines of Oak Ridge has an amazing and inspiring story to tell.

Now president emeritus of the University of Memphis, she will describe her career and provide advice on leadership at the third in a series of Roane State Community College–Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Education Intergenerational Lectures.

Her talk begins at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 30, in the large lecture hall (Room 107) in the Goff Health Sciences and Technology Building on Roane State’s Oak Ridge campus at 701 Briarcliff Avenue. Raines will speak on “How a Kindergarten Teacher Became a University President.”

Born in Jackson in West Tennessee, she grew up on a cotton farm outside Bells, where she picked cotton by hand for the family business. She recalled that her mother was very smart and could have been a teacher or lawyer but lacked the opportunity to get a higher education.

Raines graduated second in a class of 23 students in high school. She obtained a degree in child development from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She taught children in kindergarten classes. At UT-Knoxville, she earned a master’s degree in child development and an Ed D. in education, curriculum, and instruction. She was the Head Start director for Knox County after earning her master’s degree. While earning her doctorate, she started the Community Child Center for Roane State Community College.

She taught education at various universities and accepted appointments as department head. Raines applied successfully for the dean of the College of Education position at the University of Kentucky. After three years of service, she was asked to add the vice chancellor role to her position. Then, in 2001, she became the 11th president of the University of Memphis, the first woman to hold the position. She retired from the position in 2013 and now works as a speaker and leadership trainer. Most college presidents serve for an average of six years, but Raines held her job for 12.

She was considered a people-oriented, goal-motivated chief executive officer in charge of approximately 2,500 personnel, from professors to research scientists to groundskeepers. Each year the University of Memphis enrolls approximately 23,000 students. Under her leadership, the university completed a highly successful building program and campus redesign.
She founded the University of Memphis Research Foundation and Memphis Research Consortium. During her tenure, sponsored research and grants grew by more than 100 percent. She also focused on building internships for university students and was recognized as one of the top 10 in America for successful internship programs. Because of her effectiveness in university leadership, Raines served for six consecutive years as a faculty member for the Harvard Institute for New Presidents and Chancellors.

Raines was inducted into the Tennessee Women’s Hall of Fame in 2013, a tribute sponsored by the Tennessee Women’s Economic Development Council. She was invited by the Department of Commerce to speak at the White House Forum on “The Innovative and Entrepreneurial University." Described in the Memphis newspaper “The Commercial Appeal" as “powerful, prepared, and personable,” she became known for her effective work in building productive partnerships with businesses, industry, and community leaders to grow local and regional economies. She chaired the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce, the first woman to hold that role.

Raines is a past president of the Association for Childhood Education International. She served on the selection committee for the National Teacher of the Year award.

The author of 14 books and numerous journal articles, she is widely regarded as an expert in teacher education and early childhood education.

In Oak Ridge, she is a member of the boards of directors of the Emory Valley Center and the Roane State Community College Foundation. She is married to retired professor, Robert J. Canady. She has one son, Brian, and two grandchildren, Riley and Bryson.
Letters in Motion provides letters of encouragement for orphans

The letters have been written by people across the country as part of a project called Letters in Motion. John Sellers, founder of Letters in Motion, will travel with a team to deliver them by hand. Sellers lived in Nepal for a year and a half, and he said he has a passion for the people of the country.

"I traveled all over the country, and it was in that time that I became very burdened for the state of children, the state of orphans over there," Sellers said.

John Sellers is in his junior year studying psychology at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He said there are more than a million orphans in Nepal, and many live in very poor conditions.

He said when he first came to UT Martin, he tried to share his burden...
with his friends, but they did not connect to it in the same way he did. It was then that he came up with the idea to have them write letters that he could send to the children in Nepal. He said the idea exploded.

"I told my friends, they told their friends," he said. "Sports teams got involved. SGA got involved... Now we’ve expanded to 10 universities."

Sellers said he set a goal of collecting 3,000 letters to take to Nepal on a trip in June. A small team will leave June 8 to deliver the letters. Six students from UT Martin, one from Bethel University and two from Union University will make up the team.

Sellers said the team will visit a string of orphanages that his parents are involved in and hand out the letters.

"We’ll have a full film crew with us so we’re filming the response that the letters have," he said.

Sellers works in photography and video production, and he said he thinks that part of the project is very important for raising awareness and continuing the ministry. He said there are more than 800 orphanages in Nepal, but many are scams.

"Many of the orphanages are false," Sellers said. "Volunteers will show up, and there’s nothing there."

Sellers said he wants people to be confident that his team is using their resources like they promise.

"We’ll show exactly where the letters are going, exactly where the money is going," he said.

Sellers said the letters that are written are short. The writer usually shares about his or her day and offers encouragement as a way of connecting with a child.

Sellers said most of the Nepali children are taught English, so they will be able to read the letters. If they cannot read

English, a translator will either write a translation or read the letter to the child.

In addition to the letters project, Sellers started Letters in Motion Apparel to raise money for the trip. The clothing line, called LinM, has raised more than $12,000 for the organization.

Sellers said he wanted a way to connect people to fund-raising for Letters in Motion, and his team came up with an event called Berserker Blitz, which will take place May 2 at Union University. He said the event will provide money for the trip and raise awareness.

Elizabeth Hellmer helped to organize the event. She said she met Sellers through production work and was impressed by his passion for Nepal.

"You can see he has a heart for these people," Hellmer said. "Knowing there’s someone that invested makes investing in this so worthwhile."

Hellmer said the Berserker Blitz will include nine obstacles, a DJ and a night glow run. More information and registration can be found at www.berserkerblitz.com.

Sellers said Letters in Motion began just six months ago, and it will not end after the June trip. He hopes to add one country to the Letters in Motion project each year, and he is looking into countries in Africa, but he will continue working in Nepal. He said the connection to Nepal is very personal to him.

In 1991, Sellers’ aunt and uncle were involved in humanitarian work in Nepal. They started a small orphanage and church and worked there for two years before Sellers’ aunt became ill and had to fly out of the country for treatment. On the flight back, the plane crashed with his aunt and uncle and their five children.

"The work was only two years old, and then it was just left," Sellers said.

He said his grandparents took over the work, and it grew exponentially. Nineteen years later, his parents took over.

That’s when he moved to Nepal.

Sellers said Letters in Motion will be his full-time job when he graduates. He said he wants to see the economic landscape of Nepal change, and there is a lot left to do. He said poverty is the main reason for the high number of orphans, and human trafficking is a major issue as well.

"There are several long-term projects," Sellers said. "But right now it’s just providing hope to orphans one letter at a time."

More information on Letters in Motion can be found at golettersinmotion.com.
Dr. Robert M. Smith named UT-Martin Interim Chancellor

UT President Dr. Joe DiPietro has named Dr. Robert M. Smith to serve as interim Chancellor effective June 1st after Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes steps down from the position May 31st.

Dr. Smith was dean of the UTM College of Arts and Sciences from 1987 to 1999, and he also co-established and was the first executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program from 1989 to 1999.

Since that time, he has gone on to achieve national recognition for his innovative leadership as provost and then president at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.

Earlier this month, Dr. Rakes announced he would be stepping down at the end of May to return to teaching at UTM.

Dr. DiPietro says Dr. Smith will serve as interim Chancellor for one year, while the university conducts a national search for a candidate to fill the position permanently.
Robert Smith is UT Martin Interim Chancellor

By ROB CANNING

The University of Tennessee has selected a former dean of its Martin campus to serve as its interim chancellor.

Dr. Robert Smith, former president of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and former dean of the UT Martin College of Arts and Sciences, will head the campus until a replacement for current chancellor Tom Rakes is found. Rakes announced that he will be stepping down from the position at the end of next month to return to teaching as a professor in the College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences.

UT System President Joe DiPietro will formally announce Smith’s appointment and introduce him to the Martin campus Friday.

"We are fortunate to have a leader and higher education expert of Dr. Smith’s caliber and one with such significant ties to UT Martin returning to guide the university through this transition," said DiPietro. "His transformative leadership at Slippery Rock University has been recognized by some of the nation’s most prestigious higher education associations, and I look forward to working with Dr. Smith and the UT Martin faculty, students and administration during this interim period."

While Smith was a dean at UT Martin from 1987 to 1999, he also co-established and served as executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program from 1989 to 1999. He was director of the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities from 1996 to 1999, and prior to that was an associate dean at Wichita State University in Kansas.

Since 2012, Smith has been of counsel and a member of the Education Leadership Council for Witt/Kieffer Executive Search firm, which specializes in higher education and healthcare. In 2014, he also began consulting as an associate with the AASCU-Penson Center for Professional Development, a resource of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Smith’s consulting for the AASCU-Penson Center has specialized in enrollment management; board and executive development; performance funding strategies; entrepreneurial ventures; and strategic planning.

Smith begins the position June 1.

Details of a search for a permanent replacement have not been announced.

UTM’s SchroYer, Jones honored

NASHVILLE — The UT Martin basketball programs represented half of the college basketball award winners during the Tennessee Sports Writers Association’s annual selection of the state’s college basketball coaches and players of the year honors.

In a vote of TSWA members, UT Martin men’s basketball coach Heath SchroYer and sophomore forward Ashia Jones were named the TSWA Men’s Coach and Women’s Player of the Year, respectively.

SchroYer burst onto the scene in his first year at the helm of the Skyhawks, leading the squad to not only the program’s first postseason appearance since the 2008-09 season, but all the way to the Final Four of the CollegeInsiders.com Postseason Tournament.

A Hugh Durham National Coach of the Year Award finalist, SchroYer engineered one of the best turnarounds in the country this season.

Under SchroYer’s guidance, the Skyhawks posted a 21-13 overall record while boasting a program record 12 road victories.
Robert M. Smith, a former dean of College of Arts and Sciences, to act as chancellor

Robert M. Smith has been selected to serve as interim chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the university announced Monday. Smith led award-winning innovations in enrollment management, improving retention and graduation rates, and strengthening academic quality during more than nine years as president of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, university officials said in a news release.

Smith, former dean of the UT Martin College of Arts and Sciences and co-creator and former executive director of the UTM-affiliated WestStar Leadership Program, becomes interim chancellor on June 1. UTM Chancellor Tom Rakes announced earlier this month he would step down as chancellor on May 31 and return to teaching as a professor in the College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences.

"We are fortunate to have a leader and higher education expert of Dr. Smith's caliber and one with such significant ties to UT Martin returning to guide the university through this transition," DiPietro said. "His transformative leadership at Slippery Rock University has been recognized by some of the nation's most prestigious higher education associations, and I look forward to working with Dr. Smith and the UT Martin faculty, students and adminis-

Robert M. Smith

continued from Page A4

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"I look forward to being back on the UT Martin campus, in West Tennes-

see, and to reconnecting with old colleagues and making new friends on campus and in the community," said Smith, who was just presented the UTM Chancellor's Award for University Service in November.

While Smith was a dean at UT Martin from 1987 to 1999, he co-established and served as executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program from 1989 to 1999. He was director of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities from 1996 to 1999, and prior to that was an associate dean at Wichita State University in Kansas.

DiPietro praised Rakes, chancellor at UTM since 2007, for accomplishments during his service ranging from reaching an enrollment record of 8,469, to completion of more than $100 million in capital and maintenance projects, to further expansion of UTM's satellite centers toward better serving students in surrounding counties.

Including his five years as UT Martin provost, Chancellor Rakes has presided over a time of significant growth and progress, and I am glad he will continue to serve the students of UT Martin by returning to the classroom," DiPietro said.
Dr. Robert Smith to serve as UTM’s interim chancellor

Dr. Robert M. Smith — who led award-winning innovations in enrollment management, improving retention and graduation rates, and strengthening academic quality during more than nine years as president of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania — has been selected to serve as interim chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Smith, former dean of the UT Martin College of Arts and Sciences and co-creator and former executive director of the UT Martin-affiliated WestStar Leadership Program, becomes interim chancellor on June 1.

Current UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes announced earlier this month he would step down as chancellor on May 31 and return to teaching as a professor in the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences.

UT President Joe DiPietro will formally announce Smith’s appointment and introduce him to the UT Martin community in a visit to the campus on Friday.

“We are fortunate to have a leader and higher education expert of Dr. Smith’s caliber and one with such significant ties to UT Martin returning to guide the university through this transition,” DiPietro said. “His transformative leadership at Slippery Rock University has been recognized by some of the nation’s most prestigious higher education associations, and I look forward to working with Dr. Smith and the UT Martin faculty, students and administration during this interim period.”

DiPietro praised Rakes, chancellor at UT Martin (See Page 2, Col. 5)

UTM... (Continued from Page 1) since 2007, for accomplishments during his service — ranging from reaching an enrollment record of 8,469 to completion of more than $100 million in capital and maintenance projects to further expansion of UT Martin’s satellite centers toward better serving students in surrounding counties.

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Smith, Slippery Rock University president emeritus, was provost there from 1999 to 2002, interim president from 2002 to 2004 and then president until 2012. Under his guidance, the university achieved increases of 22 percent in enrollment, 16 percent in retention and 24 percent in graduation rates.

The culture change Smith led at Slippery Rock University became a model for analytical, data-driven decision-making for which he was commended in 2012 by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. His work as co-chair of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education’s revisions of performance funding earned praise from the Lumina Foundation, the nation’s largest private foundation focused solely on increasing Americans’ success in higher education.

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“I look forward to being back on the UT Martin campus, in West Tennessee, and to reconnecting with old colleagues and making new friends on campus and in the community.”

TSWA HONORS

UTM hoops duo earns state awards

The UT Martin basketball programs represented half of the college basketball award winners during the Tennessee Sports Writers Association’s annual selection of the state’s college basketball coaches and players of the year honors.

In a vote of TSWA members, UT Martin men’s basketball coach Heath Schroyer and sophomore forward Ashia Jones were named the TSWA Men’s Coach and Women’s Player of the Year, respectively.

Schroyer burst onto the scene in his first year at the helm of the Skyhawks, leading the squad to not only the program’s first postsea-son appearance since the 2008-09 season, but all the way to the Final Four of the CollegeInsiders.com Postseason Tournament.

A Hugh Durham National Coach of the Year Award finalist, Schroyer engineered one of the best turnarounds in the country this season. Under Schroyer’s guidance, the Skyhawks posted a 21-13 overall record while boasting a program record 12 road victories, tied for the nation’s lead.

Tying over an eight-win program from a year ago, Schroyer added UT Martin to his list of seven programs who have participated in postseason play while picking up the program’s first three postseason wins in Division-I history. The 13-win increase was the sixth-largest win improvement in D-I.

A native of Covington, Jones notes the program’s second Women’s Player of the Year award in as many years, joining only former great Heather Butler to claim the prestigious honor.

Jones led the team to a 22-11 overall mark while becoming the sixth program in OVC to finish the conference slate with an unblemished mark, going 16-0.

This is the fifth major award handed out to the sophomore forward, joining honors such as Associated Press All-America honorable mention, WBCA All-Region, National Mid-Major Player of the Year by College Sports Madness along with OVC Player of the Year and All-OVC accolades.

Jones not only led the OVC but ranked fourth nationally with 23.4 points per game while averaging 5.7 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.9 steals per game.
UT President Dr. Joe DiPietro will formally introduce Dr. Robert M. Smith as the UT-Martin Interim Chancellor Friday during a campus visit to the university.

Dr. Smith, a former dean at UTM, becomes interim chancellor on June 1st. Current Chancellor Tom Rakes announced earlier this month he would step down as chancellor on May 31st and return to teaching as a professor in the College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences.

Smith, Slippery Rock University president emeritus, was provost there from 1999 to 2002, interim president from 2002 to 2004, then president until 2012. Under his guidance, the university achieved increases of 22-percent in enrollment, 16-percent in retention, and 24-percent in graduation rates.

While Smith was a dean at UTM from 1987 to 1999, he co-established and served as executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program from 1989 to 1999. He was also director of the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities from 1996 to 1999.
I am glad he will continue to serve the students of UT Martin by returning to the classroom,” DiPietro said.

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SMITH FROM PAGE 1

In 2011, the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO) gave Smith its inaugural Strategic Enrollment Management Leadership Award. Since 2012, Smith has been a frequent speaker and panelist on institutional performance, performance metrics, and incentive funding models. He has been a facilitator for AACRAO Presidential Seminars on Strategic Enrollment Management, and he has been a senior faculty member in four executive development programs including the National Association of College and University Business Officers’ Collegiate Management Business Institute and for 16 years with the Tennessee Government Institute.

“I look forward to being back on the UT Martin campus, in West Tennessee, and to reconnecting with old colleagues and making new friends on campus and in the community,” said Smith, who was just presented the UT Martin Chancellor’s Award for University Service in November.

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Smith is a native of Kansas and an alumnus of Wichita State, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in communication. He also earned a master’s degree in communication from Ohio University and a doctoral degree in communication theory from Temple University. He was a tenured faculty member at UT Martin and Wichita State.

ARTISTS SHINE — LSA, The League of Striving Artists, came up big at this year’s Who Awards. They were finalists in every major category, taking home three big awards. LSA won Gold Level Service for completing over 500 hours of community service, Student Organization Event of the Year (Boy Scout Art Day), and Student Leader of the Year Miranda Rutan. Most of the community service has taken place in the Martin community. LSA members are (front row, from left) Rachel Melton, Carly Christiansen, Tyler Allen, Miranda Rutan, Desiree Wheeler, Brendalyn Triplett, Alexandra Rutan; (back row) Caitlyn Dowland, Mary Katherine Day, faculty advisor Jason Stout, Amber Gentry, Melanie O’Neil, and Christian Holland.
UT Martin Faculty Senate passes 2 resolutions

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty Senate recently passed two resolutions advocating for increased support of higher education, and inclusive faculty involvement in policy development and implementation. Both items have been shared with all members of the system-wide University of Tennessee Faculty Council and University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro.

The first resolution expresses faculty support of the university and progressive higher education that advances a diversity of ideas. In addition to initiatives such as the Tennessee Promise that expand opportunities for community and technical college students, the resolution calls for increased recognition and support for the significant contributions of four-year institutions and the UT System.

Although the faculty are encouraged that next year’s overall UT budget request has been well supported, the resolution also calls for continued "genuine means of supporting Tennessee higher education and the University of Tennessee as a value for the common good."

"Vocational training provides excellent opportunities for Tennesseans, and we applaud the state’s efforts in this area," said Dr. Brian Donavant, associate professor of criminal justice and faculty senate president. "However, genuine higher education is much more comprehensive in its ability to help students envision and understand their roles in society. We hope this resolution offers the chancellor, president and board of trustees additional support as they work to advance the university’s mission."

The second resolution emphasizes the importance of shared governance within the university structure. Across the UT System, faculty note a general drift away from the policy documents approved by the UT Board of Trustees and included in the faculty handbook on each campus, and that administrators are increasingly making performance and evaluation policies on an ad hoc basis and without faculty input.

"While items in the second resolution generally have not been a problem on the Martin campus, with the pending announcement of a new chancellor we want to stress the importance of maintaining faculty input on our campus," said Donavant. "The Senate also determined to proactively emphasize these tenets of shared governance in support of faculty across the UT System."

Other senates across the UT System are expected to vote on similar actions over the next several weeks and forward their respective resolutions through the faculty council to DiPietro and the UT Board of Trustees.

The resolutions can be read in their entirety at http://www.utm.edu/departments/fac senate/resolutions.php.

UT Martin earns pair of awards by TSWA

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In a vote of TSWA members, UT Martin men’s basketball coach Heath Schroyer and sophomore forward Ashia Jones were named the TSWA Men’s Coach and Women’s Player of the Year, respectively.

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Jones not only led the OVC but ranked fourth nationally with 23.4 points per game while averaging 5.7 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.9 steals per game. She scored 772 points during the season, breaking the school’s previous single season scoring mark.
Two local students inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

Two local students were recently inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. These include Kaitlin Evans, of Paris, who was initiated at Austin Peay State University, and Beth Crocker of McKenzie, who was initiated at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Membership in Phi Kappa Phi is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership.

The mission of Phi Kappa Phi is to "recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

It is the nation’s oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Obion County students earn UTM scholarships

Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement.

Elizabeth Jean Gibson, of Union City, Tenn., daughter of Peter Gibson and Holly Gray, will be a freshman. She received the Latimer Scholarship and the Maintenance Center Family Scholarship.

Mikaela Margaret Hardy, daughter of Ben and Barbie Hardy, of South Fulton, will be a junior. She received the Varsity Cheerleader Scholarship.

Luz Morales, daughter of Miguel and Juana Morales, of Union City, Tenn., will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner 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.

Culver tells Rotary about UTM

Texas Culver, left, education faculty instructor/advisor for the University of Tennessee at Martin, was the speaker April 27 at the Halls Gates Rotary Club. Culver spoke about the center serving the community and producing an educated labor work force for helping industries and getting a degree. The UTM Center started in 2005 with 70 students but has increased over the years. The current enrollment is about 255. High enrollment was 375 three years ago. Culver said that this semester enrollment for the center is the second in a row to show an increase.

He said that they have several degrees that individuals could work toward such as Social Work, Criminal Justice, Psychology, RN-BSN, Education K-6. He stated that they have online courses as well such as Business Administration, RN-BSN, Agribusiness, and Farm and Ranch Management, which is a new course. Culver said that all courses are welcomed. Culver was the guest speaker of Rotarian Al Brassfield, right. Also is pictured is Club Vice President Dwayne Dixon.
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“We are fortunate to have a leader and higher education expert of Dr. Smith’s caliber and one with such significant ties to UT Martin returning to guide the university through this transition,” DiPietro said. “His transformative leadership at Slippery Rock University has been recognized by some of the nation’s most prestigious higher education associations, and I look forward to working with Dr. Smith and the UT Martin faculty, students and administration during this interim period.”

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See CHANCELLOR Page 2

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Smith is a native of Kansas and an alumnus of Wichita State, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in communication. He also earned a master’s degree in communication from Ohio University and a doctoral degree in communication theory from Temple University. He was a tenured faculty member at UT Martin and Wichita State.

Local resident inducted to honor society

Johnathon Miller of Halls was inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a ceremony held April 7. Miller is a senior management major. The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi is America’s oldest all-discipline collegiate honor society and awards its members more than $700,000 annually to finance further academic study.

At the college level

Three Obion County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-16 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Elizabeth Jean Gibson of Union City, daughter of Peter Gibson and Holly Gray, received the Latimer Scholarship and the Maintenance Center Family Scholarship. She will be a freshman.

Mikaela Margaret Hardy, daughter of Ben and Barbie Hardy of South Fulton, was awarded the Varsity Cheerleader Scholarship. She will be a junior.

Luz Morales, daughter of Miguel and Juana Morales of Union City, received the Harold Conner Scholarship. She will be a freshman, according to a UT Martin spokesman.
AgStar Program Graduation Held in Jackson

Zach Burrows of Trenton & Hannah Davis of Oakland were honored March 10, 2015, for completing the AgStar program. AgStar is a leadership program designed for current and future agricultural leaders. The program included six sessions in which the participants covered subjects such as lobbying, media communication skills, issues facing agriculture and involvement in local government. One session included a two-day trip to the State Legislature in Nashville.

They received a graduation plaque from Matt Fennel, TN Farm Bureau, and Dr. Todd Winters, Dean, College of Agriculture & Applied Sciences, UT Martin. Dr. Winters spoke to the graduates about the importance of being involved in their industry and community during the March 10 Graduation Banquet held in Jackson.

The Mission of AgStar is to empower agricultural producers and agribusiness people with the leadership, technological, communication and policy skills to advance the agricultural industry and promote the quality of rural life. AgStar is open to anyone interested in the field of agriculture in the West Tennessee area.

Zach Burrows & Hannah Davis (center) received an AgStar graduation plaque from Matt Fennel, TN Farm Bureau (left) and Dr. Todd Winters, Dean, College of Agriculture & Applied Sciences, UT Martin (right), during a recent graduation banquet in Jackson.

UT Martin to Offer Dual Enrollment Courses at Fayette Ware

Plans are underway for students at Fayette-Ware High School to have access to two college courses offered through the University of Tennessee at Martin, beginning with the fall 2015 semester. Juniors and seniors will be able to enroll in English 111 (first-level English composition) and Math 140 (College Algebra and Elementary Functions). This opportunity is available at reduced cost from previous years, largely because of the TSAC dual enrollment grant and UT Martin's New Dual Enrollment Advantage Scholarship, effective fall 2015. Grades earned in dual-enrollment courses are transferrable and affect the student's college grade point average. For more information about dual enrollment courses, contact Jackie Johnson, UT Martin dual enrollment coordinator, at 731-881-3089 or by email at jjohn253@utm.edu. Left to right are Dr. Lonnie Harris, Deputy Director of Schools; Dr. Walter Owens, Principal of Fayette-Ware High School; Jackie Johnson, UT Martin Dual Enrollment Coordinator; and James M. Teague, Fayette County Schools Director of Schools.
Mathematics contest brings 260 students to UT Martin

More than 290 people representing 16 public and private schools in West Tennessee attended the 2015 Middle School/Junior High School Mathematics Contest April 21, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

A total of 260 students in grades six through eight sat for the competition exams and 30 teachers, sponsors and parents participated in the event. Milan Middle School took home first place in both the sixth and seventh grade categories, while W.O. Inman Middle School, from Paris, won top honors in the eighth-grade category. The top-10 individuals from each grade are listed below.

Sixth grade - Vic Wang, Milan Middle School, first place; Kyle Watkins, W. O. Inman Middle School, second place; Monteith Haley, Dyersburg Middle School, third place; Canaan White, Milan Middle School, fourth place; Kashaina Nucum, W. O. Inman Middle School, fifth place; Anna Minor, W. O. Inman Middle School, sixth place; Saeed Dardas, University School of Jackson, seventh place tie; Landon Fortner, Dyersburg Middle School, seventh place tie; Jonathan Morris, South Fulton Middle School, seventh place tie; Blaine Sitton, Milan Middle School, tenth place

Seventh grade - William Carter, Milan Middle School, first place; Alec Watkins, W. O. Inman Middle School, second place; Nicholas Welch, Three Oaks Middle School, third place; Adrianna O'Dell, W. O. Inman Middle School, fourth place; Jace Brown, Martin Middle School, fifth place; Harold Stanley, Evangelical Christian School, sixth place; Nolan Burch, Dyersburg Middle School, seventh place; Colin Klein, Milan Middle School, eighth place; Spencer Froanckowski, Dyersburg Middle School, ninth place tie; Kaylah Richards, Milan Middle School, ninth place tie; Salomon Rice, Dyersburg Middle School, ninth place tie

Eighth grade - Kester Nucum, W. O. Inman Middle School, first place; Luke Weatherly, W. O. Inman Middle School, second place; Reed Semmel, Dyersburg Middle School, third place; Camryn Reed, W. O. Inman Middle School, fourth place; Samuel Andrews, Dyersburg Middle School, fifth place; Mariah Webb, Dyersburg Middle School, sixth; Meghan Hudson, Big Sandy Junior High School, seventh place; Esther Kim, Martin Middle School, eighth place; Jacob Virgin, Union City Middle School, ninth place; Josh McCalla, Evangelical Christian School, tenth place tie; Austin Atwill, Union City Middle School, tenth place tie

For more information, contact Dr. Jason DeVito, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics and competition test coordinator, at 731-881-7357 or by email at jdevito@utm.edu.

Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society

Allyson Branch, of Camden, was inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a ceremony held April 7. Branch is a senior agriculture major. The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi is America's oldest all-discipline collegiate honor society and awards its members more than $700,000 annually to finance further academic study.
Local students receive UT Martin scholarship

A Benton County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandi Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement. Allison Young, of Camden, daughter of Sherry Young and Jeff Young, will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.

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.

UT Martin reception set
Dr. Robert M. Smith, who was announced Monday as the University of Tennessee at Martin interim chancellor, will be introduced to the campus and community by UT President Joe DiPietro at 10 a.m. Friday in Room 206 of Boling University Center.
A reception will follow, with university students, faculty, staff and the public invited to attend.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor since 2007, announced April 13 that he is stepping down from the position and will return to teaching effective May 31.

Friday's event will be streamed live at the following link: http://webcast.utm.edu/UTMms01/Viewer/?peid=0bea3e6186d1426199f3cd8ff90e5e131d.

New UTM interim chancellor formally introduced tomorrow

The new Interim Chancellor for UT-Martin will be formally introduced tomorrow morning at the university.

Dr. Robert M. Smith, who was announced Monday as the UTM interim chancellor, will be formally introduced to the campus and community tomorrow morning at 10:00 by UT President Joe DiPietro.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor since 2007, announced April 13 that he is stepping down from the position and will return to teaching effective May 31.

Tomorrow morning's introduction will be held in Room 206 of the Boling University Center, with a reception to follow.

University students, faculty, staff and the public are invited to attend.

Local Resident Inducted Into Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society

Chloe Mullis, of Adamsville, was inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a ceremony held April 7. Mullis is a senior nursing major. The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi is America's oldest all-discipline collegiate honor society and awards its members more than $700,000 annually to finance further academic study.
Local students honored at UTM

Eight Weakley County residents were among the 45 students at the University of Tennessee at Martin to be honored April 19 as new members of Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges.

Each student was nominated by a faculty member and had to complete an extensive application process before being selected by a trained committee.

The students recognized were Andrea Argo, a senior finance major from Martin; Brianna Foss, a senior chemistry major from Martin; Amber Gentry, a junior fine and performing arts major from Martin; Nicole Hicks, a senior integrated studies preK-3 major from Sharon; Abbey McDaniel, a post-baccalaureate student from Greenfield; Oren Ogg, a junior agriculture student from Martin; Breanne Pitcher, a graduate family and consumer sciences student from Martin; and Zoe Stringer, a junior family and consumer sciences major from Martin.

Interim chancellor to be introduced Friday at UTM

Dr. Robert M. Smith, who was announced Monday as the University of Tennessee at Martin interim chancellor, will be introduced to the campus and community by UT President Joe DiPietro at 10 a.m. Friday in Room 206 of the Boling University Center. A reception will follow, and university students, faculty, staff and the public are invited to attend.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor since 2007, announced April 13 that he is stepping down from the position and will return to teaching effective May 31.

For additional information, contact the UT Martin Office of the Chancellor, 731-881-7500.

Selected SOAR Participant

JOHNATHON MILLER, of Halls, was inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a ceremony held April 7th. Miller is a senior management major. The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi is America’s oldest all-discipline collegiate honor society.

JESSICA SORRELL, center, pictured with her parents, Jody and Deborah Sorrell, of Halls, participated in summer orientation and registration activities at the University of Tennessee at Martin, April 25th. Students accepted to begin in the fall 2015 semester were able to register for classes and hear presentations on financial aid, housing and student life. Sorrell is a senior at Halls High School.
TEXAS CULVER, left, in upper photo, education faculty instructor/advisor for the UT Martin Ripley Center, was the guest speaker Monday April 27th at the Halls Gates Rotary Club. He discussed the center, which serves the community and produces an educated labor workforce. The UTM Ripley Center started in 2005 with 70 students but has increased over the years. The current enrollment is about 255. The highest enrollment was 375 three years ago. Culver stated this semester enrollment for the center is the second in a row to show an increase. He said that they have several degrees that individuals could work toward such as Social Work, Criminal Justice, Psychology, RN-BSN, Education K-6. He stated they have online courses as well such as Business Administration, RN-BSN; Agribusiness, and Farm and Ranch Management which is a new course. Culver was the guest of Rotarian Al Brassfield, right.

In lower photo, Suzanne Wieber, left, executive director, of the Helen R. Tucker Adult Developmental Center, and Ethel Tyus, right, Family Support Coordinator, were the guest speakers April 20th. Wieber said the center serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The center teaches life skills and is staffed 24 hours a day. It helps the individuals to be independent, clean their own house and cook. The center has a day service program from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and has community outings where they can travel to Memphis, Jackson, Dyersburg, and other communities. They visit hometown stores and work on job skills. Tyus said that this program needs family support for anybody that has become disabled or has Alzheimer's. She stated this program is to help children and adults, who are severely disabled. This program will help whether it be a wheel chair ramp or getting a tooth pulled and pays for caregivers. The state is trying to keep families together. It can be very expensive when you have a child that is disable. They were the guests of Rotarian Jerry Stanley, not pictured.

They are pictured with Dwayne Dixon, club vice-president.
Local group helps Nepal

By CAMERON GRAHAM
Special to The Press

The death toll has reached almost 4,000 individuals in the Nepal earthquake that struck on Saturday. A 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit the Himalayan region, causing a wide range of devastation to the country, and even surrounding neighbors as well. While the death toll alone is enough to drain the morale of an already economically disadvantaged nation, there are already relief efforts from multiple areas ready to help the Nepalese population. Since the natural disaster occurred, over 10 countries have already deployed some version of aid. Living in Tennessee, one may not feel the impact their help may provide, but John Sellers begs otherwise.

"Some people aren't sure how to get involved, but I really hope to sort of challenge that status quo," said Sellers.

Sellers, a psychology major at UTM, has a unique relationship with this country. As a child, Sellers vividly remembers his relatives pursuing similar endeavors to relieve a poverty stricken society. Even his own parents have visited, and even established their own home there for selfless intentions. In fact, Sellers has already spent time in Nepal, and learned many of the geographic and social aspects of the country. Naturally, Sellers has decided to follow down the same path as his family, utilizing his degree in the social sciences throughout the process.

"You can imagine, growing up, I was just thinking I have to get to Nepal," said Sellers.

Letters In Motion, founded by Sellers, is a non-profit, faith-based organization whose mission is to alleviate the growing tribulation of orphans worldwide. Being Nepal is already somewhere special within the heart of Sellers and his family, the recent earthquake prompted Sellers to take time out of their summer by physically going to the country. Sellers and other students plan to travel to Nepal on June 8 to assist in aid efforts along with other non-government organizations currently there.

"Our main goal is to help orphans, but with this earthquake, that effort is going to be much wider now," said Sellers.

LIM, in regards to standard relief efforts, also hopes to deliver handwritten letters of encouragement when they travel to Nepal. The letters themselves could contain words of inspiration ranging from...
relevant life stories relating to a disaster or a Bible verse to provide comfort to those who are in a state of shock after the recent events that occurred. Having raised 20,000 dollars thus far to pay for the trip, the group also specializes in apparel that spreads awareness of global issues relating to their cause, too. Twelve thousand of the funding accrued has come from their own apparel line that has a positive message printed upon them. With other universities involved, including Union University, Letters in Motion hopes to expand their organization.

"We have expanded, officially, to ten universities, but I’d like to see a student chapter in each of those universities. Next semester, there will actually be one here at UT-Martin," said Sellers.

He stresses the collective action problem of those wanting to help, but not knowing how. It comes to no surprise that many charities, or of similar status, have had issues in the past of where the donated money was actually going. Confronting that issue head on, Sellers plans to take a film crew along with the team to provide clear evidence of where the money is going and how it will help citizens of Nepal. Local residents and students are encouraged to participate in this effort, even it is just “liking” their page on Facebook. Further information can be found online through their website, and one can even inquire about purchasing a shirt or writing a letter through the contact information listed on their page.

Though much of the world is currently engaged in peril through disasters, riots, revolutions, or whatever the case may be, people such as John Sellers and his team remain focused on helping others through a charity that is unique in both cause and practice.

**SHOW OF SUPPORT** — The University of Tennessee at Martin S.H.A.P.E. Club hosted the second annual 5k Color Dash and Fun Run, co-sponsored by the Martin Housing Authority, earlier this month. The event raised $500 to support the Martin Housing Authority’s after-school programs. Pictured are (from left) Alexandria Hancock, a sophomore from Springville; Abbey McDaniel, a post-baccalaureate student from Greenfield; Kate Kucherenko, a senior from Adamsville and current S.H.A.P.E. Club president; Kameron Echols, a senior from Memphis, representing the Martin Housing Authority; Megan Petty, a sophomore from Martin; Amy David, a junior from Covington; and Anna Warren, a junior from Milan and S.H.A.P.E. Club president-elect. All the students are health and human performance majors except Echols, who is a criminal justice major, and Petty, who is a nursing major.