Two area chambers appoint new directors
By JAMIE LOGAN

Two local chambers of commerce recently announced the appointment of new executive directors.

Jodi Maughon and Toya Veals accepted their respective positions at the Madison County Chamber of Commerce and the Canton Chamber of Commerce earlier this month and have since settled into their roles.

Maughon, a 2011 graduate of Mississippi College, was the obvious choice for the Madison County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She joined the team as an intern before quickly earning a full-time position as Project Coordinator. In March of 2012, she moved up once again to take the title of Director of Programs and Special Events.

"Jodi has been a great asset to the team for many years," said Keith Kirkade, who served as board president at the time of Maughon's election. "The board and chamber of commerce elected her Executive Director because we didn't think that there was a candidate out there that had the knowledge, experience, and know how that Jodi did. She was the best person for the position."

Maughon is excited to continue working with the community in this new capacity.

"The Madison County Chamber strives to promote working relationships as well as business to business strategies for the local and corporate communities in Madison County and the surrounding areas," she said. "We believe that our members are our first priority."

Established in 1921, the Madison County Chamber of Commerce is the oldest in the county. It is home to various programs and events such as Leadership Madison County and the annual Dragon Boat Regatta held at Old Trace Park. This year's regatta was the largest to date.

"The Chamber is gearing up for its first annual Golf Fall Classic to be held on September 29 at Lake Caroline Golf Club," Maughon said, noting that several exciting new programs will be implemented in the year to come. "We want to get more involved in what our community has to offer, and in return, offer that insight to our members."

The Board of Directors for the Canton Chamber of Commerce/Main Street Association selected Toya Veals as executive director.

"When we found ourselves without an executive director earlier this year, Toya immediately stepped up to the plate and has done a tremendous job in filling that role over the past four months," said President Amber Sukhbaatar. "She knows the inner workings of the chamber and has been directly and actively involved with our board and membership during that time."

Veals joined the chamber staff in August 2013 as the Membership and Events Coordinator, bringing years of experience in communications. She has been a part of the Canton community for many years, and she holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Communications from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

According to Sukhbaatar, Veals has been committed to building relationships with existing members as well as recruiting new members in her time with the Canton chamber.

"I'm excited to be part of that and honored that the board chose me as the new Executive Director," Veals said.

Of the city, she added, "Canton strives to create as well as convey the uniqueness, beauty, and history of our small town atmosphere and charm. We have Mississippi's oldest drugstore founded in 1843." Mosby's Drug Store recently became a pioneer in walk-in-video healthcare via Telehealth One.

"Earlier this year, we refocused and restructured our chamber committees and have started seeing the fruits of their hard work since January," Sukhbaatar said. "We also launched and distributed our first Canton Insider's Guide magazine early this year promoting Canton and are beginning the planning process and ad sales for next year's magazine."

The organization held its second annual Best of Canton awards event on June 18 where they crowned winners chosen by both chamber members and Cantonians. The first Merchants Committee Breakfast with the mayor and aldermen was held the same month and will soon become a quarterly event.

**UT Martin tuition up 3 percent**

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved the lowest tuition percentage increase in more than 30 years during its annual meeting recently in Knoxville.

Undergraduate tuition will increase by 3 percent at UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin as part of the $2.13 billion budget for fiscal year 2016. The increase is effective for the 2015 fall semester.

The last time all three campuses increased tuition for undergraduates by 3 percent was in 1983-84. UT Knoxville and UT Martin increased tuition by 3 percent in 1997.

UT Martin in-state tuition and mandatory fees will now cost undergraduates an additional $302 annually, which includes a student-supported $50 per semester activity fee for athletics. New tuition and fees will be $4,163 per semester or $8,326 for a full academic year. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Tuition and mandatory fees for instate graduate students will increase $340 per semester for a total of $4,824 per semester. Graduate students will pay a total of $9,648 per academic year starting this fall. Full-time graduate enrollment is nine hours per semester.

Fall semester classes begin Aug. 24 for the main campus and UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer.
Record number from UTM to attend vet school in fall

Eighteen students from the University of Tennessee at Martin have been accepted into veterinary school programs beginning this fall.

This number breaks the previous record of 10 students, set in 2013.

"The large number of students accepted to veterinary school exemplifies the quality of instruction through experiential learning from our animal and veterinary science faculty," said Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. "Great students result from great faculty, and with this success our student numbers in this area should continue to grow."

Seven students have been accepted into the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Students attending at the flagship campus are Andrew Jordan of Lewisburg, Brandon Newton of Greenbrier, Kaylee Penick of Martin, Zachary Ragland of Whitehouse, Leslie Serrano of Drummonds, Kelley Wigington of Adams and Jason Wolf of Sevierville.

Four students will attend Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate. Those students are Kathleen Alford of Dyersburg, Mallory Martin of Union City, Jamie Franks of Hohenwald and Emma Sanders of Chattanooga.

Lauren Cain of Thompson's Station and Katherine Sanders of Franklin will both attend Mississippi State University.

Laura Croom of Greenfield will begin her studies at Auburn University and Crystal Climer will study at the University of Missouri. Danielle Fuller of Pocahontas has accepted a position at Kansas State University.

Trey Drinkard of Old Hickory and Justin Goodrum of Hornsby will both travel to the island nation of St. Christopher and Nevis to attend Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Goodrum graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor's degree in 2010 before pursuing graduate studies at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

"I am proud of these students and how hard they worked, both in the classroom and in experiential learning opportunities, to accomplish their goal of attending veterinary school," said Dr. Jason Roberts, associate professor of animal science. "I know they are well prepared for the challenges they will face while in veterinary school."

The UT Martin pre-veterinary curriculum is a concentration under the animal science major, housed in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources.

For more information on this degree program, contact the department at (731) 881-7211.

Final SOAR slated for July 17

The University of Tennessee at Martin's final Summer Orientation and Registration session will be held July 17 for any incoming freshman who have not yet registered for fall semester courses.

Activities will begin at 8 a.m. in Boling University Center, located at 11 Wayne Fisher Drive on the UT Martin main campus.

Graduating high school seniors who have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter are required to attend SOAR to learn more about the resources available on the UT Martin campus and to select their classes for the upcoming fall semester.

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

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 sessions. Lunch will be served at 11:30 in the newly-remodeled Skyhawk Dining Hall and students will begin meeting with faculty advisors and selecting 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 Boling University Center.

To register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/saar-register.php. All 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.

Semester tuition and course fees will not be collected until the start of the fall semester and are not due at SOAR. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 24 at the main campus and the centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer and Ripley.
TEACHERS PARTICIPATE - Three teachers from Obion County schools recently participated in the West Tennessee Writing Project's 22nd Invitational Summer Institute at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Teachers learned how to incorporate technology into their teaching and put higher focus on student reading and writing. They were also able to improve their own writing skills in peer workshops. Each teacher earned 52 renewal points. Dr. David Carithers (left), UT Martin associate professor of English and project director, and Lauderdale Middle School teachers Jennifer Brandon and Doug Billings (not pictured) facilitated. Among those who participated were (continuing from left) Mollie Scott, Obion County Central High School; Sherral Griffin, Hillcrest Elementary; and Vonda Cary, Ridgemont Elementary.

New dual enrollment offered at university

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer eligible high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to take up to two dual enrollment courses at no additional cost in the 2015-16 academic year. Students must qualify for the Dual Enrollment Grant offered through the Tennessee Student Assistance Program. TSAC provides high school juniors with two $5000 Dual Enrollment Grants for the first two courses and one $200 grant for a third course. Tuition for juniors will be $500 for two courses, providing the courses are the first two dual enrollment courses taken during the 2015-16 school year. Senior students can receive $300 per course for four courses within the guidelines of the Dual Enrollment Grant. UT Martin tuition for seniors will be $300 for two courses. Tuition above these courses will be charged at the regular dual enrollment rate.

UT Martin offers high-quality dual enrollment courses that prepare students for rigorous college classes. General education courses offered for dual enrollment students include English, mathematics, agriculture, economics, geology, personal finance and information systems. Students can take courses in a traditional classroom setting, online, at the main campus or at one of the four UT Martin centers located in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer and Ripley.

For more information about the UT Martin Dual Enrollment Program, call Jackie Johnson at (731) 881-3089 or email dualenrollment@utm.edu.
UTM has three percent increase

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved the lowest tuition percentage increase in more than 30 years during its annual meeting June 25 in Knoxville. Undergraduate tuition will increase by three percent at UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin as part of the $2.13 billion budget for fiscal year 2016. The increase is effective for the 2015 fall semester.

The last time all three campuses increased tuition for undergraduates by three percent was in 1983-84. UT Knoxville and UT Martin increased tuition by three percent in 1997.

UT Martin in-state tuition and mandatory fees will now cost undergraduate students an additional $302 annually, which includes a student-supported $50 per semester activity fee for athletics. New tuition and fees will be $4,163 per semester or $8,326 for a full academic year. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Tuition and mandatory fees for in-state graduate students will increase $340 per semester for a total of $4,824 per semester. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 24 for the main campus and UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer.

UTM offers courses

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Last week, UT's Board of Trustees convened at Hollingsworth Auditorium on June 24 and 25 to discuss the budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year, salary raises for UT faculty, tuition, institutional goals, partnerships and honorary titles.

UT President Joe DiPietro headed the majority of the Board's meeting, which began as a tribute to the late Dr. Ed Boling, UT's longest serving president.

One of the meeting's major agenda items proposed a 3 percent tuition increase for UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin as part of a $2.13 billion budget for the upcoming year.

DiPietro reports the increase comes as the lowest tuition increase in more than 30 years, allowing the additional funding to increase salary for UT faculty and staff starting July 1.

For in-state students entering UT in the upcoming fall semester, annual tuition will increase a total of $312, from $10,366 to $10,678. Coupled with rates for out-of-state students, an overall 5.7 percent increase in tuition is planned for all undergraduates.

"This tuition increase follows our 3-3-0 model we have been discussing for nearly a year now," DiPietro said. "We did very well this year in state funding and thank the governor and legislators for their support. We must continue to press for the increased support, but also plan for difficult budget circumstances in the future."

The follow salary increase is attributed to state support from the Tennessee General Assembly after they approved the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's request for an additional $25.7 million for state colleges and universities based on academic performance.

The $8.3 million received from state appropriations will fund the 1.5 percent increase for UT employees as well. Adjustments for salary will be made individually for each campus per the wishes of each institution's fund allocation choice.

According to the published budget, Knoxville's campus is scheduled to receive a 1 percent salary increase across the board and a 2 percent increase for market and merit adjustments.

In addition to its decision on increased tuition and salary, UT Board of Trustees unanimously approved to rename the Black Cultural Center after UT alumni Ron and Don Frieson.

The Memphis natives, who attended UT in the late 1970s, donated $1 million in support of the center's commitment to diversity at UT.

Don Frieson, an executive of operations for Sam's Club, recalled the Black Cultural Center's personal impact on him during his undergraduate years.

"When you walked into it, it was like walking into a home. There was a porch that kids would hang out on — it was literally a house transformed into a support facility," Frieson said.

The donation will aid the Office of Multicultural Student Life in funding academic support, leadership initiatives, diversity workshops and peer mentoring programs.

On Thursday's meeting, Vice Chancellor for Diversity Rickey Hall shared his hope that the soon-to-be Frieson Black Cultural Center will continue to be "a home away from home for many African Americans and students of color."

The next meeting for the full Board of Trustees is scheduled for October 8 and 9 in Knoxville.

To view the full budget and published plan, visit utdailybeacon.com.
Gamma Eta celebrates another successful year

UTM-McNairy student Teresa Smith, a recent honor graduate, received the Deidra Beene Memorial Grant, presented each year to an outstanding future teacher. Pictured with Smith are UTM instructors Annette Whittington and Lucy O’Neal.

By Gamma Eta Association
Submitted Article

The Gamma Eta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International concluded the 2014-2015 year with a full slate of events and three special guests at the May meeting.

In addition to usual business, two awards were given and a special announcement was made. McNairy Central senior Lincoln Mitchell received a cash award for being the area winner of the annual DKG essay contest. The award was presented by Dr. Martha Glover, chapter president. Lincoln read his essay to the group and shared his postsecondary plans.

UTM-McNairy student Teresa Smith, a recent honor graduate, received the Deidra Beene Memorial Grant, presented each year to an outstanding future teacher.

In 2016, Tennessee will host the International Convention of Delta Kappa Gamma at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville. Patsy Smith, member of Gamma Beta Chapter, shared plans and encouraged Gamma Eta members to join the efforts of DKG members statewide as Xi State prepares to host the international event.

Congratulations on another successful year, Gamma Eta.
Dr. Edward J. Boling embodied the volunteer spirit

Dear Editor,

On June 23, his beloved East Tennessee soil received the ashes of the 17th president of the University of Tennessee, Dr. Edward J. Boling. Dr. Boling was president from 1970 until 1988, the longest serving U.T. President. Prior to his service with the university, he was the State of Tennessee Commissioner of Finance and Administration.

Ed was a native of Sevier County and a graduate of the university. He and his friend of 72 years, Charlie Brakebill, U.T. Vice President of Development, were a part of the “greatest generation”. They came ashore together at Normandy as a part of the occupying forces after “D” Day.

Hired by Dr. Andy Holt in 1961, Ed was Vice-President of Development and succeeded Dr. Holt as president. The modern University of Tennessee National Alumni Association and Development Council, started by Dr. Holt, grew and flourished under Dr. Boling and became model organizations, emulated by universities across the nation.

Ed and Carolyn, his wife of 65 years were a devoted team and committed all but two weeks of the year in service to the university. They built lasting friendships with volunteer constituencies across the state and nation. Service to the university was his life and the volunteers became their close friends.

Ed presided over the university at a time of great growth. Under his leadership the University of Tennessee system became a reality. He directed the activities of campuses at Knoxville, Chattanooga, Tullahoma, Nashville, Martin and Memphis, as well as the institutes of agriculture and public service. This gave birth to a modern, high-quality land-grant institution linked to a national lab at Oak Ridge with excellence at every level.

Ed was an accounting professor by trade and used his considerable skills in finance and administration to manage a huge organization with thousands of faculty, staff and students. He was trusted by governors and legislators. They knew Ed and his staff would get the most out of every state dollar appropriated to U.T.

Long recognized as one of the top women’s athletic programs in the country, Ed was instrumental in providing support to women’s athletics at UTK. He and Carolyn were avid supporters of all U.T. athletics, especially the “Lady Vols.” The current controversy over the “Lady Vols” name and logo would have been resolved quickly with one decisive phone call and a one word direction (No).

Ed served on the boards of numerous Tennessee, national and international companies. Through his influence and persuasion, these enterprises gave millions to the university.

My wife Carol and I were proud to call the Bolings friends. They visited Humboldt on several occasions and our family enjoyed many relaxing weekends with the Boling family at the Emerts Cove retreat in the Smoky Mountains.

A man of exemplary moral character, tireless worker, visionary leader, successful administrator, financial genius, bold “out of the box” thinker, embodiment of the volunteer spirit and loyal friend – Ed Boling, a life well lived.

T.O. Lashlee, Trustee Emeritus
The University of Tennessee
UT Martin Tuition Rises 3 Percent For Upcoming Academic Year

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved the lowest tuition percentage increase in more than 30 years during its annual meeting June 25 in Knoxville. Undergraduate tuition will increase by 3 percent at UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin as part of the $2.13 billion budget for fiscal year 2016. The increase is effective for the 2015 fall semester.

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UT Martin’s Final Summer Orientation and Registration set for July 17

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

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 at 11:30 a.m. in the newly-renovated Skyhawk Dining Hall, 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 main campus.

To register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/sorregister.php. All 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.

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For additional information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.
Dual Enrollment Course Offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer eligible high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to take up to two dual enrollment courses at no additional cost in the 2015-16 academic year. Students must qualify for the Dual Enrollment Grant offered through the Tennessee Student Assistance Program.

TSAC provides high school juniors with two $500 Dual Enrollment Grants for the first two courses and one $200 grant for a third course.

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For more information about the UT Martin Dual Enrollment Program, call Jackie Johnson at 731-881-3089 or email dualenrollment@utm.edu.
Enrollment management and budget sustainability were among the topics discussed when the Chancellor’s Advisory Council met Tuesday in the Dunagan Alumni Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The university’s chancellor calls periodic council meetings to update its members and seek the group’s advice on university matters. The meeting was the first for Dr. Bob Smith, who became interim university chancellor June 1.

Among those attending was UT Board of Trustees member Julia Wells, vice president of marketing services for The Pictsweet Co. First-time attendees were Dr. Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music and incoming UT Martin faculty senate president, and Jennifer Hampton, Edward Jones financial advisor and UT Martin Alumni Council president.

Others attending included Dr. Brian Donavant, UT Martin associate professor of criminal justice and faculty trustee; Dave Bratcher, president of the STAR Center in Jackson and UT Martin’s chief business officer, reviewed financial sustainability plans, including a two-year, $4.4 million allocation and reallocation of the university budget and a two-year, $2 million reallocation for deferred maintenance. The budget reallocation will target increased efficiency, enrollment initiatives and revenue enhancement, while deferred maintenance projects will cover campus lighting and fire alarm upgrades. The university’s master plan will also be updated in a way “that follows the vision for the campus,” Yarbrough said.

Positive giving numbers and alumni involvement highlighted Wilson’s university advancement report. He cited the new sorority lodges being built off West Peach Street on the south side of campus as bringing both financial support and excitement among current students and alumni. Wilson also noted the success of the university’s first Captain’s Challenge, a fundraising initiative in April driven by social media participation.

Wells asked questions and commented throughout the meeting that featured open discussion and insights into the university’s future. “It’s quite an honor, of course, to be a (UT) trustee,” Wells said, adding, “I think there’s a real value in hearing each other’s opportunities and disappointments.”

The UT Board of Trustees will meet March 31-April 1, 2016, at UT Martin.
Record number of UTM students to attend vet school in the fall

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“The large number of students accepted to veterinary school exemplifies the quality of instruction through experiential learning from our animal and veterinary science faculty,” said Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. “Great students result from great faculty, and with this success our student numbers in this area should continue to grow.”

Seven students have been accepted into the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Students attending at the flagship campus are Andrew Jordan, of Lewisburg; Brandon Newton, of Greenbrier; Kaylee Penick, of Martin; Zachary Ragland, of Whitehouse; Leslie Serrano, of Drummonds; Kelley Wigington, of Adams; and Jason Wolf, of Sevierville. Four students will attend Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate. Those students are Kathleen Alford, of Dyersburg; Mallory Martin, of Union City; Jamie Franks, of Hohenwald; and Emma Sanders, of Chattanooga.

Lauren Cain, of Thompson’s Station, and Katherine Sanders, of Franklin, will both attend Mississippi State University. Laura Croom, of Greenfield, will begin her studies at Auburn University, and Crystal Climer will study at the University of Missouri. Danielle Fuller, of Pocahontas, has accepted a position at Kansas State University. Trey Drinkard, of Old Hickory, and Justin Goodrum, of Hornsby, will both travel to the island nation of St. Christopher and Nevis to attend Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Goodrum graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor’s degree in 2010 before pursuing graduate studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

“I am proud of these students and how hard they worked, both in the classroom and in experiential learning opportunities, to accomplish their goal of attending veterinary school,” said Dr. Jason Roberts, associate professor of animal science. “I know they are well prepared for the challenges they will face while in veterinary school.”

The UT Martin pre-veterinary curriculum is a concentration under the animal science major.
The Weakley County Press
THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2015

STEM CAMP — James Nail of Sharon (left) and Kendal Penick of Martin (right) participated in the 2015 Skyhawk STEM Camp for rising ninth-graders at the University of Tennessee at Martin June 8-12. Nail took home first-place awards in both the trebuchet construction and T-Bot individual competitions, and second place in both the scratch computer programming and rocket design categories. Penick took home second place in the T-Bot individual competition and third place in the scratch computer programming category. The two also took first prize in the team T-Bot competition. The team is pictured with Cindy West, dean, College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences.

The Camden Chronicle, Camden, TN 38520, Thursday, July 2, 2015

FUN AT CAMP - Many students attended Lego Camp at UT Martin Parsons Center.

UT Martin holds third annual Lego Camp

The UT Martin Parsons Center held the third annual Lego Camp for students in kindergarten through seventh grade. Students created simple to complex models like a seesaw, raft, and motorized LEGO car.

Students explored renewable energy sources; investigated energy supply, transfer, accumulation, conversion, and consumption; and used measurements and data analysis to describe and explain outcomes through hands-on activities and exciting, real-life models.

The class was instructed by UT Martin Parsons Center senior Education majors, Ronnie Yeiser and Autumn Ratliff. Students attending included: Kevin Nuckolls, Brooks Goff, Wyatt Carroll, Walt Davies, Heath Greenway, Nicholas Crowell, Charlee Ferrell, Mollie Beth Deere, Cager James, Jeb Graves, Gage Holland, Ayden Houchin, Blane Lafferty, Dane Moore, Todd Patterson, Brogan Barnett, Jon Parker Graves, Ian Patterson, Cooper Pettay.
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Local resident graduates from UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program

18 as a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2015 class. This year's cohort included 29 members from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni.

Smith is the mayor of Selmer and a Leadership McNairy County graduate. He currently serves as an executive committee member for the Selmer/McNairy County Industrial Development Board. He is also on the board of directors for the Tennessee Energy Acquisition Council, is a policy council member for the Southwest Human Resource Agency, and is an executive committee member for the Southwest Tennessee Development District. He has served the town of Selmer as an alderman since 2006. Smith has also been the recipient of the Fireman of the Year Award, as well as Public Servant of the Year.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7929 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.
University alters prices to match dual enrollment grants for students

KATHERINE BURGESS

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer high school juniors and seniors up to two dual enrollment courses at no additional cost if they qualify for the dual enrollment grant offered through the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

"If (students) get these two grants and they use them for UTM classes, they will owe nothing except for books," said Jackie Johnson, dual enrollment coordinator.

The school has altered its dual enrollment prices to match the $500 and $300 grants available through TSAC.

TSAC provides high school juniors with two $500 grants for the first two courses and one $200 grant for a third course. Tuition for juniors will be $500 each for two courses, providing they are the first dual enrollment courses taken during the 2015-16 school year.

Seniors can receive $300 per course for four courses within the grant guidelines. UTM tuition for seniors will be $300 each for two courses. Tuition above these courses will be charged at the regular dual enrollment rate.

"For some students, this will help them graduate early so they can pursue their career sooner, or pursue a graduate degree sooner," Johnson said. "We hope this will help them save money in the long run."

Katie Keathley graduates from WestStar program

MARTIN — Katie Keathley, of Obion County, graduated June 18 as a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2015 class.

This year's graduates included 29 members from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni.

Miss Keathley is the membership director of the Obion County Chamber of Commerce. She is an Obion County Adult Leadership 2014 graduate, as well as a 2014 graduate of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives class.

She currently serves as the public relations chair for the Obion County Walk of Hope and is the Obion County Cruise-In chairman. She is an active member of the Obion County Corn Fest Committee, the Obion...
Local Graduates From UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program

MARTIN (June 18) — Nathan Smothers of Carroll County graduated as a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2015 class. This year's cohort included 29 members from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni. Smothers is a partner at Huntington Insurance Agency and S&S Insurance with locations in Huntingdon, Milan, Lexington and Camden. He is a Leadership Carroll County graduate and currently serves as chairman of the board of the United Way of Carroll County.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator; at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.

Local residents graduate from WestStar Leadership program

Kyle Lusby and Jason Sullivan, both of Weakley County, graduated June 18 as members of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2015 class. This year's cohort included 29 members from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni.

Lusby is a hospital pharmacist at Volunteer Community Hospital in Martin. He is a Leadership Weakley County graduate and serves on the Weakley County Leadership board of directors. Sullivan is the assistant athletic director for development at the University of Tennessee at Martin and a small business owner. He is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County and serves on the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes board of directors.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at (731) 881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.
Local resident graduates from WestStar Leadership Program

MARTIN, Tenn. – Dr. Lisa Piercey, of Gibson County, graduated June 18 as a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2015 class. This year's cohort included 29 members from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni.

Piercey is the vice president of physician services at West Tennessee Healthcare. She is a graduate of Leadership Jackson and has received the Jackson Sun Readers' Choice Award for best pediatrician and the Chapter IMPACT Award, and has been named one of Jackson's Finest Young Professionals. She currently serves on the boards of directors for the Entrepreneur Development Center and Mid-South Healthcare Executives, and is a member of the Tennessee Child Abuse Prevention Task Force. She also serves as the volunteer medical director and child abuse pediatrician for the Madison County Child Advocacy Center.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.

MORGAN FITZGERALD, the daughter of Mike and Susan Fitzgerald of Milan, received the 2015 Dean's Scholar Political Science Award and a Faculty Scholar Award with the College of Business and Global Affairs. The Dean's Scholar Political Science Award was given to Morgan for having the highest GPA out of all senior Political Science majors. Morgan was selected to receive the Faculty Scholars Award from Dr. Anderson Starling, Assistant Professor of Political Science. This is Morgan's second year to receive a Faculty Scholar Award from a Political Science instructor.
Governor Bill Haslam Tours the Fayette Methodist Hospital

By: Richard Rucker, Chairman of Higher Education Committee

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam was given a tour of the recently abandoned Fayette Methodist Hospital on June 29, 2015, with a group of citizens supporting the conversion of the hospital building into the University of Tennessee at Martin Somerville Center.

The Town of Somerville has entered into an agreement with Methodist Healthcare Corporation to receive the building plus a cash donation of $250,000 to be used toward renovation of the building for higher education purposes.

While at the hospital site, Governor Haslam visited with about 50 local supporters of the higher education center and everyone was thrilled with the opportunity to personally meet our state Governor. Somerville Interim Mayor Ronnie Neill led Governor Haslam through a tour of the building along with a local entourage that included Somerville City Administrator Bob Turner, Somerville Aldermen Jason Hamilton and Sandra Myers, State Senator Dolores Gresham, State Representative Leigh Wilburn, Fayette County Mayor Skip Taylor, Fayette County Commissioner Steve Reeves, Oakland Mayor Chris Goodman, Methodist Germantown Hospital CEO William Kenly, and Charley Deal and Tommy Cates from the University of TN at Martin.

The Town of Somerville is currently working with a variety of entities that may share the building with the UT Martin Somerville Center and plans are being made for beginning renovation soon with the goal of beginning operation of the new center in the fall of 2016.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer eligible high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to take up to two dual enrollment courses at no additional cost in the 2015-16 academic year. Students must qualify for the Dual Enrollment Grant offered through the Tennessee Student Assistance Program.

TSAC provides high school juniors with two $500 Dual Enrollment Grants for the first two courses and one $200 grant for a third course. Tuition for juniors will be $500 for two courses, providing the courses are the first two dual enrollment courses taken during the 2015-2016 school year.

Senior students can receive $300 per course for four courses within the guidelines of the Dual Enrollment Grant. UT Martin tuition for seniors will be $300 for two courses. Tuition above these courses will be charged at the regular dual enrollment rate.

UT Martin offers high-quality dual enrollment courses that prepare students for rigorous college classes. General education courses offered for dual enrollment students include English, mathematics, agriculture, economics, geology, personal finance and information systems. Students can take courses in a traditional classroom setting, online, at the main campus, or at one of the four UT Martin centers located Jackson, Parsons, Selmer and Ripley.

For more information about the UT Martin Dual Enrollment Program, call Jackie Johnson at 731-881-3089 or email dualenrollment@utm.edu.
Tuition to increases for local students at UT Martin Selmer Campus, TCAT Crump

By Jeff Whitten
Head News Writer

Students furthering their education at University of Tennessee Martin-Selmer/McNairy Center and the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Crump and other state colleges and universities will be paying more when they return to school this fall.

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, which governs the UTM Selmer facility, voted to increase tuition by 3 percent last Thursday, according to a press release from the board. This is the smallest increase since the 1997, though this is much higher than the inflation rate, which was unchanged over the past year.

In-state annual tuition will at UT Martin will increase $202, from $6,716 to $6,918. UT Knoxville students will see an increase of from $262 to $312, depending on when the student was admitted. Tuition there will vary between $9,026 and $10,678 a year, with students admitted in later years paying more.

TCAT students will be paying 4 percent more next fall, the Tennessee Board of Regents, which governs colleges and universities not in the UT system, decided at its June 19 meeting. Students at Austin Peay State University will be paying 2.4 percent more, while those attending Middle Tennessee State University will see a 3.1 percent increase. University of Memphis students will be paying 3.7 percent more next year. These increases are the lowest since 1996, according to a press release from TBR.

"We are pleased that tuition levels are the lowest they have been in decades, but we do understand that every time fees are raised, someone may be priced out of an opportunity to attend one of our institutions," TBR Chancellor John Morgan said in a statement.

Increases at UT were less than they would otherwise have been if not for $24 million in state support the schools will receive.

"This year, we were pleased that state appropriations were strong," said UT President Joe DiPietro.

The trustees also decided that UT employees will be getting a 1.5 percent pay increase.

Total program tuition at TCAT Crump varies according to program of study, between around $3,500 and nearly $6,000, according to the school's website.

Half of UT's revenues come from tuition and fees while nearly 40 percent come from state appropriations, according to the UT BOT President's Report. The tuition percentage of revenues has increased from 33 percent in 2006, while the percentage from state support has declined from 49 percent.
**UT Martin’s final SOAR set July 17**

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s final Summer Orientation and Registration session will be held July 17 for any incoming freshman who have not yet registered for fall semester courses. Activities will begin at 8 a.m. in the Boling University Center.

Graduating high school seniors who have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter are required to attend SOAR to learn more about the resources available on the UT Martin campus and to select their classes for the upcoming fall semester.

The registration fee is for students and for each accompanying parent, guardian or sibling. The fee includes all meals and breaks. 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 at 11:30 a.m. in the newly-renovated Skyhawk Dining Hall, 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 main campus.

To register, visit [http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soarregister.php](http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soarregister.php). All 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.

Semester tuition and course fees will not be collected until the start of the fall semester and are not due at SOAR. Fall semester classes begin August 24 at the main campus and the four UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer and Ripley.

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

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**Piercey graduates from WestStar**

Dr. Lisa Piercey, of Gibson County, graduated June 18 as a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2015 class. This year’s cohort included 29 members from 17 Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni.

Piercey is the vice president of physician services at West Tennessee Healthcare. She is a graduate of Leadership Jackson and has received the Jackson Sun Readers’ Choice Award for best pediatrician and the Chapter IMPACT Award, and has been named one of Jackson’s Finest Young Professionals. She currently serves on the boards of directors for the Entrepreneur Development Center and Mid-South Healthcare Executives, and is a member of the Tennessee Child Abuse Prevention Task Force. She also serves as the volunteer medical director and child abuse pediatrician for the Madison County Child Advocacy Center.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.
Local resident graduates from UT Martin Weststar Leadership Program

Selmer Mayor John Smith graduated as a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin Weststar Leadership Program’s 2015 cohort on June 18. This year’s cohort included 29 members from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni.

Smith is the Mayor of Selmer and a Leadership McNairy County graduate. He currently serves as an executive committee member for the Selmer/McNairy County Industrial Development Board. He is also on the board of directors for the Tennessee Energy Acquisition Council, is a policy council member for the Southwest Human Resource Agency, and is an executive committee member for the Southwest Tennessee Development District. He has served the town of Selmer as an alderman since 2006. Smith has also been the recipient of the Fireman of the Year Award, as well as Public Servant of the Year.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, July 8, 2015

ATTEND SCHOOL — Obion County Central High School seniors and active FFA members Molly Carpenter and Daniel Finch III recently attended the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Thirty-two Tennessee students were chosen to participate in the program, based on academic achievement and interest. For a month, they experienced living in a college dorm and attending actual college classes, for which they received credits. Their many field trips included a three-day trip to Bowling Green, Ky., Knoxville and Nashville, where they toured dairies and farms, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, UT’s veterinary school, Neyland Stadium, Hill’s Pet Nutrition Center and Farm Bureau. Other trips included many local farms, the ethanol plant, Tyson Foods, the Agri Center in Memphis and Crown Winery in Humboldt, as well as attending a Diamond Jaxx game in Jackson, seeing a drone presentation and visiting Reelfoot Lake. They also enjoyed many tours and cookouts hosted by local farms.
SOAR Planned At UT Martin Center

A summer orientation and registration (S.O.A.R.) program will be held July 17th with registration beginning at 8 a.m. in the Boling University Center at University of Tennessee at Martin.

For more information, call 731-881-7020.

MBA PROGRAM RECOGNIZED

State Rep. Andy Holt (center) recently visited the University of Tennessee at Martin to recognize the online MBA program's recent top-20 ranking from U.S. News & World Report. The program was ranked 16th on the organization's 2015 Best Online Programs for Veteran's list published May 19. Holt presented the university with a proclamation in honor of this achievement and met with key university officials to discuss the program's success. He is pictured with (from left) Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs, and Dr. Bob Smith, interim UT Martin chancellor.

Graduate

SHAWN KIMBLE, of Lauderdale County, graduated June 18th as a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2015 class. Superintendent of Lauderdale County Schools, he currently serves as an executive committee member of the Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce/ECD. His school district was one of three in Tennessee to receive an exemplary distinction for academic progress during the 2013-14 school year. Kimble has been asked to speak statewide on the initiatives and progress occurring in his district. He is also a 2010 graduate of Leadership Lauderdale and was the recipient of its Distinguished Leadership Award.
Kilgore graduates from UTM
WestStar leadership program

Sara Kilgore, of Benton County, graduated June 18 as a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2015 class. This year’s cohort included 29 members from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni.

Kilgore is the executive director of the Benton County Camden Chamber of Commerce. She currently chairs the advisory committee for the Benton County Volunteer Program and serves as a member of the Joint Economic Development Council. She is a graduate of the Tennessee Valley Rural Leadership Institute and the Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.
Peppers awards student new vehicle

Hard work and good grades have already paid off for an 18-year-old Henry County High School graduate.

Cody Hunter, who will enter the University of Tennessee as a civil engineering student in the fall, won a brand new Jeep Patriot at Peppers Automotive's Grade A Give-A-Way at the dealership at 2420 E. Wood St. the afternoon of June 20.

Hunter was part of a crowd of about 50 students on hand hoping to drive away in either a 2015 Toyota Yaris, Chevrolet Spark or a Jeep Patriot.

Graduating seniors from 22 schools had a chance to enter for the drawing, with each A grade they received in the 2014-15 school year allowing them to make one entry.

Melanie Berry of the accounting firm of Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs, who also drew the second- and third-place prizes, drew Hunter's name.

Holly Peavy, a 2015 HCHS graduate who plans to enlist in the U.S. Air Force won $1,000 cash, while Marshall Harrison of Milan High School won $500 in cash.

The public is invited to "A Civil War Evening", to be presented from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, July 13, at the Renaissance Center Theater, 1200 E. Center St., Kingsport.

Admission to this Fun Fest event is $5. Tickets may be purchased at the Fun Fest Store or at the theater entrance on the day of the event.

Special guest speaker, Timothy Smith, will give a presentation on "Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh, 1862".

Smith — a professor, historian, author and lecturer — presents his topic with lots of expertise on his subject.

Civil War musician, Bobby Horton, will also be on hand with Civil War tunes by both Union and Confederate soldiers.

Horton, a researcher, historian and very gifted, nationally known musician, will be covering musical scores and lyrics from the 1800s through the civil war.

This event is sponsored by the Tri-Cities Civil War Round Table, City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts, and UVA-Wise Appalachian Warfare Program.

For additional information, please call Wayne Strong at 423.323.2306.
County talent brings 'Shrek' home in the heart

Cheatham County Community Theater has found a new home at Nashville Christian School.

The group is currently staging "Shrek The Musical" at the school, located at 7555 Sawyer Brown Rd. in Bellevue.

"The space is wonderful," said Shrek director Nicole Arnold of the theatre space that is part of a multi-purpose room on the school's campus.

Arnold has been a teacher at NCS for 21 years and has directed over 50 shows.

Cast member and CCCT veteran Sabrina Mansfield appreciates the quality of the facilities that lends itself to top quality theatre values.

Both Arnold and Mansfield hope that Cheatham County's loyal audience of support will venture out to check out the facilities and enjoy the fruits of the CCCT's labor of love in its new home.

Arnold pointed out that the cast features talent from age four to 45.

The production of "Shrek The Musical" is also unique in the extended families are represented by members of the cast and crew and support personnel for the show.

Arnold's son, Tristan, who is a senior at Harpeth High School, plays the role of Shrek and her daughter, Abbe, a freshman at HHS, plays multiple roles.

Mansfield's son, Alex Moore, who is a voice major at University of Tennessee at Martin, plays Lord Farquaad and a knight in the play.

Also vocally impressive is McKenzie Stephens, who plays Fiona. She is a music major at Lee University.

Jenny Penn, a French teacher at Cheatham County Central High School, plays several roles, and her daughter, Addie Penn, a rising kindergartener at West Cheatham Elementary School, plays the Mad Hatter.

The Anderson family of Pegram is represented by Chole, 10, Maclain, 7, Tucker, 12, and Mattie 14.

"Shrek The Musical" offers a lot of family-friendly fun with catchy songs and off the wall humor.

The musical completes its run this week with performances on July 10 at 7 p.m., July 11 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and July 12 at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices are $10 for adults and $6 for students, college I.D., over 60, and $13 for the first three rows of seating.
Dyer County residents attend WestStar graduation

The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program hosted its 26th graduation ceremony June 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. The class of 2015 included 29 participants from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni. Pictured at the ceremony are (l-r) Evelyn Robertson Jr., retired, Whiteville; Harold Nance, president, Nance Investments, Alamo; and the Rev. James Luvene, pastor, Dyersburg United Methodist Church.

Luvene, Young graduate from WestStar

MARTIN, Tenn. - James Luvene and John Young, both of Dyer County, graduated June 18 as members of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2015 class. This year's cohort included 29 members from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni.

Luvene is the pastor of Hughlett, Lighthouse and Ross United Methodist Church in Dyersburg. He is involved with Northwest Tennessee Head Start and serves on the board of directors for Transitions of Dyer County, a group home for abused women. Luvene is a member of the NAACP and is a past member of the National Geographic Foundation.

Young is a vice president at Security Bank. He currently serves on the boards of directors for the Salvation Army, United Way, Dyersburg State Community College Annual Fund, Dyersburg Main Street and Ducks Unlimited. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club and is a mentor for Dyersburg Primary School's HOSTS Program. Young is a Leadership Dyer County graduate.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.

Mark Heaston (second from left), CARE officer, city of Covington, received the C.P. Boyd Award during the WestStar Leadership Program's 26th graduation ceremony June 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. This award recognizes the individual with the most leadership potential, as voted by the current WestStar class. The class of 2015 included 29 participants from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni. Heaston is pictured (l-r) with Chad Davis, owner of Davis Wealth Services in Dyersburg and 2014 C.P. Boyd Award recipient; Dr. Robert Smith, interim University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor; and Virginia Grimes, coordinator, Weststar Leadership Program.
Darron Billings, center, director of environmental health and safety training at Jackson State Community College, received the Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Alumni Award during the WestStar Leadership Program's 26th graduation ceremony June 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. This award named for the late Jimmy Daniel, field representative for former Gov. Don Sundquist, and a member of WestStar's first graduating class in 1990. Individuals selected must have a strong record of leadership in West Tennessee during the past five years and be active WestStar participants. Billings is the 15th recipient of this award. The class of 2015 included 29 participants from West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni. Billings is pictured with Dr. Robert Smith, interim UT Martin chancellor, and Virginia Grimes, coordinator, WestStar Leadership Program.

From left: Caroline Parish, a current UT Martin student and legislative intern from Huntingdon; Dr. Robert Smith, interim UT Martin chancellor; and Virginia Grimes, coordinator, WestStar Leadership Program, at the WestStar Leadership Program's 26th graduation ceremony June 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson.

From left: Suzie Tidwell, agent, Crye-Leike Real Estate, Somerville; Jennifer Waldrup, economic development director, city of McKenzie; and Mary Jones, executive director, Children and Family Services, Covington, at the WestStar Leadership Program's 26th graduation ceremony June 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson.
Hope Cooper, center, a Madison County resident, was chosen by her WestStar classmates to receive the 2015 Class Representative Award at the WestStar Leadership Program's 26th graduation ceremony June 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Cooper is the marketing director at Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs in Milan. The class of 2015 included 29 participants from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni. Cooper is pictured with Dr. Robert Smith, interim University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, and Virginia Grimes, coordinator, WestStar Leadership Program.

From left: Linda Jones, office manager, Fayette County Health Department, Somerville; Della Ligon, assistant vice president, First South Bank, Brownsville; and Kim Conner, wife of Joey Conner, a member of the 2015 WestStar class from Haywood County, at the WestStar Leadership Program's 26th graduation ceremony June 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson.

From left: Evelyn Robertson Jr., retired, Whiteville; Harold Nance, president, Nance Investments, Alamo; and the Rev. James Luvène, pastor, Dyersburg United Methodist Church, at the WestStar Leadership Program's 26th graduation ceremony June 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson.

From left: Lisa Cothran, vice president of membership development, the Jackson Chamber; and Hope Cooper, marketing director, Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs, Milan, at the WestStar Leadership Program's 26th graduation ceremony June 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Cooper was honored with the 2015 Class Representative Award, as chosen by members of the 2015 WestStar class.

From left: Tony White, deputy mayor and human resources director, Madison County government, and his guest, Misty Hardee; and Sara Kilgore, executive director, Benton County Chamber of Commerce, and her husband, Tony Kilgore at the WestStar Leadership Program's 26th graduation ceremony June 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson.
Summit fight now bigger than hoops

By STEVE MEGARGEE
AP Sports Writer
KNOXVILLE (AP) — Pat Summitt’s former players and colleagues say her fight against Alzheimer’s disease could leave an even greater legacy than any of the former Tennessee women’s basketball coach’s championships or records.

Dozens of former Lady Vols and hundreds of Tennessee fans gathered Saturday for the “Goodbye For Champions” salute to Summitt, a charity event benefiting the Pat Summitt Foundation and the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The gathering was hosted by Robin Roberts of “Good Morning America” and was attended by former Tennessee women’s athletic director Joan Cronan and former Tennessee football coach Phillip Fulmer.

Fulmer said that “this will be her greatest accomplishment” as he praised Summitt’s courage in battling Alzheimer’s and starting her foundation to raise awareness of the disease.

“On a scale of what’s real life, what she’s done for people by raising awareness and dollars and putting the foundation (together) is much more impactful than what her record might have been,” Fulmer said.

Summitt led the Lady Vols to eight national titles and earned 1,098 victories — the most of any men’s or women’s college basketball coach ever — in 38 seasons as Tennessee’s coach. She stepped down in 2012, one year after announcing she had early-onset dementia, Alzheimer’s type. Summitt now spends much of her time helping battle Alzheimer’s via her foundation.

“When she fights this disease, what she has taught all of us is how to do it with courage,” Cronan said. “She’s done that from day one. It’s been about (how) we can find a cure for this disease, and she has done it facing it straight-on and she’s done it giving back as she always has.”

As former Lady Vols sat in chairs on the Tennessee Theatre stage and told stories about the legendary coach, Summitt watched the 2½-hour event from a seat in the balcony. She didn’t speak at the event but often laughed, smiled or nodded as former players and colleagues shared their recollections. The stories included frequent references to her trademark stare as well as some humorous anecdotes.
Former players, colleagues help Summit raise funds at charity benefit

KNOXVILLE (AP) — Pat Summit's former players and colleagues say her fight against Alzheimer's disease could leave an even greater legacy than any of the former Tennessee women's basketball coach's championships or records.

Dozens of former Lady Vols and hundreds of Tennessee fans gathered Saturday for the "Evening for Champions" salute to Summit, a charity event benefiting the Pat Summit Foundation and the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The gathering was hosted by Robin Roberts of "Good Morning America" and was attended by former Tennessee women's athletic director Joan Cronan and former Tennessee football coach Phillip Fulmer.

Fulmer said that "this will be her greatest accomplishment" as he praised Summit's courage in battling Alzheimer's and starting her foundation to raise awareness of the disease.

"On a scale of what's real life, what she's done for people by raising awareness and dollars and putting the foundation (together) is much more impactful than what her record might have been," Fulmer said.

Summitt led the Lady Vols to eight national titles and earned 1,098 victories — the most of any men's or women's college basketball coach ever — in 38 seasons as Tennessee's coach. She stepped down in 2012, one year after announcing she had early-onset dementia, Alzheimer's type. Summit now spends much of her time helping battle Alzheimer's through her foundation.

"When she fights this disease, what she has taught all of us is how to do it with courage," Cronan said. "She's done that from day one. It's been about (how) we can find a cure for this disease, and she has done it facing it straight-on and she's done it giving back as she always has."

As former Lady Vols sat in chairs on the Tennessee Theatre stage and told stories about the legendary coach, Summit watched the 2½-hour event from a seat in the balcony.

She didn't speak at the event but often laughed, smiled or nodded as former players and colleagues shared their recollections. The stories included frequent references to her trademark stare as well as some humorous anecdotes.

Summitt's son, Louisiana Tech women's coach Tyler Summitt, offered a videotaped message in which he told the story about the time his mom watched him play a youth soccer game. At halftime, she told him to get more aggressive, so he followed her orders.

"After the game, my coach got on me a little bit, (and), so I went over to Mom and said, 'Mom, I'm confused. You tell me to be aggressive, but my coach tells me I'm not playing my position,'" Tyler Summitt recalled. "'She didn't realize I was the goalie.'"

All the players discussed what they learned from Summit during their college years and detailed how she continues to impact their lives.

"Coach Summitt is an A-plus-plus-plus person," said Chamique Holdsclaw, who led Tennessee to three straight national titles from 1996-98. "They don't really make people like that anymore."
Banking on a great future

By ROBERT LEE LONG Community Editor 7/14/2015

Ritchie Hampton is the DeSoto County Market President for BancorpSouth, celebrating 20 years in the banking industry.

BancorpSouth DeSoto County Market President Ritchie D. Hampton said he is banking on a great future for Mississippi's fastest-growing county.

Hampton and the bank are putting the bank's capital to work by investing in the community's young people.

Each year for the past decade, BancorpSouth has been a major sponsor, along with the DeSoto Times-Tribune, in the annual "Reaching for the Stars" scholarship and academic recognition program which invests money in the college educations of DeSoto County's best and brightest students.

"We're sprinkling seeds which we hope will flourish," Hampton said from his second-floor office suite overlooking the busy intersection of Goodman and Craft roads. "It fills you with hope that these young people that we're able to help are the cream of the crop. We hope that they will come back and be leaders of the community. We hope to give them something of a leg up in the world."

Hampton, 44, who also carries the title of a community bank president for BancorpSouth, said he was given an opportunity at a young age to excel in the world of business and finance.

Hampton became a bank president at the age of 25.

"A position opened up for me as president of the bank in Somerville, Tenn.," Hampton recalled.

Hampton said his hard-work ethic and dogged determination led to his selection as a bank president at such an early age.

"I was 23-24 years-old and they noticed I was at the bank from sunup to sundown," Hampton recalled. "Showing up is half the battle."

Hampton, who is celebrating his 20th anniversary with the bank, became bank president at the Somerville branch of BancorpSouth after getting a start as a part-time teller at the Dresden, Tenn., branch.
The economic major at the University of Tennessee Martin always knew that he wanted to pursue a career in finance.

"I knew that I had to have a job somewhere," Hampton said. "I had worked at grocery stores and pizza parlors growing up. I knew I didn't want to be selling pizza all my life. I was lucky enough to get on at the bank."

The small town of Dresden was home to 2,000 people, including former Tennessee Gov. Ned Ray McWherter.

"I started off in a small community in which there were just two banks in town," Hampton said. "We knew everybody in town. It set the stage for my civic involvement. As a banker, you are integral in the community. It's a natural progression. I became civic-minded and I continued that mindset as I moved into a bigger arena. This company has always strived to make sure that its employees are a part of the community that it serves."

Hampton went on to serve as assistant vice president at Millington and then became a community bank president in Collierville.

Another facet of Hampton's life that molded and shaped his character is the 14 years that he spent in the Tennessee Army National Guard, as part of the 230th Signal Battalion.

Hampton had enlisted when he was 17 and served until his marriage to wife Devra.

"The military taught me discipline, a work ethic and a sense of pride and believing in something bigger than you are," Hampton said.

The couple now have twin eight-year-olds.

Hampton said he wishes to invest in their future by helping to make the community better as a whole.

Now that the housing industry is on the rebound, Hampton is optimistic, although he candidly acknowledges that the banking industry has been careful not to put all its eggs in one basket.

"The real estate market is still attached to what we do," Hampton said.

Hampton oversees the commercial lending department along with other areas of the bank's operations.

But it's the community involvement side, such as the participation in Special Olympics which makes his job rewarding.

"It's hard not to get emotional talking about it," Hampton said. "Those kids infect you with so much happiness. I get at least 100 hugs from the kids during that event. That is the most heart-warming event that we are a part of. They just want to be a part of the community and be loved. It's a lesson for all of us."

Robert Lee Long is Community Editor of the DeSoto Times-Tribune. He may be contacted at rlong@desototimestribune.com or at 662-429-6397, Ext. 252.
Mid-South Ag Finance Conference – August 5
Author: Chuck Danehower, Extension Area Specialist - Farm Management

Producers in Tennessee and surrounding states will want to mark their calendar for Wednesday, August 5, 2015 for the Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference. This annual conference will once again be held in the Boling University Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin in Martin, Tennessee. Speakers for this conference include Dr. David Kohl, Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech University discussing Agriculture in a Changing Environment; Dr. Steve Isaacs, University of Kentucky on Traits of Top Managers; Mike Mock of The Andersons discussing Using Marketing Risk Management Tools in Down Times; and Richard Brock of Brock Associates finishing up with Commodity Prices and Marketing Outlook: Major Trends Affecting Your Bottom Line. This all-star lineup will start at 8 a.m. and will conclude with a question & answer panel discussion at 3:15 p.m. Registration for producers to attend is $75 and includes continental breakfast, refreshments, lunch, and handout materials. For more information go to www.utm.edu/agconference. Make plans to attend what may be the most important and informative meeting of the year. Additional information can be found at Mid-South Ag Conference 2015.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, July 15, 2015

ADDING A WIN — A trio of students from Obion County Central High School recently placed in the top three of their testing subjects during math competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Among the winners were (from left) Whitney Lee, statistics; and Nellina Wooten and Matthew Carter, both Algebra 1. They were among 42 OCCHS students who competed.
UTM’s final summer orientation, registration set Friday, July 17

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s final Summer Orientation and Registration session will be held July 17 for any incoming freshman who have not yet registered for fall semester courses. Activities will begin at 8 a.m. in the Boling University Center.

Graduating high school seniors who have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter are required to attend SOAR to learn more about the resources available on the UT Martin campus and to select their classes for the upcoming fall semester.

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

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 at 11:30 a.m. in the newly-renovated Skyhawk Dining Hall, 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 main campus.

To register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soarregister.php. All 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.

Semester tuition and course fees will not be collected until the start of the fall semester and are not due at SOAR. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 24 at the main campus and the four UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer and Ripley.

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

Curtis named administrator of NHC in Milan

Matt Curtis was recently named administrator of NHC Homecare in Milan. He has worked in home care for seven years in both West and Middle Tennessee and has his Bachelor’s degree in Health and Human Performance from the University of Tennessee at Martin and his Master’s degree in Healthcare Administration from Bethel University. He is originally from Trenton but now resides in Milan with his wife, Julie, and daughter, Scarlett.

Curtis said, “Healthcare is always changing and I personally believe it is very important to educate the community of the resources available and I am very excited to continue the great reputation that NHC has established in West Tennessee.”

NHC Homecare Milan provides a full range of services, including nursing, aide, physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and social work services in 12 counties in West Tennessee.

Curtis encourages anyone who has questions concerning Homecare, or the services of NHC to call him at 686-7471, or email him at mcurtis@nhchomecaremilan.com.
Miss Tennessee visits Dresden to accept donation for Children’s Miracle Network

By David Fisher
Staff Reporter

Miss Tennessee 2015 Hannah Robinson stopped by the law office of Weakley County Juvenile Court Judge James Bradberry Thursday afternoon to accept a donation for the Children’s Miracle Network.
She’s traveling across Tennessee to collect donations for the charity from area businesses.
Hannah says she has recently been conducting a fundraiser in Union City for the Children’s Miracle Network.

Hannah, who was Miss Scenic City before winning the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, said, “As Miss Tennessee, I’m the State’s ambassador for Children’s Miracle Network hospitals. Before I was crowned, I visited four of the five hospitals, and I’m looking forward to going to the fifth.”

Hannah created a program called, “STEM Day at CMN,” STEM refers to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. “I take experiments into all of the hospitals,” she said. “I’m a chemistry major. I love science, so we go in the playroom and conduct experiments. If the children are too sick, I can put the experiment on a cart and roll it into their hospital rooms and we do it at their bedside.”

The five Children’s Miracle Network locations in Tennessee are: Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in Memphis; Monroe Carell, Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt in Nashville; East Tennessee Children’s Hospital in Knoxville; Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga; and Wellmont Health Science Center near Kingsport.

To date, Children’s Miracle Network claims to have raised more than $4.7 billion, which is distributed directly to a network of 170 hospitals.

Judge Bradberry, who knows Hannah through one of her family members, said, “The connection is, her grandmother, Bobbie Lou Robinson, who was my date on the night we graduated from Gleason High School in 1953.”

UTM football makes academic progress

The University of Tennessee at Martin football team was recently recognized by the Football Championship Subdivision Athletics Directors Association (FCS ADA) with an Academic Progress Rate (APR) Award, sponsored by Forward Progress.

The APR Award recognized UT Martin with the Ohio Valley Conference’s “Most Improved APR in 2013-14” honor.

“We are extremely proud of the hard work that our student-athletes have done not only on the field, but in the classroom and on the path to graduation,” said UT Martin Athletics Director Julio Freire. “We push our student-athletes to perform academically, athletically and socially in all walks of life. This award just celebrates all of the hard work that they put in every day.”

“Our Association is pleased to present these awards to spotlight the mission of all FCS programs, embracing the academic progress of their student-athletes, who will become leaders off the field,” said FCS ADA President Jeff Tingeay, director of athletics at Idaho State University.

“Thanks to Forward Progress, we are pleased to continue to recognize the FCS institutions and their football programs for continuing to reach exemplary APR scores.”

The Skyhawks found a necessary balance both competitively and academically, earning the league’s “Most Improved” award while closing out the 2014 season on a momentum push.

The program not only finished the season with five consecutive conference wins, but won the Sgt. York Trophy after picking up a season sweep over Austin Peay, Tennessee State and Tennessee Tech.
Kimble graduates from WestStar

Shawn Kimble of Lauderdale County graduated June 18 as a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2015 class. This year's cohort included 29 members from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni. Kimble is the Superintendent of Lauderdale County Schools and currently serves as an executive committee member of the Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce/ECD. His school district was one of three in Tennessee to receive an exemplary distinction for academic progress during the 2013-14 school year, and Kimble is asked to speak statewide on the initiatives and progress occurring in his district. He is also a 2010 graduate of Leadership Lauderdale and was the recipient of the Leadership Lauderdale Distinguished Leadership Award.

http://www.thunderboltradio.com  7/16/2015

High school students invited to UT-Martin end-of-summer bash

High school students from all areas are invited to UT-Martin’s End of Summer Bash on July 31.

Festivities begin with check-in at 1:00 in the Boling University Center, followed by a campus tour.

Refreshments and entertainment will be set up in the quad from 3:00 until 5:00, where attendees can interact with other potential students and speak with representatives from the five UTM colleges and various academic programs.

Interested students may register at www.utm.edu/summerbash. There’s no charge to attend this event.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.
Local students earn scholarships

Two Rutherford County residents were awarded scholarships from Farm Credit Mid-America, according to a release from the financial services cooperative.

Incoming Middle Tennessee State University freshman Rachel Elrod was one of the recipients. The Eagleville High School alumna plans to study agribusiness at MTSU.

The other local recipient was Rutherford County resident Samantha Beard, who is a rising junior at the University of Tennessee-Martin.

"Supporting future farmers and agriculture professionals is a critical part of our mission as a lender to rural America," said Rachel Davis, regional vice president, Farm Credit Mid-America, said in the release. "As the population continues to increase, there is a need to explore innovation and technology in the agriculture industry. The skills students gain in the classroom are invaluable once they enter their career — whether they head to the field or the office."

In all, the company awarded 61 scholarships worth around $80,000 to students in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee, the release stated. The recipients were chosen based on academic achievement, leadership qualities and community involvement.
Scholarship Presented

REES GAINES, left, son of Maurice and Memory Gaines, of Ripley, was named as one of the recipients of the Farm Credit Mid-America scholarship. Gaines is a junior at the University of Tennessee at Martin studying agricultural business. The scholarship was awarded based on academic achievement, leadership qualities and school and community involvement. The recipients also submitted essays about their passion for agriculture. Natalie Brown, right, FSA financial services associate, is pictured with him.

"Supporting future farmers and agriculture professionals is a critical part of our mission as a lender to rural America," said Tim Williams, regional vice president, Farm Credit Mid-America. "As the population continues to increase, there is a need to explore innovation and technology in the agriculture industry. The skills students gain in the classroom are invaluable once they enter their career — whether they head to the field or the office."

The Farm Credit Mid-America Customer Scholarship Program is open to children or grandchildren of customers and is offered each year. The ag lender provides an additional $75,000 annually in scholarship support through programs such as Agriculture Futures of America and land grant universities throughout their four-state territory.
Martha Edinger ‘gives back’ to benefit UTM agriculture students

Martha Edinger remembers the challenges of working her way through the University of Tennessee at Martin and law school. The retired attorney and Obion County native now helps ease the financial burden of college for agriculture students who come from family farm backgrounds.

Jameson Smith, senior agriculture business major from Crockett County, and Zac Morgan, sophomore agriculture business major from Weakley County, are the first to receive the Kenneth and Carolyn Coleman Scholarship, which is named for Martha’s parents.

Kenneth and Carolyn were raised in Tennessee and Missouri respectively and met near Detroit. He wanted to return to Tennessee and farm, and after losing his job in Michigan, the couple bought a farm in Obion County where they lived, worked and raised four children over 57 years. The home place is bordered by this year’s corn crop and includes neatly maintained buildings that house an antique tractor collection, advertising memorabilia, antique toys and other museum-worthy treasures gathered over the years.

Martha attended Obion Central High School, graduated in 1984 with a history degree from UT Martin and then earned her law degree in 1987 from the University of Tulsa. Now retired from family law practice, Martha’s upbringing and path to success inspired her to help today’s UT Martin students. “I got my degree from UT Martin and promised myself that if I was ever in a position to start a scholarship in my parents’ honor, I would do so,” she said. She and her husband, Sandy, also started a scholarship in his parents’ honor at Stetson University in Florida.

“When I went to school, I worked and paid my way through and took out student loans,” she remembered. “I want to help some of these younger people so they don’t have to worry so much and that they can enjoy college more by not having to be so worried about money all the time, because I stayed worried about money a lot when I was in school.” She laughs now about the financial challenges, but she and her husband are serious about helping students.

Sandy, a retired banker whose father was in the military, The Stetson University scholarship benefits members of the military who want to attend college. “It was really a fulfilling thing for us to do this (set up scholarships) for both schools, so we’re pretty happy about it,” he said.

Jameson Smith was not raised on a farm but helped a relative farm, which included everything from cutting and hauling hay to tending different row crops. The scholarship comes at an important time for the Crockett County native. “It allows me to continue my education,” he said. “Any other student in school, they know the financial load can be hard at times to continue to go through school, just with all the tuition and books and all that, and it just allows me to continue my dream of getting a degree at UT Martin.” His career goals include working for a company that allows him to pursue sales or marketing.

Zac Morgan’s family owns a farm where they raise a few hogs but mostly grow soybeans, wheat and corn. “Coming from a farm background, I know that some years, especially if you’re putting somebody through college, your income isn’t necessarily guaranteed, depending on crop prices and whether or not your crop gets damaged in the field, or so many variables going into it,” he said. “The fact that somebody wants to give students money who want to pursue a degree ... means a lot to me.” Zac is interested in agricultural sales but has also considered becoming an agriculture loan officer at a bank.

Martha and Sandy now split their time living in Nashville and Sarasota, Fla. They also share their generosity with two universities to help students like Jameson and Zac concentrate more on college and spend a little less time worrying about paying for a college education.
HELPING STUDENTS — A new scholarship established by UT Martin alum and Obion County native Martha Edinger honors her parents, Carolyn and Kenneth Coleman (center). The scholarship is for agriculture students who come from family farm backgrounds. Jameson Smith (left), senior agriculture business major from Crockett County, and Zac Morgan (right), sophomore agriculture business major from Weakley County, are the first to receive the Kenneth and Carolyn Coleman Scholarship.

Miss Jackson Madison Hurst, Miss Mid South Courtney Caton, Richard Moore, and Miss Tennessee 2015 Hannah Robison are seated June 15 as The Old Hickory Rotary Club and Jackson Lions Club hosted a luncheon for Miss Tennessee 2014 Hayley Lewis and the Miss Tennessee 2015 contestants prior to the pageant.
OAK RIDGE — When University of Tennessee student Caroline High first learned of the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program she knew she wanted to attend.

“It sounded like so much fun,” she said.

The three-week collegiate program is an abbreviated version of the 10-week National Forensic Academy for law enforcement professionals offered by the UT Law Enforcement Innovation Center in Oak Ridge, which is an agency of the UT Institute for Public Service.

Now in its fourth year, the program for college students teaches the same topics as the program for professionals: digital photography, forensic anthropology, DNA evidence, bloodstain analysis, latent print processing for identification and more. Plus students earn nine credits from University of Tennessee at Martin.

It’s hands-on training from people in the field, said Dan Anselment, a training consultant with the innovation center. And it’s often a new experience for students.

“For a lot of them, this is new territory,” he said.

Most of the students are studying criminal justice or forensic anthropology and a few are full-time law enforcement who are also going to school, Anselment said. A majority are UT Martin students, but others are from various UT campus and other universities.
For High, who will be starting her senior year on the Knoxville campus in August, the program was a way to explore forensic anthropology, which she hopes will be her future career. Plus, it was a new experience since she hasn’t been able to take UT’s always-full introduction to forensics class.

And that’s the difference between students and professionals, said Brian Cochran, a detective with the Boone County (Ky.) Sheriff’s Department who teaches during the program.

“With cops, it’s about breaking habits,” he said. But the students are learning for the first time.

It’s a fresh start and the college students are willing to try new techniques, added instructor Tim Schade, a senior evidence technician for the Knoxville Police Department.

In a laboratory session on Monday, Cochran and Schade taught students how to collect a fingerprint from various items.

In a trial-and-error session, students tried to collect a fingerprint using clear school glue and masking tape and then again — less successfully — with just the tape.

“Ninety-nine cents worth of glue really does make a difference,” Cochran told the group.

To collect prints, students practiced various techniques, including fingerprint powder and dye stains that glow under certain colored lights.

High said she’s excited to continue class next week and thinks the program will be an advantage on her graduate school applications.

“It will set me above and definitely help,” she said.
DUNAGAN SPEAKS — Dr. Nick Dunagan recently spoke to Kiwanis Club of Martin and shared a presentation on his recent trip to Antarctica. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time. Martin Kiwanis meets every Wednesday at noon at UTM. For more information on our club, please visit http://martinkiwanisclub.org/.

Five senior students from the University of Tennessee at Martin traveled to Japan June 26-July 5 as part of an international experience with the Ned Ray McWherter Institute of Collaboration and Innovation. Pictured at the base of Mt. Fuji are Maryanna McClure, an animal science major from Dyersburg; Caroline Parish, a political science major from Huntingdon; Chase Haynes, a chemistry major from Columbia; and John Sellers, a psychology student from Henderson. Not pictured is Summer Bradley, an art education major from Medina.
UT Martin students visit Japan, learn innovative business skills

Five senior students from the University of Tennessee at Martin traveled to Japan June 26-July 5 as part of an international experience with the Ned Ray McWherter Institute of Collaboration and Innovation. Summer Bradley, an art education major from Medina; Chase Haynes, a chemistry major from Columbia; Maryanna McClure, an animal science major from Dyersburg; Caroline Parish, a political science major from Huntingdon; and John Sellers, a psychology student from Henderson, participated in the experience.

The McWherter Institute seeks to foster a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship among UT Martin students and residents of Northwest Tennessee. Student “innovators” participate in travel opportunities through the institute to strengthen their ability to adapt to unfamiliar situations and widen their perspective of the global marketplace. This was the group’s first international trip, following a domestic experience in New York City in March. “The overall purpose of the trip was to put us in situations which were unfamiliar and to teach us to overcome such obstacles. Every situation we were placed in was relatable to some type of business-related problem,” said Haynes. While on the trip, the students were “expected to gain knowledge about how other countries, such as Japan, participate in business, how they use innovation in their daily lives and how our cultures differ,” said Parish. The students were able to visit significant tourist sites as well as meet with local business leaders and ambassadors, including Caroline Kennedy, U.S. ambassador to Japan.

“In our briefing with her (Kennedy), we were able to have one-on-one conversations to tell her about the McWherter Institute and what we as individuals are doing to impact the economic growth of West Tennessee,” said Parish. “It was an honor to meet someone that represents our country at such a high level,” added McClure. “I enjoyed being able to represent the institute and our university to someone that represents such a historic family in our nation.”

The group also participated in a city-wide activity in Tokyo designed by trip leaders Tom Hyde, UT Martin alum and president of Mr. Japanese Bilingual Recruiters, and Ashton Jennings, interim director of the McWherter Institute. “We spent 100 hours in program design to expose the students to the widest array of circumstances that would challenge them while simultaneously educating, entertaining and instilling confidence in them,” said Hyde.

The students were given a list of locations and specific items to find and photograph without the use of electronic resources. McClure recalls being surprised by the willingness of the local citizens to help the students on their quest. “There were many bows of respect and everyone was willing to help, even if they didn’t speak English. ...Two girls walked us from the train station to our destination, even though it was out of their way,” she said.

The group also climbed Mt. Fuji and attended a reception for UT Martin alumni living in Japan. Hyde estimates there are close to 2,000 alumni in the country, including those who participated in an international exchange program. “This experience showed us as innovators that there are different ways to run things; there are different places to station businesses,” said Bradley. “The world is much bigger than West Tennessee. We now have connections halfway across the world.”

“International travel forces the curious student to see the world from a different perspective,” explained Hyde. “Whether it is from a cultural, political or even religious perspective, the ability to understand differences will enhance global awareness and ultimately lessen international conflict.”

Ten UT Martin students are selected each year to participate in the McWherter Institute, which hopes to incorporate further international travel into the program’s curriculum. For more information on the institute or how to apply, contact Jennings at 731-881-3620 or by email at gjennin4@utm.edu. Information is also available online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/nrmi/index.php.
Obion County native gives back to benefit UT Martin ag students

MARTIN Martha Edinger remembers the challenges of working her way through the University of Tennessee at Martin and law school. The retired attorney and Obion County native now helps ease the financial burden of college for agriculture students who come from family farm backgrounds.

Jameson Smith, senior agriculture business major from Crockett County, and Zac Morgan, sophomore agriculture business major from Weakley County, are the first to receive the Kenneth and Carolyn Coleman Scholarship, which is named for Martha’s parents.

Coleman and Mrs. Coleman were raised in Tennessee and Missouri, respectively, and met near Detroit. He wanted to return to Tennessee and farm, and after losing his job in Michigan, the couple bought a farm in Obion County where they lived, worked and raised four children over 57 years. The home place is bordered by this year’s corn crop and includes neatly maintained buildings that house an antique tractor collection, advertising memorabilia, antique toys and other museum-worthy treasures gathered over the years.

Mrs. Edinger attended Obion Central High School, graduated in 1984 with a history degree from UT Martin and then earned her law degree in 1987 from the University of Tulsa. Now retired from family law practice, Mrs. Edinger’s upbringing and path to retirement inspired her to help today’s UT Martin students. “I got my degree from UTM and promised myself that if I was ever in a position to start a scholarship in my parents’ honor, I would do so,” she said. She and her husband, Sandy, also started a scholarship in his parents’ honor at Stetson University in Florida.

“When I went to school, I worked and paid my way through and took out student loans,” she remembered. “I want to help some of these younger people so they don’t have to worry so much and that they can enjoy college more by not having to be so worried about money all the time, because I stayed worried about money a lot when I was in school.” She laughs now about the financial challenges, but she and her husband are serious about helping students.

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The Edingers now split their time living in Nashville and Sarasota, Fla.

They also share their generosity with two universities to help students like Smith and Morgan concentrate more on college and spend a little less time worrying about paying for a college education.
Skyhawks better off in Simpson's tenure

By KEVIN WEAKS

Messenger Sports

Jason Simpson has gone from being a rookie head coach to gaining the status as dean of the Ohio Valley Conference football coaches.

What a difference 10 years can make.

"It's certainly a blessing and an opportunity to be a coach for 10 years in any conference," Simpson said. "We've certainly used that to our advantage. Other coaches have come and gone, but there's some continuity in having the same coaches and that has benefited UT Martin."

Coming to UTM in 2006 after nine years as a college assistant coach and one season as a graduate assistant, Simpson has been raising the bar since that first season.

The Skyhawks won the OVC championship his first year with a 9-3 overall record and 6-1 league mark.

In his time, UT Martin has posted a 45-26 record against OVC opponents, quite a turnaround for a program that had won just 20 OVC games in the previous 14 seasons.

"We're winning, on average, five of the eight OVC games every year, and that's important to me," he said. "In the FCS, the way you have to schedule because of the finances with two of those games being FBS games a year, it really kills your overall record. But, that's just the cost of doing business. Ultimately, you're judged on your conference games, and we've done well. We haven't won as many championships as we would like, which is a goal every year, but I take pride in the stability of the program. The standard has been set."

Simpson has a winning record against six of the other eight conference teams and has spent the last decade turning lopsided series into rivalries.

Murray State is likely the best example of that.

The Racers claim an all-time 35-18-1 mark in the series, but UT Martin has won the last four and nine of the last 10.

UTM owns a seven-game winning streak over Austin Peay, winning 11 of the last 12, has won six of the last nine against Tennessee State, six of the last 10 against Tennessee Tech and has won eight out of nine prior to last year's loss in its series with Southeast Missouri.

UT Martin has won or shared three Sgt. Alvin C. York trophies — the annual round-robin series of all the OVC's schools in Tennessee — with a 16-8 all-time record in the series, which began in 2007.

As a result of UTM's consistency under Simpson, the Skyhawk program is annually picked among top teams in the conference when the preseason polls come out.

"I think it's a safe bet to put us at three or four in the league," he said. "You can always put Jacksonville State and EKU up there, but you also know those teams have to beat us to get there. We take a lot of pride in that."

UTM is tabbed fourth this year, behind JSU, Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Illinois.

Being a main player on the league's stage is one of Simpson's many fond memories.

"It's kind of two-fold," Simpson said. "I remember vividly in 2006 the conference championship. 2008 winning eight games, 2012 beating Memphis. But, it also seems like a lifetime ago because of all the changes on the campus at UT Martin since I took the job."

"I've been able to grow up as a coach at UT Martin, and hopefully they'll have me for 10 more."

WEST STAR GRADUATE - The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program hosted its 26th graduation ceremony, June 18, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Hope Cooper (CENTER) was honored with the 2015 Class Representative Award, as chosen by members of the 2015 WestStar class. Cooper is the marketing director at Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs in Milan. The class of 2015 included 29 participants from 17 West Tennessee counties, who now join more than 700 program alumni. Cooper is pictured (l-r) with Dr. Robert Smith, interim University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, and Virginia Grimes, coordinator, WestStar Leadership Program.
Robison earns accolades during reception

Miss Tennessee 2015 Hannah Robison (left) thanks a group of Henry Countians attending a reception in her honor Monday at the Henry County Courthouse. County Mayor Brent Greer (right front), presented Robison with the Loyal Patriot Award and proclaimed July 20 as Hannah Robison Day in Henry County.
It's been an eventful summer for Hannah Robison, and one more highlight was added to her scrapbook Monday.

Robison, the Henry County woman who won the Miss Tennessee pageant June 20 in Jackson, was honored at the Henry County Courthouse Monday with a reception hosted by county and City of Paris officials.

Robison will be representing Tennessee in the Miss America pageant Sept. 13 in Atlantic City, N.J.

Monday night, she greeted well-wishers and was honored by county Mayor Brent Greer, who gave her the Loyal Patriot Award.

Greer also proclaimed Monday (July 20) as Hannah Robison Day in Henry County.

State Rep. Tim Wirgau, R-Buchanan, was present during the reception and read a proclamation signed by Gov. Bill Haslam honoring Robison, and a different proclamation passed by the state House of Representatives honoring her. It was signed by state Speaker of the House Beth Harwell.

Robison will be hosting a fish fry starting at 6 p.m. Friday at the Enoch building at the Henry County Fairgrounds. The event will be a fundraiser for arthritis research.

Robison, a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is the daughter of Rusty and Pam Robison of Buchanan.

Prior to the reception, the Henry County Commission met in the Chancery courtroom.

Henry County Medical Center's Volunteer Auxiliary awarded $2,000 scholarships to three Henry County High School seniors recently. They are Daniel Arnold (second from right), son of Sandra and Kenny Arnold. He plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin and pursue a degree in nursing. Mallory Norwood (third from left) is the daughter of Natalie Norwood, and plans to attend Murray State University as a physical therapy major. Shelby Suzwin (third from right), the daughter of Kim Suzwin, will attend UT Martin and is unsure of her major.

Pictured are (from left) Marjorie Blackwood, Carnell Browning, Norwood, Suzwin, Arnold and Barbara Skelly. The auxiliary selects graduating HCHS seniors each year for the scholarships. To be eligible, students must be attending a college or university to pursue a degree in a medical field.
Those attending the transfer of ownership of the Methodist-Fayette Hospital to the Town of Somerville were, left to right, City Attorney Tom Minor, Alderman Jason Hamilton, Dr. Tommy Cauley of UT Martin, Alderman Judy Accardi, Higher Education Committee Chairman Richard Rucker, County Mayor Skip Taylor, County Commissioner Steve Reeves, Alderman Mike Prewch, and Tom Brabyn. Methodist Hospital Corporate Attorney. Seated and inset are Somerville Interim Mayor Ronnie Neill and William Keith, CEO of Methodist Germantown.

Special Ceremony Held July 15th for the Transfer of Methodist-Fayette Hospital to Town of Somerville

By: Richard Rucker, Chairman Higher Education Committee

A special ceremony was held on Wednesday, July 15th, 2015, as community leaders met at the Somerville City Hall to witness the transfer of ownership of the Fayette Hospital from Methodist Healthcare Corporation to the Town of Somerville. In addition to the gift of the 8.6 acre parcel and 55,000 square foot hospital building, the Town of Somerville also received a cash donation of $250,000 to be used toward renovation costs as the hospital building is scheduled for retrofitting as the UT Martin Somerville Educational Complex.

Attending the ceremony was a group of community leaders and supporters that included Somerville Mayor Ronnie Neill, Somerville Aldermen Judy Accardi, Mike French and Jason Hamilton, Somerville Administrator Bob Turner, Somerville Public Works Director Bobby Nutt, Somerville Town Planner Blake Walley, Fayette County Mayor Skip Taylor, Fayette County Commissioner Steve Reeves, Town of Somerville Attorney Tom Minor, and Fayette County Higher Education Executive Committee Chairman Richard Rucker.

At a recent Town of Somerville Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting, action was taken to hire Ellen Wadley of Fleming & Associates as the Architect for the higher education renovation project. Somerville expects to receive the final design for the project within the next 8 weeks, with construction planned for this fall. Current plans are for about 20,000 square feet of the hospital building to be retrofitted for use by UT Martin, with anticipated completion in time for the Fall Semester of 2016.

During construction, classes will continue to be held at the Somerville Career Center on the Somerville Courthouse Square. Classes for the Fall 2015 Semester are due to begin August 24th, and this fall’s classes include Introduction to Agricultural Sales, Farm Management, English Studies: Critical Thinking & Writing, English Composition, US History, Algebra, and American Political Institutes & Policy.

Anyone interested in participating in these courses may call 901-465-7313 for additional information.
Sixty-one college-bound students were awarded scholarships from Farm Credit Mid-America, a $20 billion financial services cooperative serving farmers, agribusinesses and rural residents throughout Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. The scholarships, totaling more than $80,000, were awarded based on academic achievement, leadership qualities and school and community involvement. The recipients also submitted essays about their passion for agriculture.

Hardeman County resident and University of Tennessee at Martin student, Natalie Carol Denton, was named one of the recipients. She is the daughter of W. Boyette and Melissa M. Denton and is a senior studying Animal Science/Veterinarian Science.

Hardeman County resident and Mississippi State University student, William Blake Denton, was also named one of the recipients. He is the son of W. Boyette and Melissa M. Denton and is a freshman studying Agronomy-Integrated Pest Management.

“Supporting future farmers and agriculture professionals is a critical part of our mission as a lender to rural America,” said Jody Wade, regional vice president, Farm Credit Mid-America. “As the population continues to increase, there is a need to explore innovation and technology in the agriculture industry. The skills students gain in the classroom are invaluable once they enter their career – whether they head to the field or the office.”

The Farm Credit Mid-America Customer Scholarship Program is open to children or grandchildren of customers and is offered each year. The ag lender provides an additional $75,000 annually in scholarship support through programs such as Agriculture Futures of America and land grant universities throughout their four-state territory.

For more information about any of the scholarships offered by Farm Credit Mid-America, visit e-farmcredit.com or contact your local Farm Credit Mid-America office at 901-465-2794.
Two area students were awarded scholarships at the meeting of the McNairy County Retired Teachers Association last Thursday. Emily Haendel a senior at UT-Martin/Selmer and one of Arts in McNairy's newest board members, who will begin student teaching next spring, was awarded a scholarship for $400 from the association. Courtney Lobb a junior at UT-Martin/Selmer majoring in elementary education was also awarded a $400 scholarship from Bill and Tommye Webb at the event. Pictured are Haendel, P.J. White, Bill Webb, Amy McFerrin, Becky Peebles, Tommye Webb, and Lobb.

High school students from all areas are invited to the University of Tennessee at Martin's End of Summer Bash on July 31. Festivities will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in Boling University Center, followed by a campus tour. Refreshments and entertainment will be set up in the quad from 3-5 p.m., where attendees will be able to interact with other potential students and speak with representatives from the five UT Martin colleges and various academic programs. Interested students may register at www.utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend this event.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Admissions at (731) 881-7020.
Dyersburg attorney named to Tennessee Claims Commission

http://www.wbbjtv.com/

The Lauderdale County Enterprise, Ripley, Tennessee, July 23, 2015

End Of Summer Bash At UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s End of Summer Bash will begin at 1 p.m. July 31st in the Boling University Center for high school students.

Refreshments and entertainment will be set up in the quad from 3-5 p.m., where attendees will be able to interact with other potential students and speak with representatives from the five UT Martin colleges and various academic programs.

Interested students may register at www.utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend this event.

For more information, contact the office, 731-881-7020.

Dyersburg attorney named to Tennessee Claims Commission

Story Created: Jul 23, 2015 at 9:06 PM CDT
Story Updated: Jul 24, 2015 at 11:14 AM CDT


Hamilton’s appointment for the Western Section is subject to confirmation by both houses of the Tennessee General Assembly. The three commissioners hold eight-year terms.

The Tennessee Claims Commission handles claims involving tax recovery, state employee workers compensation and alleged negligence by state officials or agencies.

Hamilton, 59, is a partner in the Law Firm of Jones, Hamilton & Lay in Dyersburg. He has been with the firm since 1983.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1978 and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., in 1981.

Hamilton grew up in Trenton.
Miss Tennessee 2015 Hannah Robison spoke to the Jackson Rotary Club on Wednesday at the Jackson Country Club.
Hannah Robison’s platforms and passions came together when she visited the Children’s Hospital at Erlanger in Chattanooga.

There, Miss Tennessee 2015 rolled a science experiment into a little boy’s hospital room. As she helped Victor play with cornstarch and water, the boy’s mother translated for him that he was excited Robison had visited, especially because the experiment took the place of Victor’s hand exercises, which he does regularly to prevent arthritis.

"Everything kind of came full circle for me when I was preventing arthritis at a Children’s Miracle Network Hospital while promoting STEM Education," Robison said. "This was the day I realized this is exactly where I need to be."

As Miss Tennessee, Robison will be Gov. Bill Haslam’s ambassador for character education, an ambassador for the Arthritis Foundation, state ambassador for the five Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals in Tennessee and an advocate for science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

Robison told the story about Victor to the Jackson Rotary Club Wednesday. It was her second speaking engagement since receiving the crown in June. She also described her plans for the year as she travels more than 80,000 miles and speaks to more than 50,000 schoolchildren.

Robison said she combined her love for STEM education and her work with Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals by taking science experiments to patients. So far she has attended four of the hospitals and will visit the last before competing in the Miss America Pageant in September.

A chemistry major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Robison also plans to speak about science, technology, engineering and math to others. She said by 2020 the U.S. will have 9.2 million more STEM jobs than it did in 2010.

"I really want to talk to the schoolchildren about why they should be involved in STEM education, and the main reason is job opportunities," Robison said. "If we get our younger generation started on science, technology, engineering and math now, they can better themselves and have a better opportunity of getting a job and making that money they need to survive."

Robison also wants to raise awareness about arthritis, which she said affects 300,000 children in the United States. She has worked with the Tennessee chapter of the Arthritis Foundation and partnered with the Washington, D.C., office.

Greg Alexander, who was recognized during the meeting as Rotarian of the Year, said it was his first time hearing Robison speak.

"She is a remarkable person to be representing the state of Tennessee," Alexander said. "She’s so smart and she has so many different things going on — all of it together is going to culminate in a good, successful year for her."

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748.
Follow her on Twitter: @kathburgess

Science
Continued from Page B1

Tennessee at Martin, Robison said. "If we get our younger generation started on science, technology, engineering and math now, they can better themselves and have a better opportunity of getting a job and making that money they need to survive."

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FORENSICS — UT Martin students Joe Hudgins, Dustin Menzies and Ashley Neumair observe a latent fingerprint processing demonstration by National Forensic Academy Instructor Brian Cochran. Nine UTM students are attending the three-week National Forensic Academy Collegiate Training program in Oak Ridge. The collegiate NFA, a program of the UT Institute for Public Service’s Law Enforcement Innovation Center, exposes students to hands-on crime scene investigation techniques such as print processing, bloodstain analysis and best practices in digital photography.

UTM invites high school students to Summer Bash

High school students from all areas are invited to the University of Tennessee at Martin’s End of Summer Bash on July 31. Festivities will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by a campus tour.

Refreshments and entertainment will be set up in the quad from 3-5 p.m., where attendees will be able to interact with other potential students and speak with representatives from the five UT Martin colleges and various academic programs.

Interested students may register at www.utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend this event.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 881-7020.
SOAR — Westview High School graduates (from left) Chris Pinto, Barrett Belote and Morgan Curlin participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration activities July 17. Students accepted to begin in the fall 2015 semester registered for classes and heard presentations on financial aid, housing and student life. Fall classes begin August 24. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 881-7020.
Miss Tennessee raises funds for arthritis

Miss Tennessee 2015 Hannah Robison (left) greets and thanks one of the supporters of her fish fry fundraiser Thursday night at the Henry County Fairgrounds. An estimated 200 people attended the event, which raised money for the Arthritis Foundation.

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/

UTM to host End of Summer Bash for area high school students

Posted on July 25, 2015 by Steve James in Local News

High school students from all areas are invited to the UT-Martin End of Summer Bash on Friday, July 31st.

Festivities begin with check-in at 1:00 in the Boling University Center, followed by a campus tour.

Refreshments and entertainment will be set up in the quad from 3:00 until 5:00, where attendees can interact with other potential students and speak with representatives from the five UTM colleges and various academic programs.

Interested students may register at utm-dot-edu. There's no charge to attend.
Lisa Cothran, the chamber’s vice president of membership development, graduates from two leadership programs this summer — WestStar and the Institute for Organization Management (IOM).

WestStar is a West Tennessee leadership program with a mission to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved in helping West Tennessee become a better place to live. Participants learn leadership skills and develop strategies for helping communities maximize potential. They also become part of a growing network of leaders who will help shape the future of West Tennessee.

"WestStar has taught me about each county, its needs and challenges, and how we can all work together for the betterment of the region and the promotion of what we have in West Tennessee," said Cothran.

Institute for Organization Management, a professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, is the premier nonprofit professional development program for association and chamber professionals, fostering individual growth through interactive learning and networking opportunities.

"The knowledge I gained at institute is invaluable and has provided me with a network of peers and resources," says Cothran. "The curriculum was informational and relevant to industry trends while providing essential leadership and organizational skills."

Cothran, who also directs the chamber’s Emissaries volunteer group, is a member of the Jackson Symphony League and the Jackson Exchange Club. She serves on the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives Institute Committee and the Exchange Club-Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse central board. She is also a graduate of Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives Institute and Leadership Jackson.

"Both programs have helped me become a better leader and chamber professional," said Cothran. "I am very thankful to the chamber and board of directors for allowing me these opportunities."

As she graduates the institute program, Cothran receives the recognition of IOM, which signifies her completion of 96 hours of course instruction in nonprofit management. She joins Shirley Jones, senior vice president, public affairs, as a graduate of the four-year program.
http://www.chattanoogan.com/

**Chattanooga Representatives Chosen For 2016 Miss Tennessee Pageant**  
Sunday, July 26, 2015 - by Wendy King

Caty Davis, Meredith Maroney and Lexie Perry will be the Chattanooga area representatives at the 2016 Miss Tennessee Pageant after winning the Scenic City local preliminaries on Saturday evening at Chattanooga State Humanities Theatre.

Miss Davis and Miss Maroney, both of Knoxville and students at the University of Tennessee won the Chattanooga and Tennessee Valley titles respectively and Miss Perry, an incoming freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin and Dresden resident was named Miss Scenic City.

Eighteen contestants participated in the pageant which is open statewide and is the program that has also produced three of the last four Miss Tennessee titleholders including the recently crowned Hannah Robison who won the state crown last month.

The pageant opened with a tribute to the five servicemen who died last week at the Naval Operations Center located less than a mile from the Amnicola Highway campus.

Miss Davis won the Talent Award for her rendition of the late Whitney Houston’s "I Have Nothing" from the film *The Bodyguard*. She is a junior majoring in Business Administration and is involved with the Knoxville Boxing Club. A member of Kappa Delta sorority, her platform is Addiction Doesn't Define Me: Empowering Families Affected by Substance Abuse.

Miss Maroney, a sophomore majoring in Journalism, Electronic Media and Hispanic Studies, sang "Somewhere" for her talent presentation. She is heavily involved with fundraising for the Alzheimer’s Association in honor of her grandmother who died from the disease.

Miss Perry, who is hearing impaired, performed a medley of "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" and the "Orange Blossom Special" on the violin for her talent. The incoming freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin won the Interview Award. She was the 2014 Miss Tennessee's Outstanding Teen and was the first runner-up at Miss America's Outstanding Teen last August which was the highest finish ever for a Tennessee representative.

The Chattanooga runners-up were local residents Mary Allyson McGinnis and Ashley Broockman. Miss McGinnis is a sophomore at Belmont University and Miss Broockman is a UT-Chattanooga graduate and a Verizon Wireless sales representative.

Peyton Wilson and Mary Beth Arnett were the Scenic City alternates and Brianna Mason and Birchwood's Rachel Holder were the Tennessee Valley runners.
New Hillsboro, Mill Creek Middle principals named

Melanie Balakit, mbalakit@tennessan.com  5:55 p.m. CTJ July 27, 2015

Williamson County Director of Schools Mike Looney has named new principals for Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School and Mill Creek Middle School.

Kari Miller will head Mill Creek Middle, and Alicia Justice will head Hillsboro School. Miller and Justice are former Hillsboro School administrators.

Miller has served as principal of Hillsboro since November 2010. She also has served as principal of College Grove Elementary. Before then, she was a principal and teacher in California, beginning her education career in 1994.

Justice has served as the assistant principal of Hillsboro since 2010. She began her career in the district 13 years ago as an anatomy, physiology and biology teacher at Centennial High. She also taught at Independence High School for six years before serving as a district mentor for science and math teachers for two years.

Miller and Justice will begin their new roles immediately.

“Education is my passion, and I look forward to bringing my dedication to the students, families and future staff of Mill Creek Middle School and to the entire Nolensville community,” Miller said. Mill Creek Middle is set to open in fall 2016, along with a new high school and elementary school in Nolensville.

“I am honored and humbled to be named the next principal of Hillsboro School, and I look forward to continuing the hard work and commitment that has made this school what it is today,” Justice said.

Looney praised both administrators.

“Kari has done an outstanding job leading Hillsboro to the state and national stage,” Looney said. “I know she will take her experiences of achieving National Blue Ribbon status and winning the 2014 SCORE prize and create the same kind of high-achieving environment at Mill Creek.

“Alicia has worked side by side as Hillsboro earned these top honors. She is ready to take over the reins and continue leading the school to new heights.”

Miller has a bachelor’s degree in planning and development from the University of Southern California and a master’s degree in education from Pepperdine University. She is pursuing a doctorate degree in assessment, learning and school improvement from Middle Tennessee State University.
Justice earned her bachelor's degree in health and human performance with a secondary biology endorsement from the University of Tennessee at Martin, a master's degree in K-12 administration from MTSU and an education specialist degree in curriculum and instruction from MTSU. She is pursuing her doctorate in leadership from Tennessee State University.

UT Martin tuition rises 3 percent for next year

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved the lowest tuition percentage increase in more than 30 years during its annual meeting June 25 in Knoxville.

Undergraduate tuition will increase by 3 percent at UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin as part of the $2.13 billion budget for fiscal year 2016. The increase is effective for the 2015 fall semester.

UT Martin in-state tuition and mandatory fees will now cost undergraduate students an additional $302 annually, which includes a student-supported $50 per semester activity fee for athletics.

New tuition and fees will be $4,163 per semester or $8,326 for a full academic year.

Full-time undergraduate enrollment is a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Tuition and mandatory fees for in-state graduate students will increase $340 per semester for a total of $4,824 per semester.

Graduate students will pay a total of $9,648 per academic year starting in the fall. Full-time graduate enrollment is nine hours per semester.
Brittan Sutherland (center), a fifth grade teacher in Weakley County, participates in one of two Teacher Quality Partnership workshops hosted recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Participating teachers took home teaching aids, classroom materials and lists of resources to help implement the new instructions into his or her daily classroom routine. The workshops are funded by the U.S. Department of Education Teacher Quality Partnership Program.

West Tenn. teachers participate in TQP workshops at UT Martin

Thirty-one West Tennessee teachers participated in the 2015 Teacher Quality Partnership workshops hosted recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The two-day workshops are funded by the U.S. Department of Education Teacher Quality Partnership Program.

Workshop instruction focused on new ways to incorporate reading and writing into all subjects, as well as methods to handle reading and mathematics interventions. Each participating teacher received a $100 stipend for each day of attendance and took home teaching aids, classroom materials and lists of resources to help implement the new instructions into his or her daily classroom routine.

UT Martin was one of 24 institutions nationwide to receive a Teacher Quality Partnership grant this past fall. The grant, totaling more than $3 million, provides resources to prepare teachers to work in high-need schools and support them in their first critical years.

"What I like about this particular grant is that it includes emphases on all three components of the UT Martin mission – teaching, service and research," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs, when the grant was announced. "With so many of our students coming from rural West Tennessee, this is a tremendous opportunity to work collaboratively with the local school systems to provide quality, data-driven education to our region."

Dr. Kimberly Williams, assistant professor of education, and Dr. Karen DiBella, assistant professor of reading and director of the UT Martin Reading Center, served as workshop coordinators.

For more information on the workshops or the Teacher Quality Partnership Program, contact Williams at (731) 881-7202 or DiBella at (731) 881-7496.
Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference set Aug. 5

Registration deadline is July 31

Jul 28, 2015 Delta Farm Press

David Kohl speaks to farmers about financial management in a low-price era.

The annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Boling University Center Aug. 5. David Kohl, Virginia Tech professor emeritus and internationally known speaker, is the featured presenter.

The conference, a service of the UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, is designed to serve the lender/producer team by providing the most up-to-date and relevant information needed to grow farm operations' bottom lines. Agricultural lenders, farmers, producers and farm-related business owners are encouraged to attend.

Registration information must be received by July 31. For registration information, go to http://www.utm.edu/departments/cbga/agconference/registration.php. Conference attendees can fax their registration forms to 731-881-7323.

The conference will begin with check-in and a continental breakfast at 8 a.m., with the official welcome at 8:20 a.m. Four speaker sessions will focus on agriculture in a changing environment, traits of top managers, marketing risk management tools and trends in commodity prices. A luncheon is included in the price of registration.

In addition to Dr. Kohl, Steve Isaacs, professor, the University of Kentucky; Mike Mock, senior risk manager for The Andersons Grain Group; and Richard Brock, owner and president, Brock Associates, will serve as session speakers.

Registration is $150 for lenders and ag service providers, $75 for farmers and producers, and $25 for students and spouses. Forms and payment can also be mailed to the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, College of Business and Global Affairs, the University of Tennessee at Martin, 216 Business Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238; however, all materials must be received by July 31.

For more information or registration assistance, contact Jennifer Schlicht, UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs, by phone at 731-881-7324 or by email at jschlicht@utm.edu.
High school students invited to UTM End of Summer Bash

High school students from all areas are invited to the University of Tennessee at Martin’s End of Summer Bash on July 31. Festivities will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by a campus tour.

Refreshments and entertainment will be set up in the quad from 3-5 p.m., where attendees will be able to interact with other potential students and speak with representatives from the five UT Martin colleges and various academic programs.

Interested students may register at www.utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend this event.

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

Holly Cole receives scholarship from TGA

The Tennessee Gas Association Scholarship Foundation has announced its 2015 Scholarship recipients. The TGA Scholarship Foundation provides scholarships to children of member company employees. Funds are raised throughout the year at the annual TGA Scholarship golf and fishing tournaments as well as silent auctions, association events and individual donations.

Two $3,000 scholarships were named in honor of distinguished TGA members who have gone above and beyond in supporting the TGA Scholarship Foundation. The John Ward Scholarship in honor of John Ward of Award Productions in Knoxville and the Leslie B. Enoch, II Scholarship in honor of Leslie B. Enoch, II, former CEO of Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District in Smithville were named in honor of these men for their sacrificial giving and support. The remaining twelve scholarships are $2,000 each.

The local recipient of the $3,000 Leslie B. Enoch, II Scholarship is Holly Beth Cole, daughter of Brenda Cole, employee of Gibson County Utility District and Lee Cole. Holly is attending the University of Tennessee at Martin, majoring in Business Management.

ATTENDS ORIENTATION, REGISTRATION

-Chas Rowlett (left) of Trenton participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration activities July 17. Students accepted to begin in the fall 2015 semester registered for classes and heard presentations on financial aid, housing and student life. Rowlett graduated from Peabody High School and is pictured with his mother, Sonya Campbell. He was also chosen to receive a new iPad in a drawing hosted by the UT Martin Office of Admissions. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.

UT Martin gets 3-percent tuition hike

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees recently approved the lowest tuition percentage increase in more than 30 years.

Undergraduate tuition will increase by three percent at UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin as part of the $2.13 billion budget for fiscal year 2016. The increase is effective for the 2015 fall semester.

UT Martin instate tuition and mandatory fees will now cost undergraduate students an additional $302 annually, which includes a student-supported $50 per semester activity fee for athletics. New tuition and fees will be $4,163 per semester or $8,326 for a full academic year. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Tuition and mandatory fees for instate graduate students will increase $340 per semester for a total of $4,824 per semester. Graduate students will pay a total of $9,648 per academic year starting this fall. Full-time graduate enrollment is nine hours per semester.
Obion County students recognized for academic achievement at UTM

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2015 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls.

The honorees include a number of students from Obion County, as well as several students with Obion County connections.

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass/fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale.

Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Among the local students who earned academic recognition at UT Martin were:

Hornbeak — Atlon R. Anderson, high honors; Rebecca A. Bloodworth, high honors; Christopher A. Douglas, high honors; William M. Hayes, high honors; Brook E. Ruble, high honors; and Crystal E. Stockdale, highest honors.

Kenton — Kecey D. Baker, high honors; Mary B. Chandy, honors; David W. Crumb, honors; and Adam T. Mayhall, honors.

Obion — Amber L. Cunningham, highest honors; Tara E. Evans, highest honors; Rachael C. Holloway, highest honors; Trenton J. Mann, high honors; Ashton E. Priest, high honors; Lindsey T. Ray, high honors; Chelsea D. Southerland, high honors; and Jennifer A. Webber, high honors.

Rives — Jake R. Blakely, high honors; Lindsey C. Breedon, highest honors; Matthew L. Brooks, highest honors; Tabitha P. Brown, honors; Ryan K. Byars, highest honors; Garrett D. Ellison, honors; Marissa H. Howard, highest honors; Asha R. Jenkins, honors; Taylor B. Morrow, honors; Shelly N. Pate, honors; Ashley N. Thetford, high honors; and Rebecca M. Wisdom, highest honors.

South Fulton — Taylor H. Allen, highest honors; Marina G. Baraley, high honors; Brittany D. Benjamin, high honors; Ashleigh M. Burton, high honors; James R. Cox, honors; Saralyn Eaves, high honors; John P. Fowler, honors; Seth D. Frieds, high honors; Summer D. Frieds, high honors; Mikaela M. Hardy, highest honors; Whitney H. Johnson, highest honors; Mark S. Maloney, high honors; Emily D. McCartney, highest honors; James R. Moore, highest honors; Lauren H. Nabors, honors; Victoria C. Perez, high honors; Lysanna F. Preece, highest honors; Kristan N. Prince, high honors; Beau A. Rinker, highest honors; Ryan C. Roark, high honors; Kimberly D. Schwartz, highest honors; Zack S. Vaughn, honors; and Rachel J. White, highest honors.

Troy — Rosa I. Bustos, honors; William C. Cours, high honors; Ricky D. Dotson, highest honors; Yoshida M. Gurr, high honors; Jonathan S. Kelly, high honors; Benjamin C. Kendall, highest honors; Thomas W. Kendall, highest honors; Charles R. Marshall, highest honors; Andrea N. Martin, highest honors; Radford K. McDavid, highest honors; Morgan C. Quinton, honors; Laina L. Roberson, highest honors; and Nicholas K. Wilson, highest honors.

Union City — Victoria P. Abrigo, honors; Eric A. Armstrong, highest honors; Mitchell B. Arnett, highest honors; Carter G. Arnold, highest honors; Brady T. Baird, high honors; Vanusia L. Barker, highest honors; Walker L. Barnes, high honors; Tiffany J. Bogle, highest honors; Madison L. Breeden, honors; Cara E. Brown, honors; Dylan G. Brown, high honors; Ashley E. Brundige, highest honors; Britton M. Bugg, highest honors; Natasha B. Burge, highest honors; John M. Campbell, highest honors; Daniel C. Carr, honors; Courtney B. Carroll, highest honors; Liz E. Carroll, honors; Carla M. Coleman, honors; Codi J. Cuffin, highest honors; Leonid D. Davis, highest honors; Jackson R. Donnell, high honors; Mary H. Driver, highest honors; Joshua T. Dyer, highest honors; Kayla M. Eason, honors; Taylor M. Edwards, highest honors; Kayla A. Ford, high honors; Lauren B. Fulley, honors; Jacquelynn A. Gabbert, highest honors; Derek H. Griffin, highest honors; Nicolea K. Gilliam, honors; Morgan E. Gresham, highest honors; Maria G. Guerrero, high honors; Dallas C. Gurley, honors; James K. Hardin, highest honors; Richard L. Hempel, highest honors; Jonathan M. Hurtado, high honors; Joshua T. Hutchens, honors; Cameron L. Jackson, highest honors; Cortney L. Johnson, high honors; Victoria D. Jones, highest honors; Matthew R. Keathley, honors; Sherril B. Langford, highest honors; Danielle A. Leggett, highest honors; Heather M. Leyhui, high honors; Timothy C. Long, high honors; Makayla Lynn, high honors; Ashley N. Marshall, high honors; Mallory A. Martin, highest honors; Taylor S. Martin, high honors; Lucia Martinez, honors; Kayeene L. Mathena, high honors; Timothy M. McClain, highest honors; Tamiika D. McKinnie, highest honors; Alyssa T. McMin, highest honors; Benjamin T. Nolen, honors; William T. Nolen, honors; Victoria L. Reedy, highest honors; Lauren D. Richards, highest honors; Cody A. Robertson, highest honors; Ivelena Rodriguez Oliveira, highest honors; Casey J. Russell, highest honors; Marley S. Speed, highest honors; Nancy Sanchez, high honors; Linden G. Scarbrough, highest honors; Victoria L. Seng, highest honors; Whitney D. Smith, high honors; Chloe B. Smithson, highest honors; Savannah N. Sneed, high honors; Landon C. Swell, highest honors; Marley S. Speed, highest honors; Julie E. Spencer, highest honors; Michelle R. Stanley, honors; Krista N. Tate, highest honors; Robert A. Terrill, highest honors; Joshua W. Thompson, honors; Bobby G. Vissering, high honors; Andrew L. Warner, honors; John A. Warner, highest honors; Mason R. Warren, highest honors; Brenna M. Wilkins, honors; Katelyn L. Williams, high honors; Colton A. Woodward, honors; and Wendell A. Wright, honors.

Cordova — Brie A. Cobb, high honors.

Dresden — Rebecca M. Gropan, highest honors.

Martin — Matthew C. Adams, honors; and Jessica G. Tejeda, honors.

Murfreesboro — Katie B. Vanechle, high honors.

Fulton — Terrence L. Bishop, high honors.
Ag finance conference planned

The annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference will be held Aug. 5 in Watkins Auditorium of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Boling University Center.

Dr. David Kohl, Virginia Tech professor emeritus and internationally known speaker, will be the featured presenter.

Registration information must be received by Friday. The conference, a service of the UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, is designed to serve the lender/producer team by providing the most up-to-date and relevant information needed to grow farm operations' bottom lines. Agricultural lenders, farmers, producers and farm-related business owners are encouraged to attend.

The 2015 conference will begin with check-in and a continental breakfast at 8 a.m., with the official welcome at 8:20. Four speaker sessions will focus on agriculture in a changing environment, traits of top managers, marketing risk management tools and trends in commodity prices.

A luncheon is included in the price of registration.

In addition to Kohl, Dr. Steve Isaacs from the University of Kentucky, Mike Mock from The Andersons Grain Group and Richard Brock with Brock Associates will serve as session speakers.

Registration is $150 for lenders and ag service providers, $75 for farmers and producers and $25 for students and spouses.

Registration forms can be found online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/cbga/agconference/registration.php and should be faxed to (731) 881-7323. Forms and payment can also be mailed to the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, College of Business and Global Affairs, the University of Tennessee at Martin, 216 Business Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. However, all materials must be received by Friday.

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Refreshments and entertainment will be set up in the quad from 3-5 p.m., where attendees will be able to interact with other potential students and speak with representatives from the five UT Martin colleges and various academic programs.

Interested students may register at www.utm.edu/summer-bash. There is no charge to attend this event.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.
Local Carl Perkins Child Abuse Center welcomes new director

By David Fisher
Staff Reporter

The Weakley and Obion County Exchange Club-Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, located at 111 Oxford Street in Martin, is now under new leadership.

Dyer native Bett Jewell has been named as the new center director. She is filling the position left vacant after Pam McElroy left last month.

Jewell has been serving as interim director for the center, in addition to her regular duties as a therapist and forensic interviewer. She has worked in the child welfare field for nine years and with the Carl Perkins Center for two-and-a-half years. She has served as a therapist for the past year and is now transitioning into her new job as director of the Martin office.

Jewell’s educational background and years of experience make her well qualified for the job. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work at UT Martin and became employed in the child welfare field as a Child Protective Services Case Manager while continuing her education. After receiving her Master’s in Social Work at UT Knoxville, Jewell accepted a position with the Carl Perkins Center. She served as a forensic interviewer and a trauma focused therapist before accepting the current position at the Carl Perkins Center.

Jewell has over 20 years of experience working with at-risk youth and oppressed populations. Professionally, she has provided workshops and group sessions designed to educate and empower those she serves. As a member of the National Children’s Advocacy Center, she participates in on-going training and educational opportunities in order to ensure best practice.

Jewell is assisted by five staff members. She states, if medical specialists are required for such things as mental or physical evaluations, the center refers the case to area providers.

“My plans for the Center are to continue to grow and provide the services that are needed,” Jewell said.

In addition to continuing to offer the same services the Center now provides in Weakley and Obion counties, she hopes to add additional services.

“One of my goals is to raise the funds to have an in-house therapist and a forensic medical person on staff to take care of medical exams,” Jewell said.

She stated that the center works with the District Attorney’s office and Department of Children’s Services in handling child abuse cases.

The Carl Perkins Child Advocacy Center has provided services to children and families of Weakley and Obion counties since 2003.

The Center currently provides numerous services, including: Relative Caregiver Program; Child Abuse Prevention Program; Nurturing Parenting Classes; Stewards of Children; Forever Parents Class; Forensic Interviewing; and Mentoring and Parent Aide.

Jewell noted that it is less traumatizing to family members and children when their needs can be met at one place, and the center provides a non-threatening environment for consultations.

She states the local Martin office served 446 families in the past year for a total of 1,121 individuals. Of this number, 509 were children.

Jewell said that all of the services the Carl Perkins Center provides are made possible by public donations, so fund-raising events are very important.

“We have the Circles of Hope Telethon coming up Sunday, August 16, on Channel 7-TV in Jackson,” she said.

Jewell added that those making pledges need to specify their donations are to go to fund the Carl Perkins Center in Martin, which provides services to families in Weakley and Obion counties.

She said, “There are some things we need and can’t provide. We have outgrown this facility and need a new building.”

As for family life, Jewell has two children and four grandchildren.

Her involvement in the community includes serving as a member of the National Child Advocacy Center (NCAC), and the Gibson County Baptist Association Ministry Leadership Team. Additionally, she has worked with Unity Ministries and the Gibson County Chamber of Commerce. Jewell says she plans on being equally involved in local civic organizations in Weakley and Obion counties.

To learn more about the services available at the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, call 731-587-0768, or send emails to: weakley@carlperkinscenter.org.
Stephen Foster Music Club awards two scholarships

Submitted Photo

Stephen Foster Music Club awarded two scholarships for the 2015 graduates. Will Latham representing McNairy Central and Ty Smith representing Adamsville High School were the recipients for this year. Will and Ty accompanied by Emma and Claire Foret presented a musical program for a delighted audience. Will preferred brass instruments while Ty's interest were in percussion. Both students have excelled both musically and academically. They played major roles in their respective bands. Will and Ty will be attending UT Martin in the Fall. Pictured above are Claire Foret on the piano, Ty Smith on the drums, Will Latham on trumpet and french horn and Emma Foret on the bass.
HOT JOB — Wednesday's temperatures may have been hot here, with the high topping 96 in Union City and the heat index getting near 110, but Union City turf management employees Justin Ford (left) of Halls and Devin Newman of Ripley made the best of it as they continued their work at Graham Park. Both University of Tennessee at Martin students, Newman drove a cart while Ford maneuvered a blower to clear cut grass from the grounds.

Turf management director Chris Crockett (not pictured) said it may be hot, but the grass has continued to grow, keeping his department busy making sure the fields are kept play-ready. Rob Adcock with Northwest Tennessee Disaster Services said it was so hot Wednesday he was able to fry a piece of ham in a pan which was left sitting on a concrete block for three hours. (See related photo, Page 10.)
Stephen Foster Music Club awards scholarship

Pictured above is Claire Foret on the piano, Ty Smith on the drums, Will Latham on the trumpet and french horn and Emma Foret on the bass.

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Regions welcomes two to Lebanon branch

Regions recently announced the hiring of two new employees at its Lebanon location. Mark Mason joins as branch manager and VP and Erin Grasham joins as assistant branch manager and priority banking specialist.

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A 14-year banking veteran, Mason moves to Regions after stints at Bank of America, Capital Bank and most recently, as a small-business owner.

He earned his undergraduate degree in natural resource management, with minors in criminal justice and business administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

An active member of the community, Mason works with nonprofits such as Habitat for Humanity and the Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of the National Eagle Scout association and the Pi Kappa Alpha Alumni Association, and he is a former president of Toastmasters International.

Lebanon resident Grasham moves to the branch after nearly five years with Regions in Nashville, where she was the top priority banker in Middle Tennessee. She earned her undergraduate degree in Christian ethics and social work from Union University in Jackson.

Grasham is a graduate of the 64th class of the Nashville Young Leaders Council. She serves on the Wilson County Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children board, and she is a member of the Ambassador's Committee for the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce.
The annual Mid-South Agriculture Finance Conference will be held Wednesday in Watkins Auditorium of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Boling University Center. Dr. David Kohl, Virginia Tech professor emeritus and internationally known speaker, is the featured presenter. Registration information must be received by July 31.

The conference, a service of the UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, is designed to serve the lender/producer team by providing the most up-to-date and relevant information needed to grow farm operations' bottom lines. Agricultural lenders, farmers, producers and farm-related business owners are encouraged to attend.

The 2015 conference will begin with check-in and a continental breakfast at 8 a.m., with the official welcome at 8:20 a.m. Four speaker sessions will focus on agriculture in a changing environment, traits of top managers, marketing risk management tools and trends in commodity prices. A luncheon is included in the price of registration.

In addition to Kohl, Dr. Steve Isaccs, professor, the University of Kentucky; Mike Mock, senior risk manager for the Andersons Grain Group; and Richard Brock, owner and president, Brock Associates, will serve as session speakers.

Registration is $150 for lenders and ag service providers, $75 for farmers and producers, and $25 for students and spouses. Registration forms can be found online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/cbga/agconference/registration.php and should be faxed to (731) 881-7323. Forms and payment can also be mailed to the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, College of Business and Global Affairs, The University of Tennessee at Martin, 216 Business Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238; however, all materials must be received by Friday.

For more information or registration assistance, contact Jennifer Schlicht, UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs, by phone at (731) 881-7324 or by email at jschlicht@utm.edu.

Dr. David Kohl (pictured), internationally known speaker to agricultural lenders, small business owners, producers and agribusiness audiences, is the featured presenter at the annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference. The conference is for lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners and will be held from 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Wednesday in Watkins Auditorium located in UT Martin's Boling University Center. The conference registration deadline is Friday.
Kacey Cannon, a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, received the 2015 Golden Opportunity Scholars Award from the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America.

Cannon, a Somerville resident, is working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture with a concentration in plant and soil science. She is active in the UT Martin Agronomy Club, where she has served as both treasurer and president, and plans to graduate in December. Cannon has also completed internships with Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, where she worked as a precision agricultural sales intern, and DuPont Pioneer, where she served as a trait and characterization development intern.

The Golden Opportunity Scholars program matches undergraduate students with society professionals with the goal of strengthening the agronomy, crops, soils and environmental science professions by encouraging students to enroll in related programs. Award winners also receive financial support for travel, lodging, registration and other costs related to attending international annual meetings. The award is funded through the Agronomic Science Foundation.

For more information on the 2015 awards, visit www.agronomy.org/awards/view.

International Program — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Tennessee Intensive English Program welcomed 72 students from 12 countries for the upcoming fall semester. Students represent the countries of Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Brazil, Thailand, China, Japan, Korea, Guatemala, Venezuela, Taiwan, Vietnam and Mali. The group is pictured outside the Business Administration Building with Dr. Ross Dickens, dean, College of Business and Global Affairs, and the faculty and administration of UT Martin’s international programs and the Tennessee Intensive English Program.
SCIENTIFIC MOBILITY PROGRAM
— The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of International Programs and International Admissions recently welcomed its first group of Brazil Scientific Mobility Program students for the fall 2015 semester. The BSMP scholars, sponsored by the Brazilian government and the Institute for International Education in New York City, have arrived for one term of courses in the Tennessee Intensive English Program and will be on campus for one year, followed by a summer internship. Pictured are (front row, from left) Amy Fenning, director, International Programs and International Admissions; Luiz Dodero; Thais Rodrigues; Victor Silva; Caroline Ideus, TIEP university prep instructor; (back row) Ryan Diffee, assistant director of student services, International Programs and International Admissions; Joao Pereira and Victor Faria.

PROYECTA 10,000 SCHOLARS — The University of Tennessee at Martin's Ten- nessee Intensive English Program recently welcomed its second group of Proyecta 100,000 scholars from Mexico. The group consists of faculty from the Autonomous University of Tlaxcala in Tlaxcala, Mexico. Pictured are (front row, from left) Maria Griselda Maza; Karina Flores; Anet Popo- catl; (back row) Amy Fenning, director, International Programs and International Admissions; Osvaldo Moreno; Raul Xochipiltecatl; Ernesto Aguila Escobar and Ryan Diffee, assistant director of student services, International Programs and International Admissions. The group arrived at UT Martin four weeks ago and will return home Aug. 1.
Union City graduate receives scholarship

Karl Ullrich II, a 2015 graduate of Union City High School, received the 2015-16 RisingStar Leadership Scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program.

Recipients of the $1,200 scholarship are chosen annually by the RisingStar Committee.

The RisingStar Leadership Scholarship is for a student who participated in the RisingStar Leadership Summit, sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program, and will attend UT Martin as a freshman. Students must have a 3.0 high school grade point average and a 21 or higher ACT score to be eligible for the award.

Ullrich plans to major in mechanical engineering and hopes later to become a firefighter or U.S. Marine Corps officer.

"The skills I learned from RisingStar will provide the foundation I need to be a leader among the family in uniform," Ullrich said. "The leadership tips I learned will help me develop bonds in my career faster while also ensuring the safety of myself and those who work with me."

The next RisingStar Leadership Summit will be held Nov. 19-20 for West Tennessee high school juniors and seniors involved in leadership roles within their school or community. The daylong program includes leadership team building, motivational speakers and university tours designed for specific academic interests.

Students interested in participating in RisingStar can contact the WestStar Leadership Program at (731) 881-3298.