The University of Tennessee at Martin's online MBA program ranked 16th on the 2015 Best Online Programs for Veterans list, published recently by U.S. News & World Report. This is the third year U.S. News has published veteran-specific rankings and the first in which MBA programs have been categorized separately.

Ranked programs must offer predominantly online coursework and be housed at a regionally accredited institution. They must also score well in a variety of other categories, including program reputation, faculty credentials, retention rates and graduate debt loads.

"We find the MBA online format works well with the discipline level of veterans," said Dr. Ross Dickens, dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs. "Being able to deliver a cost-effective, excellent program allows us to proudly work with those who served our country."

The UT Martin MBA program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

For more information, contact the College of Business and Global Affairs at (731) 881-7208 or by email at bagrad@utm.edu.
UT Martin ROTC stays open, adds partnership

Program commissioned 671 cadets as second lieutenants since 1952

The Jackson Sun

Following recent notification from the United States Army, the University of Tennessee at Martin's ROTC program will remain open, according to a news release.

Skyhawk Battalion was one of 13 student programs notified in 2013 of possible closure this year.

The university's first ROTC unit was established in 1952. Since then, the program has commissioned 671 cadets as second lieutenants in the Army, U.S. Army Reserve and Tennessee Army National Guard.

"UT Martin has a storied history of graduating outstanding Army officers, and with a current enrollment of 80-plus Army ROTC cadets, UT Martin will continue to be a training ground for talented, well-prepared officers," said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

"We are grateful to all of our servicemen and women and particularly those from the ranks of our long-standing Skyhawk Army ROTC cadre." UT Martin's military science program includes Bethel University, Freed-Hardeman University, Jackson State Community College, Lane College and Union University.

According to the release, the group recently added Murray State University of Murray, Kentucky, expanding the network of institutions from which Skyhawk Battalion can recruit cadets.

Lt. Col. Lowell E. Howard Jr. will join the university faculty this summer as a professor of military science, according to the release. He follows Lt. Col. Michael W. Johnson, who has led the battalion since 2012.

The UT Office of Government Relations and Advocacy facilitated interactions through the military command structure to appeal the closure decision. This assistance, combined with the support of high-ranking program alumni, played a valuable role in safeguarding the future of Skyhawk Battalion.

"Having served for 30 years as a regular and reserve officer in the U.S. Air Force, I could not be more pleased with the confirmation we will retain our military leadership program," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"Our ROTC battalion has a long history of training outstanding officers, and continuing that tradition of leadership preparation is good for both our students and the nation they wish to serve."

Skyhawk Battalion is set to be re-evaluated in January 2016, but university officials believe the program's annual mission level can be met or exceeded.
UT Martin online MBA program ranked in Top 20 for veterans

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s online MBA program ranked 16th on the 2015 Best Online Programs for Veterans list, published May 19 by U.S. News & World Report. This is the third year U.S. News has published veteran-specific rankings and the first in which MBA programs have been categorized separately.

Programs included in the Best Online Programs for Veterans must have first ranked in the top 75 percent on the overall 2015 Best Online Programs list published earlier this year. UT Martin was ranked 18th on that list, tied with Georgia Southern and Mississippi State universities.

Programs included in the veteran-specific rankings must also come from institutions that are certified with the GI Bill and either participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program or offer in-state tuition to all out-of-state veterans.

“When veterans return to higher education they can experience unique challenges during their transition out of the military and into civilian life,” said Brian Kelly, editor and chief content officer at U.S. News, in an online press release, “The Best Online Programs for Veterans are designed to help veterans balance applying, paying for and completing a degree on top of their work and family commitments.”

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http://bulletintimesnews.com/:

GIBSON NAMED TO UT MARTIN SPRING SEMESTER CHANCELLOR’S HONOR ROLL

Tue, 06/02/2015 - 11:22 Bolivia-1

MARTIN — Ulisha L. Gibson, Grand Junction, Honors was named to UT Martin’s Chancellor’s Honor Roll for the Spring Term. 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 for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Section: SCHOOL NEWS

Carroll County Students Receive Scholarships to Attend UT-Martin

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

Doris Brown, daughter of Peter Brown of Trezevant, will be a freshman. She received the University Scholar Award.

Courtney Fowler, daughter of Rick and Shawna Fowler of McKenzie, will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.
UT Martin names local students to spring semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll

MARTIN, Tenn. — 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 for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Madison K. Adams, Bradford, Highest Honors
Katherine L. Cardwell, Bradford, Honors
Chrystyna M. Childress, Bradford, Highest Honors
Mark Connell, Bradford, Highest Honors
Bethany C. Crockett, Bradford, Highest Honors
Kendall P. Daniels, Bradford, Highest Honors
Elisabeth C. Dowland, Bradford, Honors
Grant D. Hampton, Bradford, Honors
Jeremy B. Reynolds, Bradford, Highest Honors
Andrew C. Walter, Bradford, High Honors
Cate M. Walter, Bradford, Honors
Cody C. Black, Gibson, Honors
Hamish R. Houck, Gibson, Highest Honors
Noah S. Allen, Medina, High Honors
Mason T. Boyd, Medina, Honors
Summer A. Bradley, Medina, Honors
Anthony C. Brown, Medina, Highest Honors
Dylan Brown, Medina, Highest Honors
Casey A. Dunavan, Medina, High Honors
Jacob T. Henderson, Medina, Honors
Jason R. Kail, Medina, High Honors
Heather L. Morris, Medina, High Honors
Drake C. Owens, Medina, High Honors
Marshall W. Pearson, Medina, Honors
Joseph M. Pedigo, Medina, Honors
Emily M. Poole, Medina, Highest Honors
Hayden M. Presson, Medina, High Honors
Sara J. Ragain, Medina, Honors
Anna B. Santaniello, Medina, High Honors
Cassidy N. Sheehan, Medina, Honors
Elizabeth C. Trotter, Medina, Honors
Kathryn L. Woods, Medina, Honors
Morgan B. Acuff, Milan, Honors
Melanie B. Allen, Milan, High Honors
Shelby R. Bledsoe, Milan, Honors
Britney N. Chandler, Milan, Highest Honors
Victoria A. Collins, Milan, Honors
Rachel K. Curry, Milan, High Honors
Lucas C. Denton, Milan, Highest Honors
Zach A. Denton, Milan, Honors
Seth K. Dorst, Milan, Honors
Morgan C. Fitzgerald, Milan, Highest Honors
Rachel B. Glenn, Milan, Honors
Genevieve N. Harman, Milan, High Honors
Brittany P. Hatfield, Milan, High Honors
Heather N. Hoke, Milan, High Honors
Lauren N. Hughes, Milan, Highest Honors
Jacob A. Joyner, Milan, Honors
Michelle J. Lee, Milan, Honors
Robbie M. Luten, Milan, Highest Honors
Darian P. Matheny, Milan, Honors
Juliana C. McMinn, Milan, High Honors
Destiny S. Meyer, Milan, Honors
Sarah E. Mulcahy, Milan, Highest Honors
Hope E. Renfroe, Milan, Highest Honors
Haley E. Riggins, Milan, Honors
Amanda L. Singleton, Milan, Highest Honors
Mallory K. Staley, Milan, Honors
James R. Stevenson, Milan, High Honors
Collin R. Sutton, Milan, Honors
Rebecca A. Szopinski, Milan, Highest Honors
Heather N. Torrance, Milan, Highest Honors
Aubrey N. Walgren, Milan, High Honors
Chad A. Warden, Milan, High Honors
Anna E. Warren, Milan, Highest Honors
Kenneth P. Wilson, Milan, High Honors
Adrienne M. Wood, Milan, Honors
Eric A. Yates, Milan, Honors
http://www.thunderboltradio.com/

Dr. Bob Smith begins interim Chancellorship at UT-Martin

Dr. Bob Smith

It's day three for UT-Martin Chancellor Dr. Bob Smith. Dr. Smith is serving on an interim basis which could be a year or longer. He replaces Dr. Tom Rakes who has stepped down to move back to the classroom.

Dr. Smith will appear on WCMT's “Good Times in the Morning” at 8:20 Thursday morning.

Dr Smith is president emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and former dean of UT-Martin's School of Arts and Sciences from 1987 to 1999.

He first went to Slippery Rock in 1999 as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

He was named interim president in 2002 before becoming the university’s 15th president in 2004.

He retired from Slippery Rock in January 2012 and moved to Franklin, Tennessee with his wife, Ramona.

Dr Smith is credited as a co-founder of the university's WestStar Leadership Program and served as WestStar's first executive director.

WestStar is in its 26th year and is Tennessee's oldest and largest regional leadership program.

Butler now an assistant for UT Martin women

UTM Sports Information

Reigning Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year Kevin McMillan has announced the addition of former Skyhawk great Heather Butler to the University of Tennessee at Martin women's basketball coaching staff.

Butler begins her collegiate coaching career at UT Martin after being widely renowned as one of the program’s all-time greats, pushing the program to four OVC Tournament titles and four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances.

Along with numerous accolades, Butler became not only UT Martin's first, but the conference’s first player to make a WNBA roster after signing with the San Antonio Stars.

“Being able to add Heather to our program is not only a tremendous opportunity for her, but UT Martin as a whole,” said McMillan. “Heather has taken home nearly every honor possible from being a WNBA player to being named an

Academic All-American and OVC Scholar-Athlete. We are happy to jumpstart her coaching career while finding someone who knows our system and program from the inside and out. We look to her not only to help in the X's and O's part of the game, but relate to the players from the perspective of the student-athlete.”

No stranger to the OVC or UT Martin, Butler ranks as the conference’s all-time leading scorer with 2,865 career points—ranging 16th in NCAA women’s basketball history.

Butler was named the 2014 OVC Player of the Year along with being recognized as an All-OVC first team performer all four years ranging from 2010-14.

The Gibson County product scored in double figures in 129 consecutive games (every game of her career) ranking as the second longest streak in NCAA history while ranking fifth overall.

Butler was finalist for the 2014 Nancy Lieberman Award.
Local residents recognized by UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs

Paul Jordan (right), of Dyersburg, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. Jordan is a senior political science major. He is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.

Sam Bradshaw (right), of Dyersburg, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. Bradshaw is a senior management major. He is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.
Abbiegail Bingham (right), of Dyersburg, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. The senior finance major was also inducted into the Financial Management Association National Honor Society. She is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.

Matthew Wolf (right), of Dyersburg, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. Wolf is a senior communications major. He is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.

Cody Hodge (right), of Newbern, received a Faculty Scholar Award and the Dean's Scholar Award for information systems from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. Hodge is a senior information systems major. He is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.
Reigning Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year Kevin McMillan has announced the addition of former Skyhawk great, Heather Butler, to the University of Tennessee at Martin women's basketball coaching staff.

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A finalist for the 2014 Nancy Lieberman Award along with being a finalist for the Senior CLASS Award and nominee for the Allstate WBCA Good Works team, Butler added the distinction of OVC Female Athlete of the Year to her portfolio. Additional accolades include being named Tennessee...
Sports Hall of Fame Amateur Athlete of the Year along with Tennessee Sports Writers Association Women’s Basketball Player of the Year.

“I am happy to join Coach McMillan and take the first steps in my future career,” said Butler. “Although my desire is to return to playing basketball professionally, I look forward to gaining invaluable experience in a championship program, which I hold close to my heart. It is such a blessing to have the opportunity to coach alongside Coach McMillan and Coach Russell, two coaches who have raised me up to be the player I am today and to be able to learn from them from a different perspective. It is so exciting to see what this year has in store and how I can contribute to the program that has provided me with such amazing memories.”

Butler holds UT Martin records for single game points (44, two occasions in 2014); single game field goals attempted (34, 2012); single game three-point field goals made (nine, 2014); single game three-point field goals attempted (16, 2012); single season field goals attempted (704, 2013); single season three-point field goals made (105, 2013); single season three-point field goals attempted (319, 2013); career points (2,865); career field goals made (958); career field goals attempted (2,417); career three-point field goals made (392); and career three-point field goals attempted (1,074).

She owns a pair of NCAA records with 80 consecutive games with a three-point field goal made along with a single season record of 34 consecutive games in 2012-13. She scored at record paces during her career, becoming the NCAA's 21st player with 2,800 points while becoming the first player to reach 2,000 points at UT Martin and fastest to reach the 1,000 point plateau (just 50 games).

Before attending UT Martin, Butler prepped at Gibson Country High School where she led the team to an undefeated 39-0 season in 2008-09 en route to a district, regional and Tennessee state championships. A Class AA Miss Basketball finalist, she has since had her jersey retired and been inducted into the Gibson Country Sports Hall of Fame.

Butler earned her bachelor’s degree from UT Martin in 2014 with a degree in health and human performance.
The Second Annual Storytelling Event at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park took place on Saturday, May 16, at 6:00 P.M.

Sitting in the museum atop Pilot Knob, storytellers Mark Johnson and Arthur Hunt, and local guest presenters Shirley Holladay and Sheila Pierson, captivated the audience with their animated tales of wonder.

Johnson shared an eclectic collection of stories passed down to him over the years from family and friends. He entertained folks with a humorous recollection of his life's experiences including how he came to hear "The crack of dawn". His characters were brought to life by colorful descriptions and dynamic voices. This was Johnson's second year presenting at this event and his stories are beloved by all.

Hunt, Associate Professor of Communications at the University of Tennessee at Martin, presented "The Story of Davy Crockett as Told by Himself". Folks could see and hear a live presentation that captured the way Crockett actually dressed and spoke. Based on Crockett's own autobiography, the presentation is like having Davy Crockett at your event with all his amusing backwoods stories and idioms. Always in character, Mr. Crockett was asked by one audience member "How did you die?" and his response was "Well, I ain't dead yet!"

Holladay took the floor next and delighted the crowd with the

See THE ART,
Page 2A
THE ART

The story of Br'er Rabbit, sparking laughter all around.

The final presenter was Pierson who regaled the audience with a letter to her cousin. Much to the spectator's delight, the whimsical telling was delivered with a comedic flair.

It was a night full of tales and laughs, leaving all who came excited for the annual event to roll around again next year.

DAVY CROCKETT – While telling of Crockett's adventures, Arthur Hunt stayed in character the entire segment, stating at the end, "Well, I ain't dead yet!"

Photos by Nancy Melton
FACULTY SCHOLAR AWARD - Jessica King, of Holladay, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. King is a senior marketing major. She is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.

RISING LEADER AWARD - Clinton Phifer, of Big Sandy, received the Horace and Sara Dunagan Rising Leader Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. Phifer is a senior finance major. He is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.

Brandi Horton graduates with highest honors

Brandi (Mitchell) Horton graduated with highest honors from the University of TN at Martin with a Bachelor of Science in elementary education. She is certified to teach kindergarten through sixth grade.

You worked so hard maintaining good grades all while holding down a job and caring for a family of five. Somehow you still found time to mow my yard. I am beyond proud of your accomplishments and I love you very much. Congratulations! - Love, your Granny Sue

Brandi (Mitchell) Horton
**Martin Host Two Governor’s Schools**

The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities and the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences began over the weekend and will continue through June. The University of Tennessee at Martin is the only institution to host more than one governor’s school program. Selected high school students from across the state travel to UT Martin to take college courses and participate in a variety of activities. Interested students must complete an application process and receive an invitation to attend.

The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities is the original governor’s school program, founded in 1986. Participating students may select from courses in art history, English, philosophy, history, music and political science. The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences exposes students to courses in natural resource management and animal science.

For more information, contact the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities at 731-881-7579 or the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences at 731-881-7211.

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**UTM MBA Program Ranked Top Percent**

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Ranked programs must offer predominantly online coursework and be housed at a regionally accredited institution. They must also score

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**Students Awarded UT-M Scholarships**

Lauderdale County students, Chad Allen Lewis, son of Allen and Tammie Lewis, of Gates, and Ashley Phillips Vance, of Ripley, daughter of Jerry Phillips and Debbie Averhart, have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Chad, who will be a freshman, received the Parker State FFA Scholarship.

Ashley, who will be a senior, received the Ripley Gas, Water, Wastewater Award.
Matthew Granner of Martin is completing a summer internship at Agrigold.

As sales intern, he will be sharing the company's story by placing field signs and working closely with corn specialists Eddie Kahle and Ben Mulkins.

Granner is a student of University of Tennessee at Martin.

Agrigold said it is proud to invest in the future of agriculture and support college students pursuing careers in the food and fiber industry. Agrigold has hired a total of 78 interns across the Corn Belt.

Members of the intern team are responsible for assisting their Corn Specialist in achieving profitable growth and development in their respective district. This specifically includes helping with coordinating logistics, evaluating corn hybrid performance and implementing an advertising plan for the district. Agrigold has developed, produced and sold hybrid seed corn since 1936.
Local students net scholarships

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-16 academic year to attend UT Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, interim executive director of student engagement.

• Christopher Ables, son of Charles and Julie Ables, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the University Scholar Award.
• Layla Gargus, of Martin, will be a senior. She received the S.K. and Shashi Airee Scholarship.
• Lindsey Paige Hendrix, daughter of Chris and Kim Hendrix, of Martin, will be a junior. She received the Raymond and Maxine Bratcher Award.
• Todd R. McDunn, of Woodlawn, son of Todd McDunn and Lori McDunn, will be a junior. He received the Weems ROTC Award.
• Chelsea Thweatt, daughter of Marvin and Kathy Thweatt, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the University Scholar Award.

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

Chancellor’s Honor Roll

John M. Wilson, of Gleason, was named to the Spring 2015 Chancellor’s Honor Roll with highest honors, meaning he finished the semester with a GPA of 3.8-4.0.
College of Business and Global Affairs
honors local students

Chase Thweatt (right), of Martin, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. Thweatt is a sophomore accounting major. He is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.

Ahmed Robison (right), of Martin, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. Robison is a senior management major. He is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.

Leea Jordan Galey (right), of Greenfield, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. Galey is a senior management major. She is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.

Matthew Wright (right), of Martin, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. Wright is a senior political science major. He is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.
Andrea Argo (right), of Martin, received two awards from UT Martin's College of Business and Global Affairs. The senior finance major received the Dean's Scholar Award for finance and a Faculty Scholar Award. She was also inducted into the Financial Management Association National Honor Society. She is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens.

Rebecca Lund (right), of Martin, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. Lund is a junior accounting major. She is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.

The Tennessee Small Business Development Centers at the University of Tennessee at Martin REED Center and Dyersburg State Community College partnered to host the ninth annual Mid-South Economic and Business Development Summit on May 12 in Dyersburg. The summit, which focused on 'The Golden Standards for your Business and Community,' addressed ways to make 'smart, sustainable and inclusive' decisions regarding business growth. Eric Spellman, founder of Spellman and Associates; Pat Riley, general manager, Gibson County Utility District; and Ashton Jennings, interim director, the Ned McWherter Institute on Collaboration and Innovation, presented the three seminars. Pictured (l-r) are Malea Evans, Dyersburg State Community College; Randy Boyd, commissioner, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development; and Landy Fuqua, director, UT Martin REED Center. Boyd served as the luncheon keynote speaker.
Dr. Richard Garlitz of Martin recently received a 2015 Love of Learning Award from the National Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Garlitz is an associate professor of history at the University of Tennessee at Martin and the first UT Martin faculty member to receive the award.

Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Students, faculty and staff from around the country who have reached high levels of academic success are honored with membership each year.

The Love of Learning Awards are given to 80 active society members each spring and fall to help fund post-baccalaureate studies and/or career development.

The national organization received more than 400 applications for the spring 2015 award cycle.

Garlitz plans to use the award to conduct research at the National Archives in College Park, Md., for his upcoming book, "A Mission for Development: Utah Universities, the Point Four Program and U.S.-Iranian Relations."

The book is under contract with University Press of Colorado and anticipated for release by 2017. It will examine how three American universities contributed to Iranian economic and social development during the 1950s - the formative years of the U.S.-Iranian Cold War alliance.

Garlitz's new book will also offer an analysis of why that alliance failed, a spokesman said.
I PLEDGE — Nursing students (from left) Kayla Eason of Union City, Ashley Thetford of Rives and Ashley Baker of Union City took the Florence Nightingale Pledge during a pinning ceremony recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. They were joined by Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor and chair of the Department of Nursing. The pledge is taken by students entering the nursing profession and holds each candidate to a high standard of professional care in the healthcare industry. The students received their bachelor of science in nursing degrees during the university’s commencement exercises last month.

BUSINESS SUMMIT — The Tennessee Small Business Development Centers at the University of Tennessee at Martin REED Center and Dyersburg State Community College partnered to host the ninth annual Mid-South Economic and Business Development Summit last month in Dyersburg. The summit, which focused on “The Golden Standards for your Business and Community,” addressed ways to make “smart, sustainable and inclusive” decisions regarding business growth. Eric Spellman, founder of Spellman and Associates; Pat Riley, general manager, Gibson County Utility District; and Ashton Jennings, interim director, the Ned McWherter Institute on Collaboration and Innovation, presented the three seminars. Pictured are (from left) Maleia Evans, Dyersburg State Community College; Randy Boyd, commissioner, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development; and Landy Fuqua, director, UT Martin REED Center. Boyd served as the luncheon keynote speaker.
SERVING THE COMMUNITY — Community service is a significant part of student life at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Alpha Phi Omega sorority, the League of Striving Artists, and Peers Advocating Respectful Relationships each received a Gold Level Service Award during a spring ceremony for completing the highest number of organizational community service hours. Each organization had to complete a minimum of 500 service hours, either as individuals or through group service projects, to qualify for the award. Pictured at the ceremony are (from left) Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor; Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs; Charity Curry, Alpha Phi Omega; Melanie O’Neil, League of Striving Artists; Tavoris Foster, PARR; and Kate Smith, student organizations coordinator.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR — Robert DeYeso (left), of Martin, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2 as a University Scholar, the highest academic distinction awarded by the university. The University Scholars program is a four-year honors curriculum of specialized coursework, including a two-year research project. DeYeso, a mathematics major, created a project titled “The Classification and Curvature of Biquotients of the Form Sp(3)/Sp(1)^2” with faculty mentor Dr. Jason DeVito (right), assistant professor of mathematics. DeYeso is pictured at a ceremony held before commencement during which graduating scholars received their medals.
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED — The Philharmonic Music Guild scholarship is given to a senior who is graduating from any high school in Weakley County and who intends to major in music at UT-Martin. The primary basis for selection are musical ability and potential and an acceptable academic standing. Auditions were held recently, and two outstanding pianists, graduates from Westview High School, will receive the awards in the fall semester. The winners are Gian Garma and Nathan Williamson. Both are students of Dr. Elaine Harriss.

Brake receives Faculty Scholar award at UT Martin

LOCAL RESIDENT RECOGNIZED BY UT MARTIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS — Raymond Brake (right), of Milan, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs last month. Brake is earning a Master of Business Administration degree. He is pictured with Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.
Mason receives Rotary Award at UTM Ceremony

LOCAL RESIDENT RECEIVES AWARD AT UT MARTIN CEREMONY – Cheyenne Mason (left), of Milan, received the Rotary Club of Martin Award during a ceremony hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Military Science and Leadership. She is pictured with Dr. Richard Robinson, president, Rotary Club of Martin.
U.S. News ranks UT Martin online MBA program Top 20 for veterans

The Jackson Sun

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s online MBA program ranked 16th on the 2015 Best Online Programs for Veterans list, published May 19 by U.S. News & World Report. This is the third year U.S. News has published veteran-specific rankings and the first in which MBA programs have been categorized separately, according to a news release.

Programs included in the Best Online Programs for Veterans must have first ranked in the top 75 percent on the overall 2015 Best Online Programs list published earlier this year. UT Martin was ranked 18th on that list, tied with Georgia Southern and Mississippi State universities. Programs included in the veteran-specific rankings must also come from institutions that are certified with the GI Bill and either participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program or offer in-state tuition to all out-of-state veterans.

"When veterans return to higher education they can experience unique challenges during their transition out of the military and into civilian life," said Brian Kelly, editor and chief content officer at U.S. News, in a news release. "The Best Online Programs for Veterans are designed to help veterans balance applying, paying for and completing a degree on top of their work and family commitments."

Ranked programs must offer predominantly online coursework and be housed at a regionally accredited institution. They must also score well in a variety of other categories, including program reputation, faculty credentials, retention rates and graduate debt loads.

"We find the MBA online format works well with the discipline level of veterans," said Dr. Ross Dickens, dean, College of Business and Global Affairs. "Being able to deliver a cost-effective, excellent program allows us to proudly work with those who served our country."

The UT Martin MBA program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

For more information, contact the College of Business and Global Affairs at (731) 881-7208 or by email at bgrad@utm.edu.
Miss Tennessee Pageant includes three UTM representatives

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin will have not one, but three students competing in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant June 17-20 at the Jackson Civic Center in Jackson.

Shelby Dotson is representing the university as Miss UT Martin. Dotson is a junior from Rutherford majoring in elementary education, grades K-6. She is active on the UT Martin campus as a pep leader and as a member and Panhellenic Conference delegate for Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. Dotson supports Relay for Life and hopes to use her position to “help create a world with more birthdays.”

Hannah Robison, a senior chemistry major from Paris, is serving as Miss Scenic City. She is active on campus as a general chemistry recitation leader for the UT Martin Department of Chemistry and Physics and is an alumna of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. Robison’s personal platform is Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness, and she is also an advocate for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. She previously worked for the UT Martin branch of the West Tennessee STEM Hub and has created her own STEM Day at Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals across the state, where she conducts science experiments with hospital patients. Robison previously competed for the Miss Tennessee 2013 title, where she won the swimsuit preliminary award and placed as second runner-up overall.

Courtney Caton will compete in the pageant as Miss Mid-South. She is a junior marketing and business management double major from Huntingdon. She is using her position as Miss Mid-South to promote the March of Dimes Foundation, which seeks to promote stronger, healthier babies and pregnancies. Caton created a service initiative called “Miracles in Small Packages” to deliver care packages to babies and families receiving neonatal intensive care in West Tennessee hospitals.

The final night of competition will be televised live on EPlusTV6 in Jackson and available online via live stream at http://www.eplustv6.com/.
**LCH volunteers provide nursing scholarships**

Lauderdale Community Hospital League of Volunteers presented two nursing scholarships for the fall term 2015. Pictured are scholarship recipients, from left, Halls High School graduate Jessie Sorrell, who will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Ripley High School graduate Channa Burkhead, who will attend the University of Memphis. Sorrell attended the May 26 monthly league meeting, and Burkhead plans to attend the June 23 meeting in order to say thank you and meet the many league members who provided their nursing scholarships. These scholarships are made possible from proceeds of the Hospital Gift Shop supported by LCH staff and local community and operated by the Hospital volunteers. In addition, both Sorrell and Burkhead plan to volunteer as lobby duty representatives at the hospital this summer.

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**Local pair earns awards from UTM**

Two Lauderdale County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-16 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement.

- Chad Allen Lewis, son of Allen and Tammie Lewis, of Gates, will be a freshman. He received the Parker State FFA Scholarship.
- Ashley Phillips Vance, of Ripley, daughter of Jerry Phillips and Debbie Averhart, will be a senior. She received the Ripley Gas, Water, Wastewater Award.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling 731-881-7040.
Tennessee Governor’s schools take up residence at UT Martin

The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities and the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences will continue through the month of June. The University of Tennessee at Martin is the only institution to host more than one governor’s school program.

Both programs bring selected high school students from across the state to UT Martin to take college courses and participate in a variety of activities. Interested students must complete an application process and receive an invitation to attend.

The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities is the original governor’s school program, founded in 1986. Participating students may select from courses in art history, English, philosophy, history, music and political science. The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences exposes students to courses in natural resource management and animal science.

For more information, contact the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities at 731-881-7579 or the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences at 731-881-7211.

DeYeso Graduates UT Martin As University Scholar

Robert DeYeso (left), of Martin, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2 as a University Scholar, the highest academic distinction awarded by the university. The University Scholars program is a four-year honors curriculum of specialized coursework, including a two-year research project. DeYeso, a mathematics major, created a project titled “The Classification and Curvature of Biquotients of the Form Sp(3)/Sp(1)×Z2” with faculty mentor Dr. Jason DeVito (right), assistant professor of mathematics. DeYeso is pictured at a ceremony held before commencement during which graduating scholars received their medals.
Local Resident Receives Award

Mercie Eubank (left), of Greenfield, received the Society of the War of 1812 Award during a ceremony hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Military Science and Leadership. She is pictured with Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, UT Martin professor of military science.

JORDAN RECEIVES AWARD AT UTM:

Paul Jordan (left), of Dyersburg, received several awards during a ceremony hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Military Science and Leadership. Jordan was awarded the American Legion Award for Scholastic Excellence, the Association of the United States Army Award and the Reserve Officers Association Award. He is pictured with Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, UT Martin professor of military science.
Honors Scholarship recipients awarded

Benita Fuzzell

Four recent Twin Cities graduates have been awarded scholarships to further their education, through the efforts of the Trustees of the Honors Scholarships, a program in existence for 35 years, to recognize young black men and women in Fulton and South Fulton.

Fulton High School graduates, members of the Class of 2015, Alyssa Ridenour and Nicholas Ware, and South Fulton High School graduates of their Class of 2015, Linda Kaye Dickerson and Shania Taylor will each receive a scholarship in the amount of $700.

Ridenour is the Valedictorian for the FHS Class of 2015, and the daughter of Turner Washington Ridenour III and April Michelle Elkins. She is the granddaughter of Turner Washington Ridenour Jr. and Wanda Sue Ridenour and Allen Elkins, Teresa Elkins and Donna Powell Bice. She is the great-granddaughter of Willie Barnett and Gladys Barnett, Turner Washington Ridenour Sr. and Mary Ridenour, Billy Powell and Dixie Powell and Bobby Elkins and Dorothy Elkins.

While in high school, she was a member of the science club, a science fair and Spanish buddies fair, yearbook staff and earned 25 college credit hours through Bulldog Academy. She was the recipient of the Miss Biology and Chemistry awards, has been on the All A Honor Roll and has been an active member of the Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

She plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, major in nursing and minor in technology.

Nicholas Ware, the son of David Ware, was the Salutatorian for the FHS Class of 2015. He was the recipient of the Mr. Chemistry Award, Academic All State, Outstanding Citizen and Athlete awards, was a member of the Beta Club, Science Club and mentoring program. He achieved College Readiness Status, has been on the Honor Roll, was a member of the Fulton Bulldogs football and basketball teams. He has assisted at the local nursing home and has participated in community service through the Spring Clean program for two years.

He plans to attend the University of Kentucky to study Business Management/Administration.

Linda Kaye Dickerson, a 2015 graduate of South Fulton High School is the daughter of Gina and Darrin Dickerson. While attending SFHS, she was involved in a number of activities including the Pep Club, Future Farmers of America, HOSA, and was a member of the Lady Red Devils Soccer team and a cheerleader.

She plans to attend Murray State University and study Veterinary Medicine.

Shania Taylor, the daughter of James Thomas Taylor Jr. and Bethreece Wendl Taylor, will also receive an Honors Scholarship this year. She is the granddaughter of Helen Hobbs and Eugene Hobbs, of Fulton.

Among her accomplishments at SFHS, Taylor joined the Future Business Leaders of America, advanced to the regional level of competition and garnered a fifth place finish in the customer service contest.

She plans to attend Dyersburg State Community College in the fall, and then transfer to the University of Tennessee at Martin to further her education.

UC HONOREE — Derek Giffin (right) of Union City received the Outstanding Agriculture Student Award and the Outstanding Agricultural Science Student Award during an awards banquet recently for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. On hand for the recognition was Dr. Jason Roberts, assistant professor of animal science.
SF SUCCESS — Michael Burklow (center) of South Fulton received an award for academic promise in geology during a recent awards banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. He was congratulated by Dr. Jason Roberts (left), assistant professor of animal science, and Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

STAR STUDENT — David Crum (center) of Kenton recently received the Outstanding Geography Student Award during an awards banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. He was congratulated by Dr. Jason Roberts (left), assistant professor of animal science, and Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
STUDENT STANDOUT — Kaycee Mathenia (center) of Union City recently received the Outstanding Freshman in Family and Consumer Sciences Award during an awards banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Among those on hand for the recognition were Dr. Marti Herron, professor of child and family studies, and Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

UTM music educator recognized

Dr. John Oelrich, director of bands and assistant professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been named a quarterfinalist for the 2016 Music Educator Award, given by the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy.

The third annual award will be presented at the Special Merit and Awards Ceremony and Nominees Reception as part of GRAMMY week 2016.

The Music Educator Award is given to recognize music educators for their contributions to the musical landscape and is open to current U.S. music teachers from kindergarten through college. Teachers must be nominated in order to apply. A total of 213 music teachers from 914 cities in 42 states have been announced as quarterfinalists from more than 4,500 initial nominations, according to a GRAMMY Foundation press release.

"I love to share in the creation of musical art with my students — both in rehearsals and performances; in the moment, sharing music and emotion openly with each other, human to human," Oelrich said. "While learning to consistently perform and teach a high level are a significant part of what we do, it's the people — students and colleagues — that you share those experiences with that are most important. I am proud of and continually inspired by my students and their enthusiasm to enter the field of music education and love to help them along their path toward success."

Semifinalists will be announced in September and 10 finalists will be notified by the end of the year. One winner will receive a $10,000 honorarium and a $10,000 grant for his or her school. The winner will also be flown to the GRAMMY Awards' host city to accept the award and attend the GRAMMYs. The nine other finalists and their schools will each receive $1,000 honorariums.

The honorariums and grants provided to the finalists and schools are made possible by the support of the GRAMMY Foundation's Education Champions: Converse, Ford Motor Company Fund, Journeys and Disney Performing Arts.
Thomsen Farms sells
32 acres for $9M

First Choice acquires area prime for medical, retail

DAVID THOMAS
dghtomas@jacksonsun.com

It was business, not nostalgia, when Rodney Thomsen sold 25 acres of land to Flint Cox of First Choice Property & Development on Tuesday.

"This is just another chapter in the life of Thomsen Farms," Thomsen said. "My grandfather, Curtis McAlexander, bought this land in 1952. Our family started this development to build a jewel in Jackson — not a strip center, but a quality development for commercial property."

Thomsen Farms LLC sold the 25.17-acre parcel to First Choice Property & Development for $6,578,431.

The property is located between First Citizens National Bank and The Bank of Jackson.

The total number of acres owned by First Choice Property & Development grew to 32.96 following the May 6 purchase of 7.79 acres at the corner of Walker Road and University Drive from Thomsen Farms for $2,714,216.

"The history of the land will have some impact on what is developed, but not much," Cox said. "This is a nice mix of developments in town ... good property. We just think this is about the best piece of property left, and we like it because it is already developed and ready to build on."

Greg Kelley, president of First Choice Property Development, said the options are numerous for development.

"We've been involved about 30 days, and people are inquiring," Kelley said. "We've been approached about medical facilities because of the proximity.

See THOMSEN, Page A4

Thomsen

Continued from Page A3

It was Regional Hospital, and there's also some doctors who have discussed building their own standalone clinic."

Ann-Marie Kelley, who works in business development for First Choice Property & Development, said retailers have shown interest in the area.

"Several box retailers are interested in the Thomsen Farms area," she said. "Small box, and possibly big box, retailers. We will have several lots with frontage on Walker Road and University Drive."

The landscape may change, but Rodney Thomsen said there's one thing that will always remain.

"It will still be known as Thomsen Farms," he said. "My dad, V.C. Thomsen, my sister Cindy (Weaver) and I started this. They've passed on, but it will be a legacy for my children, grandchildren and the future prosperity of North Jackson and the Jackson, Tennessee, area."

Thomsen said anyone can transfer property.

"Anyone can sell farm land, but we were dedicated to this land," Thomsen said. "Cotton, corn, soybeans, pigs, cattle and strawberries. We lived it."

Reach David Thomas at (731) 425-9637. Follow him on Twitter: @dghtomasbiz.

Rodney Thomsen, second from left, is pictured with Greg Kelley, Ann-Marie Kelley and Flint Cox of First Choice Property & Development.
Basketball coaches in the Ohio Valley Conference go to Nashville every year to preview the upcoming season.

But the men’s basketball coaches, along with athletic directors and presidents/chancellors, met in Nashville last month to discuss how they could improve the national perception of the OVC as a men’s basketball league.

The core questions, UT Martin athletic director Julio Freire explained this week, were how to get two teams into the NCAA tournament and how to best position a participating team to play a second game. “Nothing was off the table,” Freire said.

No conclusions were reached aside from agreeing to form a committee to discuss the issues further. Freire seemed encouraged by that decision but said he didn’t know who will be part of the committee or how participation will be divided up.

Much of the Nashville discussion, according to both Freire and men’s basketball coach Heath Schroyer, concerned scheduling practices.

Some schools support more stringent scheduling regulations in an effort to improve their Ratings Percentage Index (RPI), an important factor in teams receiving at-large bids into the tournament and the seeds participants get.

For each NCAA tournament game a team plays in, members of its conference share a larger pool of money. So even though UTM didn’t make the NCAA tournament last year, the Skyhawks would have benefited financially if:

- Murray State had been chosen as an at-large team
- or b) league champ Belmont had won a game, which in theory would be more likely as a No. 12 seed instead of a No. 15.

“The greatest opportunity is through men’s basketball because of the NCAA tournament and the money that’s in it,” Freire said.

Schroyer said he was glad each school had a chance to be heard and the meeting was worthwhile.

“There’s a lot of viewpoints, and I think there’s a lot of credibility in all viewpoints,” he said.

CRAIG THOMAS
cthomas2@jacksonsun.com

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“There’s a lot of viewpoints, and I think there’s a lot of credibility in all viewpoints,” he said.
Local resident receives award at UT Martin ceremony

Bradley Chism (left), of Ramer, received the Reserve Officers Association Award during a ceremony hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Military Science and Leadership. He is pictured with Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, UT Martin professor of military science.

UT Martin offers new agricultural focus within MBA program

Agricultural professionals and those aspiring to enter the world’s largest industry will have a new educational option at the University of Tennessee at Martin beginning in the fall 2015 semester. A new agriculture option will be offered through the UT Martin Master of Business Administration program, allowing students to combine the benefits of an MBA with specialized agribusiness coursework.

"[Students] will be getting the best of both worlds. They’ll get the traditional MBA training in finance and marketing and that sort of thing, but then they’ll also take specialized courses in risk management issues and other topics specialized for agriculture,” said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and professor, Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. “This will be more of an applied field that is directly in their area.”

Students will take the same core classes as those earning a traditional MBA degree, with the addition of 12 hours of directed coursework designed to focus on the domestic and international agribusiness industry. Those who complete the program will finish with a specialized degree and training in agricultural risk analysis, international trade, commodity features and project management issues in agribusiness.

A master’s degree program in agribusiness benefits working professionals in a variety of existing fields, including agricultural lending, crop protection, seed distribution and animal health. Coursework is available in either online or hybrid formats, meaning students may work at their own pace and on their own time.

Interested parties must meet the general admission requirements for the university’s MBA program, including sufficient GMAT scores, which can be found in the online catalog at http://catalog.utm.edu/. Classes for the fall 2015 semester begin Aug. 24.

For more information on the UT Martin MBA program and the agriculture option, contact Dr. Ashley Kilburn, associate professor of marketing and graduate programs coordinator, College of Business and Global Affairs, at (731) 881-7245 or by email at akilburn@utm.edu.
Oelrich a quarterfinalist for GRAMMY Award

Dr. John Oelrich, director of bands and assistant professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been named a quarterfinalist for the 2016 Music Educator Award, given by the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy. The third annual award will be presented at the Special Merit and Awards Ceremony and Nominees Reception during GRAMMY week 2016.

The Music Educator Award is given to recognize music educators for their contributions to the musical landscape and is open to current U.S. music teachers from kindergarten through college. Teachers must be nominated in order to apply. A total of 213 music teachers from 914 cities in 42 states have been announced as quarterfinalists from more than 4,500 initial nominations, according to a GRAMMY Foundation press release.

“Dr. John Oelrich, director of bands and professor of music at UT Martin, has been named a quarterfinalist for the 2016 Music Educator Award, given by the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy. Oelrich is pictured directing a student ensemble performance,” the press release states.

“I love to share in the creation of musical art with my students — both in rehearsals and performances; in the moment, sharing music and emotion openly with each other, human to human,” Oelrich said. “While learning to consistently perform and teach a high level are a significant part of what we do, it’s the people — students and colleagues — that you share those experiences with that are most important. I am proud of and continually inspired by my students and their enthusiasm to enter the field of music education and love to help them along their path toward success.”

Semifinalists will be announced in September and 10 finalists will be notified by the end of the year. One winner will receive a $10,000 honorarium and a $10,000 grant for his or her school. The winner will also be flown to the GRAMMY Awards’ host city to accept the award and attend the GRAMMYs. The nine other finalists and their schools will each receive $1,000 honorariums.

“Dr. Oelrich is an outstanding educator that has brought many years of public school teaching experience with him to UT Martin,” said Dr. Jonathan Vest, associate professor and chair, Department of Music. “His recognition by the GRAMMYs indicates his dedication to his students and to the field of music education. We have many superbly qualified educators in the Department of Music and are thrilled that one of our own has been recognized in this way.”

The honorariums and grants provided to the finalists and schools are made possible by the support of the GRAMMY Foundation’s Education Champions: Converse, Ford Motor Company Fund, Journeys and Disney Performing Arts. The Recording Academy, established in 1957, is an organization of musicians, songwriters, producers, engineers and recording professionals dedicated to improving the cultural condition and quality of life for music and its makers. The GRAMMY Foundation, established by The Recording Academy in 1988, works with its parent organization to bring national attention to important issues such as the value and impact of music and arts education.
Robison returning to Miss Tennessee pageant

A former World's Biggest Fish Fry Hostess Princess will be competing for the second time in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant June 17-20 at the Jackson Civic Center in Jackson. Hannah Robison, a senior chemistry major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is currently serving as Miss Scenic City. She was Fish Fry Hostess Princess in 2010.

Robison has created her own STEM Day at Children's Miracle Network Hospitals across the state, where she conducts science experiments with hospital patients. No stranger to the Miss Tennessee competition, she previously competed for the 2013 title, won the swimsuit preliminary award and placed as second runner-up overall.

The final night of competition will be televised live on EPlusTV6 in Jackson and available online via live stream at www.eplustv6.com. For more information on the pageant, visit www.misstennesseee.org/index.php.

Robison's personal platform is “Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness.”

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UTM releases spring roll

Several students recently have been named to the chancellor's honor roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin for their work during the spring 2015 semester.

To be eligible for the honor roll, students must take at least 12 credit hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 GPA based on a 4.0 scale.

Students can earn one of three different levels of honor roll recognition.

Those with highest honors have earned at least a 3.8 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Those with high honors earned between a 3.5 and 3.79 GPA while those with honors earned a 3.2 through a 3.49 GPA on at least 12 hours of credit.

Local students on the list include:

- Highest honors — Zachary Bell and Audrey Lamb, both of Henry; Kayla Hargrove, Amy Neumair, Christopher Owen, Miranda Paschall, Maci Piggot, Carrie Turner, and Stephanie Wray, all of Paris; Buck Gore and James Wilson, both of Puryear; and Randi Wiles of Springville.

- High honors — Kaitlin Moran of Buchanan; Katelin Brown and Julian Shomette of Cottage Grove; Austin Conger and Olivia Mayoz of Henry; Mary Bell, Katelyn Garner, Justin Legace, Cody Marshall, Madison Moody, Nicholas Morgan and Samuel Sulcer, all of Paris;

Andrew Brandstetter of Puryear; and Kenneth Frizzell, Alexandria Hancock, Russell Milam, Bailey Papszycki, Tyler Polanco, Hannah Robison, and Rachel Robison, all of Springville;

Jenna Arnold, Brianna Foss, Andrew Key, and Jade Younger who are from Henry County but listed their addresses as Martin.

Honors — Katie Drummond of Henry; Megan Aiosa, Samuel Cox, Nathan Hart, Kelsey Head, Houston Howard, Caleb Knott, Michelle Lambert, Miranda Miller, Ashley Neumair, Hannah Peppers, Jarred Presson, Brooklyn Spence, Amanda Vogel, Flynn Watson, Michelle Watson and Candice Wyatt, all of Paris; and Tiffany Frizzell of Springville.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will have not one or two but three students competing in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant Wednesday through June 20 at the Jackson Civic Center.

Shelby Dotson is representing the university as Miss UT Martin. Miss Dotson is a junior from Rutherford majoring in elementary education, grades K-6. She is active on the UT Martin campus as a pep leader and as a member and Panhellenic Conference delegate for Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. She supports Relay For Life and hopes to use her position to “help create a world with more birthdays.”

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For more information on the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, visit http://www.misstennessee.org/index.php.

MISS TENNESSEE CONTESTANTS

- University of Tennessee at Martin students (from left) Miss Mid-South Courtney Caton of Huntingdon, Miss Scenic City Hannah Robison of Paris and Miss UT Martin Shelby Dotson of Rutherford will compete for the title of Miss Tennessee during the scholarship pageant scheduled for Wednesday through June 20 in Jackson.

STEM Day at Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals across the state, where she conducts science experiments with hospital patients. Miss Robison previously competed for the Miss Tennessee 2013 title, where she won the swimsuit preliminary award and placed as second runner-up overall.

Courtney Caton will compete in the pageant as Miss Mid-South. She is a junior marketing and business management double major from Huntingdon. She is using her position as Miss Mid-South to promote the March of Dimes Foundation, which seeks to promote stronger, healthier babies and pregnancies. Miss Caton created a service initiative called “Miracles in Small Packages” to deliver care packages to babies and families receiving neonatal intensive care in West Tennessee hospitals.
Local resident receives award at UT Martin Ceremony

Bradley Chism (left), of Ramer, received the Reserve Officers Association Award during a ceremony hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Military Science and Leadership. He is pictured with Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, UT Martin professor of military science.

U.S. news ranks UT Martin Online MBA Program Top-20 For Veterans

The University of Tennessee at Martin's online MBA program ranked 16th on the 2015 Best Online Programs for Veterans list, published May 19 by U.S. News & World Report. This is the third year U.S. News has published veteran-specific rankings and the first in which MBA programs have been categorized separately.

Programs included in the Best Online Programs for Veterans must have first ranked in the top 75 percent on the overall 2015 Best Online Programs list published earlier this year. UT Martin was ranked 18th on that list, tied with Georgia Southern and Mississippi State universities. Programs included in the veteran-specific rankings must also come from institutions that are certified with the GI Bill and either participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program or offer in-state tuition to all out-of-state veterans.

"When veterans return to higher education they can experience unique challenges during their transition out of the military and into civilian life," said Brian Kelly, editor and chief content officer at U.S. News, in an online press release. "The Best Online Programs for Veterans are designed to help veterans balance applying, paying for and completing a degree on top of their work and family commitments."

Ranked programs must offer predominantly online coursework and be housed at a regionally accredited institution. They must also score well in a variety of other categories, including program reputation, faculty credentials, retention rates and graduate debt loads.

"We find the MBA online format works well with the discipline level of veterans," said Dr. Ross Dickens, dean, College of Business and Global Affairs. "Being able to deliver a cost-effective, excellent program allows us to proudly work with those who served our country."

The UT Martin MBA program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. For more information, contact the College of Business and Global Affairs at 731-881-7208 or by email at bagrad@utm.edu.
UTM's Oelrich GRAMMY Music Educator Award quarterfinalist

UT-Martin director of bands and assistant professor of music Dr. John Oelrich has been named a quarterfinalist for the 2016 Music Educator Award, given by the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy.

The Music Educator Award is given to recognize music educators for their contributions to the musical landscape and is open to current U.S. music teachers from kindergarten through college. Teachers must be nominated in order to apply. A total of 213 music teachers from 914 cities in 42 states have been announced as quarterfinalists from more than 4,500 initial nominations, according to a GRAMMY Foundation press release.

Semifinalists will be announced in September and 10 finalists will be notified by the end of the year. One winner will receive a $10,000 honorarium and a $10,000 grant for his or her school. The winner will also be flown to the GRAMMY Awards’ host city to accept the award and attend the GRAMMYs. The nine other finalists and their schools will each receive $1,000 honorariums.

The honorariums and grants provided to the finalists and schools are made possible by the support of the GRAMMY Foundation's Education Champions: Converse, Ford Motor Company Fund, Journeys and Disney Performing Arts.

### Briefly
Continued from Page B1

**Summer Robotics Camp at UT Martin**

Children ages five to 14 are invited to enroll in a summer robotics camp beginning Monday on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus. Both basic level and advanced camps will focus on building and controlling motorized robots and understanding the science behind them.

» **WeDo Robotics Camp:** Kids ages five to seven who have already completed kindergarten. Participants will design, build and control a motorized robot using sensors to complete specific challenges.

  **When:** 9-11 a.m. Monday through Friday

  **NXTRobotics Camp:** Kids ages eight to 14. Involves more complicated robotics challenges and the building of robots, navigating minefields, gathering and moving items, and solving puzzles. Emphasis on understanding the engineering design of both the robot itself and the program that controls it.

  **When:** 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday

  **Advanced NXT Robotics Camp:** Kids ages eight to 14 who are interested in more complicated robotics challenges. Build and program robots to perform various tasks, such as racing other robots, navigating minefields, gathering and moving items, and solving puzzles. Emphasis on understanding the engineering design of both the robot itself and the program that controls it.

  **When:** 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 22-23; 9 a.m. to noon June 24

Camps will be instructed by Laura Sterrett, UT Martin lecturer of physics.

Pre-registration is required. The registration fee is $155 per student and includes a camp T-shirt.

Due to the cost of the robotics kits, students will not be able to take them home. However, product information and cost will be provided for those who wish to purchase their own kits.

For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecs/courses/children/robotics.php.
Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant contestants arrive in Hub City

By Victoria Taylor
By vta@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Jun 14, 2015 at 7:58 PM CDT
Story Updated: Jun 15, 2015 at 12:00 PM CDT

JACKSON, Tenn. -- Nearly 40 contestants have traveled to the Hub City for the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant. Competitors will be staying at the All Suites Hotel off Carriage House Drive.

"You're living out of a suitcase basically for a week, which can be a challenge at times, but it's all about organization and it's an adventure we're all doing together," said Shelby Dotson, Miss UT Martin.

Some beauty queens don't mind the week of hotel living. "I actually love to live in hotels," said Jaclyn Torrento, Miss Henderson County. "Whenever I was little, I would walk in and take a big whiff of it and say, 'smells like a hotel!' To me, it's very comfortable. I love traveling, and it's kind of a home away from home."

Torrento and all the other contestants will share rooms with other competitors, "It's fun to have a roommate because you can have someone to talk to when the day's over with," she said. "Our days do run long and you get tired at different moments, but you have that person you can go back to the hotel room with and just talk and relax with."

Contestants travel with a support system and all the necessities to go full-on glitz and glamour mode. Collin Long has helped the girls move in for nearly a decade. "We just move in the contestants to get them settled into the rooms so that way they don't have so much on their plate," he said.

Across town at the Carl Perkins Civic Center is the main stage and dressing room. "After every process in the pageant we'll come back here and get a whole different wardrobe on," said Madison Hurst, Miss Jackson.

From Neosporin to extension cords, the girls store their competition clothes and pageant success arsenal in the dressing room.

But whether it's a rack of clothes or an extra mirror, some contestants said it only takes three key pieces to kick off pageant week successfully. "I definitely have to have my lipstick, mascara, and a smile," Dotson said.

The winner of this pageant will go on to compete in the Miss America Pageant in September.

MISS TENNESSEE PREPARES TO PASS THE CROWN

DANICA SMITHWICK
dsmithwick@jacksonsun.com

As a young girl, Hayley Lewis did not dream of growing up to wear fancy gowns and compete in pageants.

"I definitely wasn't a Honey Boo Boo growing up," she said.

It wasn't until college that Lewis decided to give pageants a try. One of her sorority sisters approached her about the

Miss America organization. Because the friend had been a role model for Lewis, she was interested in competing for the scholarship.

At 19, Lewis won her first pageant, Miss Walking Tall. The following year, she returned to Miss Tennessee as Miss Tennessee Valley and took home the crown.

"I ended up loving what the Miss America program stands for," she said. "Not only did it help me pay for school, but it was a growing tool for me. It taught me a lot about myself, and it can really teach young women how to attain goals."

When her older sister attended Vanderbilt University, she grew to love the Nashville area and ended up attending Belmont University to study music business and classical voice. There, she is heavily involved in campus life as a member of The Bel tones, an a cappella group.

Lewis said she was also catapulted into the philanthropy chair position for her sorority, Phi Mu. Phi Mu's philanthropy is Children's Miracle Network, which also happens to be Miss America's national platform.

When Lewis was a child, the same organizat
Crown
Continued from Page T1

tion paid for her medical care when her family was struggling with bills from her dad's thyroid cancer remission.

"I grew to have a great appreciation for them," she said. "They gave my family a second chance to get back on their feet."

In addition to Phi Mu's work to raise money for Children's Miracle Network, she also started her own fundraiser called Good Morning for Miracles. Lewis works as the state ambassador for the organization and has visited all five Children's Miracle Network hospitals in Tennessee. She said she loved wrapping her arms around the kids who "need it most" and making them feel special.

Lewis also spoke to more than 50,000 children throughout the year on her school tour.

"Kids are like sponges — they absorb every word you say," she said. "It really makes you realize how much influence this position holds."

Besides spending time with children, Lewis said the opportunity to compete in Atlantic City for Miss America was easily a highlight of her year. She advanced to top 10 in the pageant.

"My dad is a football coach who has worked with professional athletes," she said. "He said he had never seen one of them work harder than I did to prepare for Miss America."

But preparation is not just physical. It's also about being intellectually equipped. Celebrity judges are able to ask anything, so contestants must be well-rounded across several categories. When girls sign up to compete at Miss America, they also commit to three long months of hard work and training, she said.

Miss Tennessee is a fierce competition as well — the contestants have been working for months to perfect their interview skills, talent performance and onstage presence. It's not about looking your best; it's about being able to fill a job description, Lewis said.

"Don't compare yourself to other girls," she said. "It's really hard not to because you'll see all these beautiful girls. But just be the best version of yourself you can be. The judges aren't comparing you — they're looking for the girl who has the heart and is prepared for the job."

As she prepares to crown the next Miss Tennessee soon, Lewis is looking forward to returning to Belmont in the fall where she will be able to "wear ponytails and sweatpants and go to class with no makeup."

There, she will serve as the university's official sports anchor.

"Hopefully you'll be seeing my face for a long time," she said.

Reach Danica at (731) 425-9543. Follow her on Twitter at @danica smithwick.
ACADEMIC ALL-STARS

DRESDEN HIGH SCHOOL

Ashten Taylor Simpson, valedictorian
GPA: 98.2258
Parents: Mark and Regina Simpson
Extracurricular activities: FFA president, FBLA treasurer, FCCLA treasurer, Student Council, Interact Club, varsity cheerleading
Plans: Major in chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Martin

Faith Marie Douglas, salutatorian
GPA: 95.0161
Parents: Gary and Virginia Douglas
Extracurricular activities: Student Council, FBLA secretary, FCCLA secretary, Interact Club
Plans: Major in biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin

Aleya Brent, salutatorian
GPA: 99.5000
Parents: David and Danielle Brent
Extracurricular activities: Beta Club, FCCLA vice president, Mu Alpha Theta, HOSA treasurer
Plans: Major in cell and molecular biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin

GLENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Spencer Stewalt, valedictorian
GPA: 96.309
Parents: Steven and Wynafer Stewart
Extracurricular activities: FFA, Beta Club, Student Council, Weakley County Youth Leadership, Spanish Club, G-Club, football
Plans: Major in agricultural business at the University of Tennessee at Martin

Hannah Lokey, salutatorian
GPA: 95.981
Parents: Charles and Debbie Ross
Extracurricular activities: Student Council, Beta Club, Spanish Club, Weakley County Youth Leadership, SCOPE, Science Club
Plans: Major in nursing with a minor in Spanish at the University of Tennessee at Martin

Chelsea Jonell Willis, valedictorian
Parents: Richard and Pam Willis
Extracurricular activities: FBLA, FFA, Beta Club, Spanish Club, FCA, varsity tennis
Plans: Major in nursing at the University of Tennessee at Martin

Kaitlyn Leigh Sanders, salutatorian
Parents: Carey and Kym Sanders
Extracurricular activities: Beta Club president, class treasurer, Student Council treasurer, FBLA, SCOPE
Plans: Major in English at the University of Tennessee at Martin
**SOUTH GIBSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

- **Tanner Petty**, valedictorian
  - **Parents**: Donny and Meredith Petty
  - **Extracurricular activities**: Beta Club, student ambassador, DARE role model
  - **Plans**: Major in health and human performance at Martin University of Tennessee

- **Brandon Hilliard**, valedictorian
  - **GPA**: 98.15
  - **Parents**: Bruce and Bonnie Hilliard
  - **Extracurricular activities**: FBLA president, Beta Club, History Club, Math Club, Chemistry Club, C-Club
  - **Plans**: University of Tennessee to become a nutrition and health counselor

**HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

- **Doris Evelyn Meredith Brown**, salutatorian
  - **Parents**: Peter Brown and Selena Jones
  - **Extracurricular activities**: Marching band
  - **Plans**: Major in computer science at Martin University of Tennessee

- **Franchesca Simone Taylor**, salutatorian
  - **GPA**: 99.9688
  - **Parents**: Chuck and Amy Taylor
  - **Extracurricular activities**: Major in agriculture business/veterinary science at Martin University of Tennessee

**WEST CARROLL JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL**

- **Jerod Grooms**, Summa Cum Laude
  - **Parents**: Mary and Scott Grooms
  - **Extracurricular activities**: Mu Alpha Theta, school yearbook editor
  - **Plans**: Major in nursing at Martin University of Tennessee

**BRADFORD HIGH SCHOOL**

- **Sarah Elizabeth Schaffer**, salutatorian
  - **GPA**: 96.6471
  - **Parents**: Andrea Arnold
  - **Extracurricular activities**: Major in nursing at Martin University of Tennessee
"Einstein's Dice' a great read

http://www.bgdailynews.com/

Reviewed by Aaron W. Hughey


"This is the tale of two brilliant physicists (Albert Einstein and Erwin Schrödinger), the 1947 media war that tore apart their decades-long friendship, and the fragile nature of scientific collaboration and discovery," Paul Halpern explains near the beginning of "Einstein's Dice and Schrödinger's Cat: How Two Great Minds Battled Quantum Randomness to Create a Unified Theory of Physics."

"When they were pitted against each other, each scientist was a Nobel laureate, well into middle age, and certainly past the peak of his major work," the author continues. "Yet the international press largely had a different story to tell. It was a familiar narrative of a seasoned fighter still going strong versus an upstart contender hungry to seize the trophy."

While I was aware of "Schrödinger's cat" – I first encountered the paradox in my sophomore philosophy sequence at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the late 1970s – I didn’t know much about the man himself until I ran across this little gem during one of my excursions to our local Barnes & Noble Booksellers. As Halpern makes exquisitely clear, the scenario Schrödinger devised closely parallels his life in a variety of ways.

"The ambiguity of Schrödinger's cat perfectly matched the contradictory life of its creator," Halpern observes. "The bookish, bespectacled professor maintained a quantum superposition of contrasting views. His vin-vang existence began in his youth when he learned German and English from different family members and was raised bilingual. With ties to many countries but a supreme love of his native Austria, he never felt comfortable with either nationalism or internationalism and preferred avoiding politics altogether."

Even though Einstein died in 1955 and Schrödinger passed away in 1961, their influence on how we understand the world remains at the forefront of scientific and philosophical thought. This wonderfully concise yet deceptively complex volume consists of eight chapters sandwiched between an introduction and conclusion. The 14 pages of source notes included after the main narrative speak to authority Halpern exhibits as he winds his way through the scientific arguments, political implications and personal relationships at the heart of the struggle for credibility and validation this story ultimately represents.

"Inspired in part by dialogue with Einstein, the conundrum of Schrödinger's cat presses the implications of quantum physics to their very limits by asking us to imagine the fate of a cat becoming entangled with the state of a particle," Halpern writes. "The cat is placed in a box that contains a radioactive substance, a Geiger counter and a sealed vial of poison. The box is closed, and a timer is set to precisely the interval at which the substance would have a 50-50 chance of decaying by releasing a particle. The researcher has rigged the apparatus so that if the Geiger counter registers the click of a single decay particle, the vial would be smashed, the poison released, and the cat dispatched. However, if no decay occurs, the cat would be spared."

"According to quantum measurement theory, as Schrödinger pointed out, the state of the cat (dead or alive) would be entangled with the state of the Geiger counter's reading (decay or no decay) until the box is opened," he continues. "Therefore, the cat would be in a zombielike quantum superposition of deceased and living until the timer went off, the researchers opened the box, and the quantum state of the cat and counter 'collapsed' (distilled itself) into one of the two possibilities."
As many scientists and philosophers have surmised over the decades since Schrödinger first proposed this thought experiment in his 1935 paper, "The Present Situation in Quantum Mechanics," the phenomena explained/predicted by quantum mechanics are sometimes difficult to get your head around. I began my undergraduate career as a physics major because I was intrigued by the work of Einstein and Werner Heisenberg. I was fascinated by the connection between physics, philosophy and religion (and there is certainly a connection there). I later switched to biology because I preferred what at the time seemed more tangible, although I have to admit that Halpern’s description of the often-intense rivalry between Einstein and Schrödinger has renewed my interest in the topic at hand.

"These two old friends, comrades in the battle against the orthodox interpretation of quantum mechanics, had never anticipated that they would be battling in the international press," Halpern notes. "That was certainly neither Schrödinger nor Einstein’s intention when they had begun their correspondence about unified field theory some years earlier."

Halpern is a physics professor at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. His resume includes a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fulbright Scholarship and an Atenaeum Literary Award. A regular contributor to NOVA’s “The Nature of Reality” physics blog, he has published extensively in both scholarly journals and the popular press and has appeared on a variety of radio and television shows including “Future Quest” and “The Simpsons 20th Anniversary Special.” His previous 14 books include “The Great Beyond: Higher Dimensions, Parallel Universes, and the Extraordinary Search for a Theory of Everything,” “Edge of the Universe: A Voyage to the Cosmic Horizon and Beyond,” “Collider: The Search for the World’s Smallest Particles,” and “Countdown to Apocalypse: A Scientific Exploration of the End of the World.”

More than a tale about scientific rivalry, “Einstein’s Dice and Schrödinger’s Cat” is a case study in how intellectual pursuits are often intertwined with fame and an intense need for validation and recognition. It’s a great read. I recommend it highly.

Reviewed by Aaron W. Hughey, Department of Counseling and Student Affairs, Western Kentucky University.
LOCAL STUDENT ATTENDS SOAR AT UT MARTIN – Reilly Browning (center), of Medina, participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration activities June 5. Students accepted to begin in the fall 2015 semester registered for classes and heard presentations on financial aid, housing and student life. Browning graduated from South Gibson High School and is pictured with his parents, Jeremy (left) and Mary Beth Browning. For additional SOAR dates and information, visit www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soarregister.php.

LOCAL STUDENT WINS IPAD AT UT MARTIN SOAR – Payton Woods (center), of Milan, won a new iPad during Summer Orientation and Registration activities at the University of Tennessee at Martin, June 5. Students accepted to begin in the fall 2015 semester registered for classes and heard presentations on financial aid, housing and student life. Woods is pictured with SOAR staff members Katelyn Ridley (left), a sophomore biology major, and Madeline Stokes, a sophomore engineering major. For additional SOAR dates and information, visit www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soarregister.php.
LifePoint promotes veteran industry officials
Brentwood-based hospital company provides new roles for three senior leaders
Published June 16, 2015 by NashvillePost.c...

Brentwood-based hospital company LifePoint Health announced today it has promoted three senior leaders, including Reggie Hill to senior vice president, chief compliance and policy officer, from chief compliance officer.

In addition, Pam Belcher has been named senior vice president of human resources and talent management and Dr. Christopher Rehm has assumed the newly created position of chief medical informatics officer, according to a release.

Hill (pictured at left) will manage the company’s compliance program and will also recommend strategies pertaining to health care policy and reform issues. Hill served as chief compliance officer for LifePoint starting in 2013.

Prior to joining LifePoint, Hill was an attorney at Nashville law firm Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis, where he practiced corporate, health care, and mergers and acquisitions law. During his more than 30-year tenure at Waller, he served as associate, partner, co-chairman and head of the firm’s business transactions practice.

Belcher (pictured at right) will oversee the development and execution of human resources strategy and direction, focusing on compensation and benefits, employee relations, succession planning and performance management.

Previously, Belcher served LifePoint as vice president, organizational development and recruitment for seven years. Before joining the company in 2006, she worked as vice president of consulting and client development for Brentwood-based Right Management Consultants.

Belcher earned a master’s degree in personnel counseling from the University of Mississippi. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Rehm, who previously served the company as vice president of medical informatics since 2013, will lead clinical applications and technology solutions. In addition, he will work with both clinical leaders and vendor partners to ensure the needs of patients, providers and staff are met.

Previously, Rehm (pictured at right) worked as chief medical officer and vice president of business development for Goodlettsville-based Aionex.

Rehm earned his medical degree from Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine and completed his residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Vanderbilt University.

"Each of these outstanding leaders has advanced our company in his or her respective area of talent development and human resources, compliance and public policy, and healthcare informatics, and we are pleased to recognize their accomplishments by elevating their roles at LifePoint," Bill Carpenter, LifePoint chairman and chief executive officer, said in the release.

LifePoint Health focuses on providing health care facilities and services in rural and non-urban communities.

White promoted to assistant vice president at Reelfoot Bank

Reelfoot Bank announced that Greenfield native Blake White has been named assistant vice president.

White has been with Reelfoot since January 2009 and currently serves as branch manager/loan officer of the Martin office. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration majoring in information systems along with a Master of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He has completed courses with the Tennessee Bankers Association in consumer credit, commercial lending and advanced commercial lending.

A graduate of Greenfield High School, White now resides in Woodland Mills with his wife, Jaime, and their 4 year-old daughter, Benson. White is actively involved in the Martin Rotary Club and is a member of the Martin Business Association.
WestStar Leadership graduation set for Thursday in Jackson

Members of the 2015 WestStar Leadership Class will graduate Thursday at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A 5:30 p.m. reception will be followed by dinner and the graduation ceremony. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program.

The program is in its 26th year and has 710 graduates, most of whom are from West Tennessee. The 2015 class includes 29 participants who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Among those attending the event will be UT Martin Interim Chancellor Bob Smith, a WestStar co-founder and former executive director for the program. He and his wife, Ramona, will attend WestStar graduation for the first time since returning to Martin and Smith’s becoming interim chancellor June 1.

SUMMER ORIENTATION — Cory Armatys (center), of Martin, participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration activities June 5. Students accepted to begin in the fall 2015 semester registered for classes and heard presentations on financial aid, housing and student life. Armatys graduated from Westview High School and is pictured with his parents, Ronnie (left) and Cindy Armatys. For additional SOAR dates and information, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soarregister.php.

Rooney, Dotson ready to compete for Miss Tennessee

CAREN ROONEY

SHELBY DOTSON
By CLAY SMITH
The Press

Miss Tennessee 2015 will be crowned in a few short days.
Of the 36 participants from all over the state, two will be representing the Weakley County area.
Carsen Rooney of Atoka was recently crowned Miss Soybean.
She’ll be competing with Shelby Dotson, a sophomore elementary education student at UTM who was crowned Miss UT Martin.

Both girls have a lengthy history in pageantry and are excited for the chance to represent Weakley County.
For Rooney, it was watching the Miss America pageant with family that inspired her to compete.
The pageant
“I watched Miss America in 2009 with my grandmother, and I was just amazed with the poise and presence of the girls competing and how articulate they were, said Rooney.
“I was especially interested in Miss Tennessee.
And right before she got up to do her talent, I said to myself, ‘If I was ever Miss Tennessee, I would sing ‘I Will Always Love You.’”
And then she got up and sang that exact song! So I just thought from there, I could do this one day.”

Rooney, at 18 years old, was the youngest participant in the contest.

“I was so honored to be crowned.
There were so many girls who were in college or college graduates who were older than me,” Rooney said.
“It was so great to compete with them.
And to win, it is just amazing to be able to represent this city.
It is so honoring and humbling.”

“Usually, I do the best in interview.
I did competitive speech and debate for four years, so I’m pretty comfortable in a public speaking forum.
I love getting to know the judges, because besides the interview, you don’t have a lot of contact with the judges.
Getting to have that personal connection is really fun, and it gives me the opportunity to really express who I am.”

Rooney was home schooled, and she said being able to be flexible with her schooling schedule helped her prepare.
She’s also formulated a program to encourage reading and book ownership among children called “Read to Succeed.”

“Read to Succeed is a platform that I started when I first began doing pageants.
It’s really all about encouraging book ownership in children,” said Rooney.
“Amercia’s literacy rates are shockingly low for a developed country.
Literacy has such a huge impact on child’s life.
The Imagination Library, which I’m also involved with, helps with getting books into the hands of underprivileged children, so that kids have that opportunity for book ownership.
It’s the little things that make the difference with literacy, like just making sure children have books of their own to read.”

Rooney is both excited and nervous about competing for Miss Tennessee, saying, “The competition itself is a week long, so I am nervous about the length of competition and how much it will entail.
There will be a lot of amazing women competing, many of whom are older than I am.
So it’s a little bit intimidating, but I’m excited to learn from them.”

She has already enjoyed her responsibilities as Miss Soybean.
“I love talking to little girls because they seem so excited to meet me.
I usually let them try on my crown; they love that.
The other day I was at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and they were having a wacky-tacky prom.
There was this little girl there who had the cutest dress, and I taught her how to do the pageant walk and we were walking down the hallways of the hospital doing the walk.
It was so much fun to get to do that with her.”

The crown for Miss Tennessee and Miss America has four points: style, service, scholarship and success.
The crown is a symbol for the overall goals of the contest.

Rooney will start her first year of college at the University of Alabama in the fall.
She plans to study Telecommunications and Sports Broadcasting.
She has three brothers, and says football is her favorite sport.

Shelby Dotson started doing pageants at a young age, and said that this year, her family was a huge motivating factor behind her win.

“I started doing pageantry when I was three years old,” said Dotson.
“It’s meant a lot more to me this year because my father was recently diagnosed with cancer.
I almost didn’t compete this year because of that, but he told me that he wanted me to do it and he wanted me to win.
So, that’s really what pushed me this year.”

Dotson says that the talent portion of the contest is her favorite part of the contest.

“This year, I’m singing, ‘Yesterday’ by the Beatles.
I’m using the live orchestra at the pageant, and I’m really excited to see what I can do with that.
I’m also excited about the things I’ll learn from this pageant and the friends that I’ll make.
I’m probably most nervous about the interview portion, but I’m going to be as genuine as I can so that the judges can get to know the real me.

Dotson has enjoyed her role as Miss UT Martin, saying, “I rode at this year’s Iris Festival in Dresden, and I spoke at a luminary service for the Relay for Life in Martin.
I’ll also be at the Soybean Festival with my co-crown, Carsen Rooney.
And of course, I want to do the best that I can at representing Martin in the Miss Tennessee pageant.”

Dotson plans to get her bachelor’s degree in elementary education and her master’s in speech pathology.
She plans to be a speech pathologist for an elementary school.

“I think being in pageants helps in a lot of ways.
You gain confidence.
Even though the interviews make me nervous, they do prepare us for future jobs.
Whenever you talk to anyone, they’ll be able to tell that you have some training.
That’s something that money can’t buy; you have to learn that.”

The Miss Tennessee pageant will be held from Wednesday through Saturday at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson.
Agricultural focus to be offered within MBA program at UTM

Agricultural professionals and those aspiring to enter the world's largest industry will have a new educational option at the University of Tennessee at Martin beginning in the fall 2015 semester.

A new agriculture option will be offered through the UT Martin Master of Business Administration program, allowing students to combine the benefits of an MBA with specialized agribusiness coursework.

"[Students] will be getting the best of both worlds. They'll get the traditional MBA training in finance and marketing and that sort of thing, but then they'll also take specialized courses in risk management issues and other topics specialized for agriculture," said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and professor in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. "This will be more of an applied field that is directly in their area."

Students will take the same core classes as those earning a traditional MBA degree, with the addition of 12 hours of directed coursework designed to focus on the domestic and international agribusiness industry.

Those who complete the program will finish with a specialized degree and training in agricultural risk analysis, international trade, commodity features and project management issues in agribusiness.

A master's degree program in agribusiness benefits working professionals in a variety of existing fields, including agricultural lending, crop protection, seed distribution and animal health. Coursework is available in either online or hybrid formats, meaning students may work at their own pace and on their own time.

Interested students must meet the general admission requirements for the university's MBA program, including sufficient GMAT scores, and those requirements may be found in the online catalog at http://catalog.utm.edu/.

Classes for the fall semester begin Aug. 24.

For more information on the UT Martin MBA program and the agriculture option, contact Dr. Ashley Kilburn, associate professor of marketing and graduate programs coordinator in the College of Business and Global Affairs, at (731) 881-7245 or by email at akilburn@utm.edu.

RESIDENT RECOGNIZED — Laribeth Bondurant of Union City received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs recently. She is a junior information systems major. The honor was presented by Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs.
MAKING HISTORY — Linden Scarborough (left) of Union City received the Association of the United States History Award during a recent ceremony hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Military Science and Leadership. He was congratulated by Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, UT Martin professor of military science.

Orientations set at UTM

Graduating high school seniors who have applied for admission to the University of Tennessee at Martin and received a tentative or final acceptance letter have two more opportunities to attend summer orientation and registration to learn more about the resources available on campus.

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

The remaining SOAR dates are Friday and July 17.

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

The sessions are enrolling now and students are encouraged to register early.

Pre-registration is required. To register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soar_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.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at (731) 881-7020.
Contestants seek to make a difference

KATHERINE BURGESS

Seeing too many clothes crammed into the closets of her college dormitory caused Stephanie McKain, Miss Chattanooga, to think of a time when she and her mother had only two suitcases of belongings. When McKain was 8, they relied on family and community members to donate clothing, she said.

Today, the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant contestant is using those memories by advocating for her nonprofit organization Closest of Love.

"Clothes were always a method of showing someone cared about me, so I want to reciprocate that with my nonprofit," McKain said.

McKain is one of 36 contestants, each of whom has a platform. The winner can use the role of Miss Tennessee to promote that cause.

Platforms range from supporting the arts and encouraging literacy to combating hunger.

Closest of Love has given away more than 7,500 items of clothing and partners with the Tennessee Depar-

See PAGEANT, Page A4

WHAT TO KNOW

Preliminary competition will be held at 8 p.m. today through Friday at the Carl Perkins Civic Center. The winner will be crowned during the finals, which begin at 7:45 p.m. Saturday.

school across the state, telling children about community service. Sometimes she holds "lighting rounds" where middle and elementary school students fire off interest areas and Torrento has to immediately respond with a service project idea.

"It keeps me on my toes," she said.

Having grown up with a learning disability led MaryBeth Arnett, Miss Queen City, to found AgapeZone.

"I knew it was my responsibility as a leader to show children they can overcome the same thing," Arnett said.

The program allows children with special needs to play sports with athletes from Martin Methodist College.

When Arnett began the program one year ago, about five children attended. Now, about 30-40 children attend each event.

If selected as Miss Tennessee, Arnett said she will work to keep the program growing.

"Hopefully it's going to spread all across the state," she said.

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748. Follow her on Twitter: @kathsburgess
Three UTM students are vying for the title of Miss Tennessee

The University of Tennessee at Martin will have not one, but three students competing in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant June 17-20 at the Jackson Civic Center in Jackson.

Shelby Dotson is representing the university as Miss UT Martin. Dotson is a junior from Rutherford majoring in elementary education, grades K-6. She is active on the UT Martin campus as a pep leader and as a member and Panhellenic Conference delegate for Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. Dotson supports Relay for Life and hopes to use her position to "help create a world with more birthdays."

Hannah Robison, a senior chemistry major from Paris, is serving as Miss Scenic City. She is active on campus as a general chemistry recitation leader for the UT Martin Department of Chemistry and Physics and is an alumnus of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. Robison's personal platform is Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness, and she is also an advocate for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. She previously worked for the UT Martin branch of the West Tennessee STEM Hub and has created her own STEM Day at Children's Miracle Network Hospitals across the state, where she conducts science experiments with hospital patients. Robison previously competed for the Miss Tennessee 2013 title, where she won the swimsuit preliminary award and placed as second runner-up overall.

Courtney Caton will compete in the pageant as Miss Mid-South. She is a junior marketing and business management double major from Huntingdon. She is using her position as Miss Mid-South to promote the March of Dimes Foundation, which seeks to promote stronger, healthier babies and pregnancies. Caton created a service initiative called "Miracles in Small Packages" to deliver care packages to babies and families receiving neonatal intensive care in West Tennessee hospitals.

The final night of competition will be televised live on EPlusTV6 in Jackson and available online via live stream at http://www.eplusv6.com/.

For more information on the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, visit http://www.misstennessee.org/index.php.
Graduating high school seniors who have applied for admission to the University of Tennessee at Martin and received a tentative or final acceptance letter have two more opportunities to attend summer orientation and registration to learn more about the resources available on the UT Martin campus. Students will also select their classes for the upcoming fall semester.

The remaining SOAR dates are June 19 and July 17. The registration fee is $45 for students and $20 for each accompanying parent, guardian or sibling. The fee includes all meals and breaks. The sessions are enrolling now and students are encouraged to register early.

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

Pre-registration is required. To register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soar-register.php. All 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.

TEACHERS' SCHOLARSHIP - Destinee Mayo, center, a 2015 graduate of South Fulton High School received a $400 college scholarship from the Obion County-Union City Retired Teachers Association at their May meeting held at The Keg Restaurant in Fulton. Pictured with Mayo are, from left, her parents, Levi and Erin Griffith, Sally Ferguson, representing the association and her father, Kenny Mayo. Mayo plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall, majoring in elementary education K-6. (Photo submitted)
Madilyn Wilson is shocked to see the brush she has made in the class Dazzling Divas, during Monday's Kid College session at Paris Elementary School. The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting the annual Kid College at PES all this week for students who will be in kindergarten through fifth grade in the upcoming school year.
UTM SOAR session enrolling now

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

The remaining SOAR dates are June 19 and July 17. There is a registration fee for students and another fee for each accompanying parent, guardian or sibling. The fee includes all meals and breaks. The sessions are enrolling now and students are encouraged to register early.

Each session will begin with registration and ID card pictures at 8 a.m. The morning’s activities will include informational sessions on financial aid, campus technology, student activities, campus housing, Greek life and meal plans. Participants may attend two of these sessions. Lunch will be served in the newly-renovated Skyhawk Dining Hall 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-answersession during this time. All events will be held in the Boling University Center, located at 11 Wayne Fisher Drive on the UT Martin campus.

Pre-registration is required. For additional information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.

BROWNING ATTENDS SOAR - Reilly Browning (center), of Medina, participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin's SOAR (Summer Orientation and Registration) activities June 5. Students accepted to begin in the fall 2015 semester registered for classes and heard presentations on financial aid, housing and student life. Browning graduated from South Gibson High School and is pictured with his parents, Jeremy (left) and Mary Beth Browning. For additional SOAR dates and information, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soarregister.php.

WESTSTAR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
GRADUATION SET FOR JUNE 18

MARTIN, Tenn. — Members of the 2015 WestStar Leadership Class will graduate Thursday, June 18, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A 5:30 p.m. reception will be followed by dinner and the graduation ceremony. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program. The program is in its 26th year and has 710 graduates, most of whom are from West Tennessee. The 2015 class includes 29 participants who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Among those attending the event will be UT Martin Interim Chancellor Bob Smith, a WestStar co-founder and former executive director for the program. He and his wife, Ramona, will attend WestStar graduation for the first time since returning to Martin and Smith’s becoming interim chancellor June 1.
Third UT Martin Summer Orientation and Registration Session enrolling now for incoming freshmen

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

The remaining SOAR dates are June 19 and July 17. The registration fee is $45 for students and $20 for each accompanying parent, guardian or sibling. The fee includes all meals and breaks. The sessions are enrolling now and students are encouraged to register early.

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

Pre-registration is required. To register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/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.

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

Graham graduates Chicago School

Shawn Graham has received his Master’s in Forensic Psychology from The Chicago School. Shawn is a 1998 graduate of MCHS and served in the United States Marines for 4 years, with 9 months in Afghanistan after 911. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin after the Marines. Shawn is the son of Carroll and Cindy Graham. He is married to Clarkie Parsons and is employed with Children Services. Congratulations Shawn!
Governor’s School keeps Martin beautiful with flowers

By RANDY CAVIN
The Press

You know Martin is a special town when even outsiders want to keep it beautiful.

Several students attending the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences spent the morning of June 3 doing some landscaping in Downtown Martin.

There is nothing unusual about students doing a little bit of landscaping, except that these students are from across the state. One student lives in Union City and another is far away as Johnson City.

Dr. Barbara Darroch, coordinator and lab instructor of plant and soil sciences at the UT-Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, & Natural Resources, brought some of her Governor’s School students to the corner of Main and Central Streets to do some beautifying.

“These students are scattered from across the state,” Darroch said. “In my group I know I have somebody from Obion County, and there’s someone in another group from Johnson City. We have got them from all across the state, which is nice.”

Students did some weeding, general maintenance, put down some fresh mulch, and planted some new flowers. It was volunteer work and part of a service project in their class time.

“We decided since they were here it would be a good service project,” Darroch said. “This is a good spot and Dr. Wesley Totten, the interim chair of the department, is involved with the Martin Beautiful Committee. He found us a spot that needed sprucing up. So that is why we are here.”

The students planted petunias, which were grown at the UTM greenhouses and donated by the Agronomy Club.

“Our original plan was to plant the flowers in this one bed,” Darroch said. “But we have a good group of students so we decided to go ahead and clean up other beds. We are going to mulch them at least. I don’t know if we are going to plant any flowers over there. We may just stick to planting them here because this is a prime spot.”

The flowers went into the bed at the corner of Main and Central where Festival Park is.

“I want to keep this one the prettiest,” Darroch said.

Governor’s School gives students a chance to earn some college credits and UTM has two Governor’s School programs. The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities was the original one, starting in 1986 and the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences started in 2004.

“Since I teach plant science, this is a good way to talk about plants, deal with plants and learn how to plant them.” Darroch said.

Students from the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agriculture Sciences volunteered their time in a service project to do some sprucing up in the flower bed at the corner of Main and Central streets. The students are from as close by as Union City and as far away as Johnson City. Starting from the left are Molly Carpenter from Union City, Rebecca Arwood from Johnson City, Michael Singer from Mt. Juliet, Will Gregory from Cross Plains and Eli Oliver from Smithville.
GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL — Dan McDonough Jr. (left), a homeschool student, Hannah Simpson, of Westview High School and Zander Alley (right) of Dresden High School are among the 56 students attending the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin this month. The four-week program includes high school juniors and seniors from across the state who have been selected to participate based on academic achievements, writing skills, school and community service, and the recommendations of high school principals, counselors and teachers.

THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY ENTERPRISE
JUNE 18, 2015

SOAR Planned At UT Martin Center

Two summer orientation and registration (S.O.A.R.) programs will be held June 19th and July 17th with registration beginning at 8 a.m. at University of Tennessee at Martin.

For more information, call 731-881-7020.

Sarah Greene has been hired as Library Director for the City of Hickory. She will replace current Director Louise Humphrey, who will retire on June 30. Ms. Greene was chosen from 41 applicants.

Ms. Greene has been Library Director for the Caldwell County Public Library since 2009. Prior to that, she served as Youth Services & Technology Librarian in the same system for five years. She has previous experience at the Anne Arundel County Library in Maryland and at Athens Technical College in Georgia.

Greene grew up in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree in French & Economics at the University of Tennessee at Martin and a Master in Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Ms. Greene holds numerous certifications and is a member of the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association where she served as the representative for all county library systems in 2014. In Caldwell County, she served on the Boards of Directors of Smart Start, Communities in Schools, the Education Foundation and the Arts Council.

Sarah Greene lives in Hickory and will begin her new position on July 13.
POWER OF BALLET

Four contestants showcase ballet en pointe

KATHERINE BURGESS
KBurgess@jacksonsun.com

Jacquelyn Crawford's costume sparkled as she danced ballet en pointe to "Via Dolorosa" at the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant Wednesday night.

"I never feel more beautiful than when I'm dancing," said Crawford, Miss Kingsport.

Crawford is from Church Hill and attends Alice Lloyd College. She is one of four contestants performing ballet as their talent.

"Via Dolorosa" tells the story of Christ's crucifixion, Crawford said.

"That's probably one of the most powerful messages to send," Crawford said. "Especially with the music and the dancing, it can be very emotional. It's amazing how ballet — ballet — can be powerful."

Crawford said she choreographed the dance herself and had to practice on a racquetball court, since she cannot attend dance classes while in school. Her mother sent her to dance classes when she was three years old. Crawford said her mother started a dance team while in high school, but failed to make the team when it came to tryouts.

Because of this, she determined that her daughter would learn to dance, Crawford said. Since then, Crawford has learned tap, jazz and lyrical, but said ballet is her favorite.

"I'm just excited to showcase talent and really bring recognition to ballet, because you don't see it a lot," Crawford said.

Rather than choosing a song, Brady Boyd, Miss Capital City, danced to the spoken word piece, "To This Day."

Boyd, who attends the University of Memphis and is from Memphis, said she does not consider herself a "typical ballerina." Because of this, she wanted something unusual that would fit her per-

See PAGEANT, Page A7
sonality.
The original version of the spoken word piece is about eight minutes and tells stories of overcoming bullying and other struggles.

Boyd selected a segment that tells of a woman who was bullied from childhood because of her appearance and does not know that her children's "definition of beauty begins with the word 'mom.'"

"It really sends a message of how we perceive people," Boyd said. "We're not what people say we are. You can overcome anything."

Boyd said she hoped the dance would be perceived as different and genuine.

"It really was a true reflection of how that song made me feel, and I really hope other people felt the way I did when I first heard it," she said.

For Courtney Caton, Miss Mid South, Wednesday's talent competition was a chance to showcase 14 years of dance. She danced to "Palladio."

Caton is from Huntingdon and attends the University of Tennessee at Martin.

When she was crowned 10 months ago, Caton began working on her dance and making sure she had the perfect outfit — a red costume encrusted in bright jewels.

Catton said she was glad to see several ballerinas competing in this year's pageant.

"I love it," she said. "It's a true art form that has kept its rich tradition throughout the years."

Katherine Tubb, Miss Banana Pudding Festival, was the last ballet dancer to perform, dancing to "Comptine D'un Autree, t: L'apruces Midi" Thursday night.

Tubb, who attends Motlow State Community College and is from McMinnville, began ballet at age 3.

As a child, she told her mother, "I want to dance on my toes, Mama."

She began pointe at age 12, falling in love with ballet as she watched the Nutcracker every Christmas. This Christmas she will return to her old studio to perform as the Snow Queen in the Nutcracker, she said.

Before dancing in the scholarship pageant, Tubb practiced regularly and often fell asleep listening to her music. "I've done everything I can possibly think of," she said.

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748. Follow her on Twitter: @kathiburgess
Miss Scenic City Hannah Robison Wins Miss Tennessee Talent Preliminary
Friday, June 19, 2015 - by Wendy King

http://www.chattanoogan.com/

Miss Scenic City Hannah Robison thanks the audience after her talent winning performance of "El Cubanchero" at Thursday's second round of the Miss Tennessee Pageant preliminaries in Jackson
- photo by Earl Neikirk

Miss Scenic City Hannah Robison's piano performance of "El Cubanchero" was rewarded with the talent award at Thursday's second round of preliminaries at the Miss Tennessee Pageant in Jackson.

The 21-year-old senior majoring in Chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Martin and Paris resident becomes a frontrunner for the title and the accompanying $18,000 scholarship which will be awarded Saturday evening as well as the second consecutive winner from the Scenic City Pageants franchise which sponsors the Scenic City, Chattanooga and Tennessee Valley titles. The outgoing Miss Tennessee Hayley Lewis was the Tennessee Valley representative when she won the state crown a year ago.

Miss Robison, who promotes the Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness since several of her relatives have been diagnosed with the disease, is competing at the state level for the second time. In 2013 as Miss Tennessee Valley she was the second runner-up.

The aspiring Organic Chemistry professor is also active in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiative and has presented STEM programs at Children's Miracle Network hospitals statewide.

Six of the 36 contestants including Ms. Robison are representing and/or are from the Chattanooga area - Miss Chattanooga Stephanie McKain, Miss Dogwood Festival Rachel Holder of Birchwood, Miss East Tennessee Lexi White of Harrison, Miss Rocky Top MerylAnne Dexter from Signal Mountain and Miss Tennessee Valley Sydney Shadrix.

The final round of preliminaries will be held Friday night and the top 16 including the People's Choice winner (http://wp.misstennessee.org/peoplechoice/) will compete for the crown on Saturday. The pageant is being webstreamed at www.epiustv6.com.

Talent winner Miss Scenic City Hannah Robison (left) and swimsuit winner Miss Nashville Hannah Bobinger (right) take their victory walks after the conclusion of the second round of Miss Tennessee Pageant preliminaries on Thursday in Jackson
- Photo2 by Earl Neikirk
Miss Scenic City Hannah Robison was a triple award winner on Friday at the Miss Tennessee Pageant when she won the swimsuit preliminary, was named the recipient of the State Quality of Life Award for excellence in community service and became the first Tennessee local titleholder to receive the Duke of Edinburgh USA gold medal for physical fitness, leadership and volunteering.

The senior chemistry major at the University of Tennessee at Martin is this year's only double preliminary winner after receiving the talent award on Thursday for her piano presentation of "El Cumbanchero" and would become the second consecutive Scenic City Pageants titleholder to be named Miss Tennessee and the third in four years at tonight's finals starting at 9pm ET on www.eplusv6.com. Ms. Robison's winning Quality of Life platform is the Campaign Against Pain focusing on arthritis awareness which directly affects several members of her family and she received a $1,000 scholarship.

Miss Chattanooga Stephanie McKain was awarded the Miss America State Academic Award and a $1,000 scholarship plus the Duke of Edinburgh silver medal. She is a graduate student at Middle Tennessee State University where she is pursuing her Masters in Business Administration.

Miss Tennessee Valley Sydney Shadrix and Miss Dogwood Festival Rachel Holder received Duke of Edinburgh bronze medals.

The top 16 finalists will advance to tonight's final round of competition where they will compete in swimsuit before the field narrows to 12 for talent followed by the top 10 in evening wear. The top five will then answer on-stage questions to determine the order of finish.

The new Miss Tennessee will receive an $18,000 scholarship and represent the state at the Miss America Pageant in September. The successor to the 2014 winner and former Miss Tennessee Valley Hayley Lewis will serve as the Governor's Official Spokesperson for Character Education and as a Children's Miracle Network Goodwill Ambassador.
Hannah Robison, Miss Scenic City, is crowned Miss Tennessee 2015 Saturday evening.

Hannah Robison watched pageant as a girl, actively pursued crown for three years before her win.

Miss Scenic City Hannah Robison was crowned Miss Tennessee 2015 after a week of evening gowns and playing piano alongside 35 other contestants.

"I'm just so blessed and honored to have won and represent the 35 women who competed with me," Robison said.

Robison, 21, is from Paris and is a senior at UT Martin, pursuing a major in chemistry and a minor in psychology. Her platform is Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness.

She won both her lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit preliminary as well as her talent preliminary for a piano performance of "El Cumbanchero."

She said she has actively pursued the crown for the past three years, although she also watched the pageant as a little girl.

Robison said she looked forward to serv-
Crown
Continued from Page A1

ing as the official character education spokesperson for Gov. Bill Haslam, and that she was eager to meet children across the state.

"I just want to be a good example for them," Robison said. "I know that every kid Hayley talked to, they looked up to her so much and I just want kids to be able to look up to me the way they looked up to her."

After the Iris Princesses and Miss Tennessee 2014 Hayley Lewis opened the show Saturday night, the pageant turned to eliminations, first narrowing the contestants to a top 15 in addition to one People’s Choice winner, then down to the recipient of the crown.

Grace Burgess, Miss Tipton County, was first runner-up, receiving a scholarship of $8,750. Burgess, 21, is a senior at University of Memphis studying child development. Her platform was “Ready, Set, Read!: Encouraging a Love for Reading” and her talent was a vocal performance of “Desperado.”

Christine Williamson, Miss Smoky Mountains, was second runner-up receiving a scholarship of $7,000. Williamson, 19, is a sophomore at the University of Mississippi studying broadcast journalism. Her platform was “We Can’t Forget the Families” and her talent was a vocal performance of “Ghost.”

The third runner-up was Cassidy Sheppard, Miss Lexington, receiving a scholarship of $5,000. Sheppard, 21, is from Milan and is a senior at Union University where she studies business marketing. Her platform was “Mentoring Matters — Fill in the Gap.” For her talent, she sang “Bring Him Home” from Les Miserables.

The fourth runner-up was Stephanie McKain, Miss Chattanooga, receiving a $4,000 scholarship. McKain, 23, is a graduate student at Middle Tennessee State University studying business administration. Her platform was “Closets of Love” and her talent was “Bumble Boogie” on the piano.

Members of the top 10 were Hannah Bobinger, Miss Nashville; Meryl Anne Dexter, Miss Rocky Top; Aria Stiles, Miss Music City; Jaclyn Torrento, Miss Henderson County; and Madison Snipes, Miss Memphis.

This was the first year that the winner of the People’s Choice vote remained in the competition after preliminary nights. The People’s Choice winner was Madison Snipes, Miss Memphis.

The top 16 competed in swimsuit before being narrowed down to 12. The top 12 contestants then performed their talents. Three played piano, one played violin, one tap danced and the rest sang.

Caty Davis, Miss Knoxville, and Kayla Neikirk, Miss John-

MEGAN SMITH/THE JACKSON SUN
Miss Hayley Lewis tears up Saturday as she waves to the crowd during the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson.

son City, did not advance from the top 12.

After the evening gown competition, the five candidates left answered interview questions involving presidential candidates, the best strategy to combat ISIS recruitment and gun control.

A non-finalist interview award was also given to Brady Boyd, Miss Capital City. Katherine McGrath, Miss Middle Tennessee State University, received the Miss Congeniality award.

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748. Follow her on Twitter: @kathsburgess
Hannah Robison, Miss Scenic City, is crowned Miss Tennessee 2015 Saturday evening.
JACKSON, Tenn. (WKRN) – A new Miss Tennessee was crowned Saturday night in Jackson, almost two hours northeast of Memphis.


The Henry County native said she worked for three years to get that moment.

"I competed in local, didn't win. I competed in another local and didn't win, but it was so much fun and in my third local, I won."
Robison won the title of Miss Scenic City, which brought her to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship pageant.

She spoke to the station Sunday morning about participating in Miss America in September and said, "I don’t think it’s fully set in."

Robison’s platform is the Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness and she performed “El Cumbanchero” on the piano for her talent.

Robison, 21, is a senior at The University of Tennessee at Martin studying chemistry and already knows how she wants to use her crown to inspire other Tennesseans, according to WBBJ.

“Something I really want to focus on as my year of Miss TN would be STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. It’s something I feel is very important today. I feel like our youth are growing up in a time where our future jobs haven’t even been discovered," she explained.

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**UTM student crowned Miss Tennessee, competes for Miss America in September**

Posted on June 22, 2015 by Steve James in Local News

A UT-Martin student and Paris native was crowned the new Miss Tennessee Saturday night.

21-year-old Hannah Robison entered Saturday night’s pageant as Miss Scenic City was also the 2014 UT-Martin Homecoming Queen.

The new Miss Tennessee is in her senior year at UTM, where she’s currently pursuing a major in chemistry with a minor in psychology.

Miss Robison hopes to raise arthritis awareness through her efforts as the new Miss Tennessee.

Earlier in the week, Miss Robison won the lifestyle and fitness categories in the swimsuit preliminary and the talent preliminary.

Robison was among three UTM students competing in this year’s Miss Tennessee Pageant, with Shelby Dotson competing at Miss UT-Martin, and Courtney Caton as Miss Mid-South.

Carson Rooney was also representing the city of Martin as Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

Miss Tennessee runners-up included: First Runner-Up Miss Tipton County Grace Burgess, Second Runner-Up Miss Smoky Mountains Christine Williamson, Third Runner-Up Miss Lexington and the daughter of former Miss America Kellye Cash Sheppard, Cassidy Sheppard, and Fourth Runner-Up Miss Chattanooga Stephanie McKain.

Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison now moves on to compete in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City in September.
MISS TENNESSEE LOOKS AHEAD

Paris native Hannah Robison wants to inspire, and change lives

MARCANA FARIS
mfaris@jacksonsun.com

Hannah Robison’s dream of becoming Miss Tennessee became reality on Saturday night after competing in pageants since she was 12 years old.

“My sisters actually dreamed about this,” Robison said, her crown neatly pinned into her hair on Sunday morning. “My sisters came down and were like, ‘You’re really Miss Tennessee. You woke up and you’re still Miss Tennessee.’”

Robison, a Paris native and former Miss Scenic City, won the pageant on her second attempt. The University of Tennessee at Martin student said she took some time off from pageants in order to work on her degree. She said she knew she could not compete in the pageant and handle her senior-level classes at the same time.

“I have 17 hours left,” the 21-year-old chemistry major said, a smile across her face.

Outside of pageants, Robison divides her time between classwork in the chemistry lab, and exercising. “I enjoy playing soccer, being active outside and exercising,” she said. “That’s something I do a lot when I’m not studying or in the research lab.”

Robison won the preliminary competitions for swimsuit, and talent — a piano performance of “El Cumbanchero.”

Robison said she has been playing piano since she was seven, but it was a love she learned from her sister. “My older sister, Leah, actually played piano ever since I was little,” she said. “Once I got old enough, my parents allowed me to take lessons.”

Robison said she had no idea who would be cheering her on in the audience during the four nights of the pageant. Her mom and sister, Rachel, had made all the ticket arrangements for family and friends.

“I had so many people come. I wasn’t sure who had gotten tickets and who was coming,” she said. “Looking up in my section and seeing so many people there was really encouraging throughout the week.”

Robison said she hopes to inspire children to participate in science and engineering courses. “Something I really want to focus on in my year as Miss Tennessee is STEM education,” she said. “I think it’s important for our children to get involved in science, technology, engineering and mathematics classes at a
young age."

She said she also hopes to continue promoting her platform, "Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness," and teach children three aspects of responsibility — for yourself, for your community and for others.

Robison has had several family members who have battled arthritis, including a great-aunt who died from rheumatoid arthritis. She said she hopes teaching children about responsibility will help raise awareness for the disease and personal health.

"It's a disease that people have to live with every day and it's chronic pain," she said. "We have a responsibility for ourselves, and I think that's where I could talk about my platform — taking care of your health, eating healthy, and exercising can prevent arthritis in the future."

Robison said she hopes to inspire children and change lives during her year as Miss Tennessee. "I hope to know that I helped children and know that I changed their lives," she said.

Allison DeMarcus, the assistant executive director of the pageant, said Robison will inspire children across the state. "She's such an outstanding young woman," she said. "She's a smart young woman and has lived her life with a character worthy of being a role model for school children."

Robison said she will continue her training with Steve Roten at Gold's Gym Jackson to prepare for the Miss America pageant in September.

Reach Maranda at (731) 425-9657. Follow her on Twitter: @MarandaFaris
Henry County native Hannah Robison was crowned Miss Tennessee 2015 Saturday night in Jackson.

Robison, the daughter of Pam and Rusty Robison of Buchanan, competed with 35 other contestants in the pageant.

"I'm just so blessed and honored to have won and represent the 35 women who competed with me," Robison told The Jackson Sun.

Robison, 21, is a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, pursuing a major in chemistry and a minor in psychology.

She was in the pageant by virtue of winning the title of Miss Scenic City. Her platform is Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness.

She won both her lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit preliminary as well as her talent preliminary for a piano performance of "El Cumbanchero."

She said she has actively pursued the crown for the past three years. She was second runner-up two years ago.

Robison told The Sun she looked forward to serving as the official character education spokesman for Gov. Bill Haslam, and that she was eager to meet children across the state.

"I just want to be a good example for them," Robison said. "I know that every kid Hayley (Miss Tennessee 2014 Hayley Lewis) talked to, they looked up to her so much and I just want kids to be able to look up to me the way they looked up to her."

Robison told The Sun she has been playing the piano since she was seven years old.

Robison will advance now to the Miss America pageant at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, N.J.

That pageant will be at 3 p.m. Central time on Sept. 13. It will be televised nationally by ABC.
Local engineering student wins car giveaway

BY GLENN TANNER

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. Saturday afternoon.

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 they received in the 2014-15 school year allowing them to make one entry.

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

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.
UT Martin senior beauty crowned Miss Tennessee at annual pageant

Hannah Robison, a University of Tennessee at Martin senior, was crowned Miss Tennessee 2015 at the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant Saturday in Jackson.

Miss Robison of Paris is a chemistry major with a minor in psychology.

"I'm just so blessed and honored to have won and represent the 35 women who competed with me," she told The Jackson Sun.

She won both her lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit preliminary as well as her talent preliminary for a piano performance of "El Cumbanchero."

She said she has actively pursued the crown for the past three years and was second-runner-up two years ago.

She will receive an $18,000 scholarship in addition to the job title of Miss Tennessee, who serves as Gov. Bill Haslam's official spokesman for character education. She competed in this year's pageant as Miss Scenic City and uses her position as a titleholder to promote her personal platform "Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness."

Miss Robison told The Sun she looked forward to serving as the official character education spokesman for the governor, and that she was eager to meet children across the state.

"I just want to be a good example for them," she said. "I know that every kid Hayley (Miss Tennessee 2014 Hayley Lewis) talked to, they looked up to her so much and I just want kids to be able to look up to me the way they looked up to her."

Miss Robison was one of three UT Martin students to compete for this year's title. Courtney Caton, a junior marketing and business management double major of Huntingdon, competed as Miss MidSouth. Her platform is the March of Dimes Foundation, which seeks to promote stronger, healthier babies and pregnancies.

Shelby Dotson, a junior elementary education major of Rutherford, represented the university as Miss UT Martin. She uses her position to support Relay for Life. Miss Dotson was recognized by the pageant judges as one of five non-finalists whose performance in the preliminary rounds deserved honorary mention.

Miss Robison will advance to the Miss America Pageant, held Sept. 13 in Atlantic City, N.J. She joins Union City resident Linda Workman Shumate (1967), Elise Neal Davis (1979) and Valli Kugler Kelly (2002) as the fourth UT Martin student to claim the Miss Tennessee title.

Blount students attend Governor's School

http://www.thedailytimes.com/

6/23/2015

Laney Markham, of Maryville High School, Aidan Galloway, of HomeLife Academy, and Brenna Tipton, of William Blount High School, are among the 56 students attending the Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin this month.

The four-week program includes high school juniors and seniors from across the state who have been selected to participate based on academic achievements, writing skills, school and community service, and the recommendations of high school principals, counselors and teachers.

As part of the program, students take two courses for college credit and participate in afternoon seminars specially designed to challenge "the best and the brightest" students in Tennessee.
JACKSON, Tenn. (WKRN) – A new Miss Tennessee was crowned Saturday night in Jackson, almost two hours northeast of Memphis.

According to ABC affiliate WBBJ, Hannah Robison took the crown for Miss Tennessee 2015 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center.

The Henry County native said she worked for three years to get that moment.

"I competed in local, didn't win. I competed in another local and didn't win, but it was so much fun and in my third local, I won."

Robison won the title of Miss Scenic City, which brought her to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship pageant.

She spoke to the station Sunday morning about participating in Miss America in September and said, "I don't think it's fully set in."
Robison’s platform is the Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness and she performed “El Cumbanchero” on the piano for her talent.

Robison, 21, is a senior at The University of Tennessee at Martin studying chemistry and already knows how she wants to use her crown to inspire other Tennesseans, according to WBBJ.

“Something I really want to focus on as my year of Miss TN would be STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. It’s something I feel is very important today. I feel like our youth are growing up in a time where our future jobs haven’t even been discovered,” she explained.

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Local residents receive degrees from UTM

Martin, Tenn. - Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent spring commencement held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UTM campus. Students receiving undergraduate degrees were: Kristen Lynne Allen and Chry-styna Marie Childress of Bradford, Jonathan Lance Fisher, Kelly Ann Parks, Amber Fawn Simmons and Sean Tyler Stephens of Dyer, Lauren Rachelle Barkley of Gibson, Douglass Grant Hunderup of Humboldt, Robert Lane Mullins of Idlewild, James Kendrick Hardin of Mason Hall, Dylan William Brown, Samantha Paige Clark and Heather Nichole Torrance of Medina, Lucas Cameron Denton, Genevive Nichole Harman, Eric Dale Ivy, Jacob Andrew Joyner, Ryan D. Mathis, Sarah Elizabeth Mulcahy, Zachary A. Sutton and Rebecca Ann Szopinski of Milan, Clay Robert Brewer of Rutherford, and Zachary J. Barker, Cal Doyle Crenshaw, Bethany Carol Crockett, Holly L. Dunnagan, Whitley Ann Forester, Niki Lynn Hensley, Abigail Ruth Tucker and Hannah Leigh Wallsmit of Trenton.

Students receiving graduate degrees were: Amanda M. Waldon of Dyer, Kimberly Boswell White or Humboldt and Misty Autry Lewis and Cassie Marie Miller of Milan.

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Henry County Native Hannah Robison is Miss Tennessee

Hannah Robison, a Henry County native and a University of Tennessee at Martin senior was crowned Miss Tennessee 2015 at the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant on June 20 in Jackson. Robison, of Buchanan Resort on the Kentucky Lake, is a chemistry major with a minor in psychology. She hopes to receive an advanced degree and teach at the college level.

She won two preliminary rounds: swimsuit and talent for her piano performance of “EL Cumbanchero.” She was crowned by Hayley Lewis, 2014 Miss Tennessee.

Robison will receive an $18,000 scholarship in addition to the job title of Miss Tennessee, who serves as Gov. Bill Haslam’s official spokesperson for character education. She competed in this year’s pageant as Miss Scenic City and uses her position as a titleholder to promote her personal platform “Campaign See HANNAH on Page 3
Hannah

...From Front Page

Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness.

Robison is the 21-year-old daughter of Rusty and Pam Robison. Rusty is a Gleason native and the manager of Buchanan Resort. She is the granddaughter of the late Buddy Robison, a pharmacist at Gleason City Drugs, and Bobbye Robison, a long-time associate of the Bank of Gleason. Mr. Robison was a 1953 graduate of McKenzie High School.

“Hannah is really pretty and really smart,” said Bobbye, who acknowledged that she is a typical grandmother.

Bobbye Robison said she never dreamed of being able to watch a Miss Tennessee pageant in person. It was extra special to see her granddaughter compete and win. Bobbye had plenty of company from family and friends who made the journey to Jackson to watch Hannah.

Hannah competed in the Miss Tennessee pageant in 2013 as Miss Tennessee Valley and earned the distinction of second runner up. She did not compete in 2014.

The new Miss Tennessee and her mom, Pam have been running non-stop since the pageant, said Bobbye. They are doing interviews and preparing for the upcoming year of traveling and representing the Governor. She will be provided a car and wardrobe during her year as the representative of Tennessee. She will also compete in the Miss America pageant.

Hannah resides at the family-owned Buchanan Resort. She has two older sisters, Leah of Nashville, and Rachel, a recent UT-Martin graduate.

She is related to Tom and Kim Wilson. Kim is a cousin to Hannah’s mom, Pam. Tom and his brother, Andy, operate the family-owned Carroll County Lumber Company in McKenzie.

Robison was one of three UT Martin students to compete for this year’s title. Courtney Caton, a junior marketing and business management double major from Huntingdon, competed as Miss MidSouth. Her platform was the March of Dimes Foundation, which seeks to promote stronger, healthier babies and pregnancies.

Shelby Dotson, a junior elementary education major from Rutherford, represented the university as Miss UT Martin. She uses her position to support Relay for Life. Dotson was recognized by the pageant judges as one of five non-finalists whose performance in the preliminary rounds deserved honorary mention.

Robison will advance to the Miss America Pageant, held Sept. 13 in Atlantic City, N.J. She joins Linda Workman Shumate (1967), Elise Neal Davis (1979) and Vallery Kugler Kelly (2002) as the fourth UT Martin student to claim the Miss Tennessee title.

Hannah Robison performed at the 2014 Southern Fried Food and Sweet Tea Festival in McKenzie.
Hannah Robison, a University of Tennessee at Martin senior, was crowned Miss Tennessee 2015 at the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant on Saturday in Jackson. Robison, of Paris, is a chemistry major with a minor in psychology.

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DEAN EMERITUS HAROLD SMITH VISITS — Dr. Harold Smith (seated left), professor emeritus of animal science and dean emeritus, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, recently joined former colleagues for lunch in the Brehm Hall conference room that bears his name. The visit included a tour of the university’s Agricultural and Natural Resources Teaching Complex and plenty of reminiscing during lunch. Joining Dean Smith were (from left) Dr. Jerry Gresham, professor emeritus of animal science; Harry Henderson, retired superintendent, Martin Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. Todd Winters, dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Dr. Al Smith, professor emeritus of horticulture; Richard Shadden, professor emeritus of agricultural engineering; Dr. Bobby Hathcock, professor emeritus of plant science; and Dr. Wes Totten, interim department chair, Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. More about Dean Smith, a decorated Navy pilot for his service during World War II, can be found in the summer/fall 2012 edition of Campus Scene, UT Martin's alumni magazine. Search “Campus Scene” at www.utm.edu and then select “archived issues” on the Campus Scene page to find the online magazine.
Town & Gown Association receives accreditation

Ivory Tower of Power performs Thursday evening

By CAMERON GRAHAM
Special to The Press

While summer is relatively a relaxing time for surrounding neighbors and friends, the Town and Gown Association of Martin has been quite busy in further developments throughout the city, as well as their own organization. Having recently attended the International Town and Gown Association Conference at George Washington University in Washington D.C., the Martin chapter of this unique and prestigious conglomerate has officially been accredited.

Brad Thompson and Lisha Tuck were the attendees to represent the group and underwent the necessary coursework to meet the qualifications and certification. The theme for the conference was bringing college and communities together across the globe, a relevant discussion to the Martin community.

"The certificate program allowed us to network with and learn from counterparts in other communities around the country that are working to improve Town and Gown relations," Tuck said.

Following up after the conference, the advisory committee for Martin’s Town and Gown Association met to discuss future strategies for the betterment of the overall Martin atmosphere. The strategic plan, also a requirement of the aforementioned accreditation process, is of considerable value in which the organization plans to hold true to. With a new member of the UT Martin leadership, Chancellor Bob Smith, in attendance, fresh and exciting ideas are in the works.

“He (Chancellor Smith) is a community minded and oriented person, and we definitely want him at the helm of the ship guiding our way, along with the mayor,” Thompson said.

The meeting with the advisory committee proved to be a successful endeavor with setting and achieving goals being the central topic.

The Piloted Internship Program was of the first discussions in which internship surveys were sent out to members of the Martin Business Association for further and ongoing improvements in that particular realm of local efforts. The second goal was to establish a clearing house for events. The city’s and Martin Business Association’s calendars have been combined to bring a much more simple, yet versatile schedule for present and future Martin area events. Continuing discussions are in the works for UT Martin to collaborate with the combined calendar.

SEE MARTIN, PAGE 2

MARTIN
FROM PAGE 1

However, it can already be viewed from the Martin Business Association app from one’s smartphone or on their respective websites, as well as the City of Martin’s webpage.

"Many people may not be fully aware of the events that are going on, and this was one of the primary issues we wanted to address with our advisory committee to facilitate better access and awareness," Thompson said.

Though the administrative labor in Town and Gown is enough to fill the platter for their organization, they also want to promote "playing hard" in addition to working hard. To represent that ideal, local concerts have recently been held on Thursday nights, and this week proves to be an exciting show for all. This Thursday there will be a highly anticipated performance by none other than local musicians of the UT Martin faculty and students. Performing under the name of “Ivory Tower of Power,” they are hoping to bring groovy tunes to Festival Park in Martin with funk music being their forte in the musical performance. Under the direction of Dr. Julie Hill, the group hopes to bring a force of positive energy to unite the city of Martin for a time of sheer fun. The starting time for this concert will be 7:30 p.m., and all who are interested are encouraged to attend.

"Bring a lawn chair, bring a friend, bring a picnic, and come on out to enjoy the night," Thompson said. "Community building and celebration are what events like these are all about."
'Small Town, Big Sound'

By CLAY SMITH
The Press

In Memphis or Nashville, you can almost throw a rock in any direction and hit a musician or someone in the music business. Most people think that those areas have the only major concentrations of musicians in the state, but Keegan Paluso contests that this is not the case. While a Music Education major at UTM, Paluso saw that there were a lot of great musicians in Martin and in Northwest Tennessee, and he conceived a way for them to all get together, make an album, and help musicians in the area get connected. The result of this endeavor is the album Small Town, Big Sound, which was just completed at the Bronze Studio in Soleli Garden Center last week.

This is the second edition of the album to be recorded; the first was recorded last summer. The album will feature 14 original songs, all written and recorded by local musicians. Nearly every genre of music is featured on the album, including: rock, folk, country, jazz, blues, classical, and soul. There are almost too many instruments to count on the record.

"We’ve got drums, guitar, piano, bass, even clarinet and steel drums," says Paluso.

"There are towns all over the country that are really these musical gold mines," said Paluso. "When I went to school here, I was a music major, and I knew all these fantastic musicians here that were music majors. Then, I started playing gigs in the area and found even more amazing musicians that no one really knows about. I sort of had a problem with that. I emailed Micah (Barnes) who owns this recording studio, and told him about my idea to make an album with area musicians. That's how the project was born."

"We’ve recorded from 9 to 5 every day this week, and then I'd go back home and write songs till about 1 a.m," said Paluso. "So, I really haven’t slept this week, but it’s been great."

"The overall goal is to help working musicians gain exposure, but also, to help them receive royalties. There's a big problem in the music industry today with paying people for their work. Exposure is great, but at some point, exposure doesn't put food on the table. All of the writers will receive royalties as well as the exposure that they'll get from being on this album."

The album will likely be released in November or December of this year. Paluso began playing drums on his own in 8th grade. During high school, he joined the school band and began to write songs.

"I’ve always had band to help me learn how to be a disciplined musician, and I’ve always had rock music to kind of provide me the fun, less formal side of music. I like to put the two together," said Paluso. "The same thing happened when I started school in Martin; I was a music major, but I also began to play local shows as well. I've always tried to meld the formal and informal sides of music together. It’s always seemed strange to me how separate something like a rock concert and a classical performance are, because really, it's all music. This past week has been a prime example of tearing down those walls; we’ve had a huge mix of indie musicians who have zero formal training and music majors who know the technical side to a tee. They compliment each other so well. The music majors have the know-how and the skill to bring music to life, and then the independent musicians aren’t afraid to just jump in and do awesome stuff."

Over 30 musicians, all from Northwest TN and Southwest KY are featured on the album. A majority of musicians on the record are either from Weakley County or go to UTM.

"We’re really trying to get community support behind this record," said Paluso. "This year, we’ve started a 'go fund me' project (www.gofundme.com/smalltownbigsound) and we would love for anyone who can to make whatever donation they can, so that we can continue this project for years to come."

The largest donation will receive a framed original art print of the album with signatures of everyone associated with the project. For information on the project, visit www.smalltownbigsound.wordpress.com.
FOR EDUCATION — Destinee Mayo (center), a 2015 graduate of South Fulton High School, recently received a $400 college scholarship from the Obion County-Union City Retired Teachers Association at its meeting at The Keg in Fulton. She was joined by (from left) her parents, Levi and Erin Griffith; association representative Sally Ferguson; and her father, Kenny Mayo. She plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall, majoring in elementary education.

RESIDENT RECOGNIZED — Laura Sanchez of Union City received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs recently. She is a senior management major. She was congratulated by Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean in the College of Business and Global Affairs.
STUDENT HONORED — Robert Terrell (right) of Union City recently received a Faculty Scholar Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. Terrell is a junior accounting major. He was congratulated by Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean in the College of Business and Global Affairs.

STUDENTS ‘SOAR’ — Carlos Easley (left) and Cody Easley, both of Union City, participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration activities recently. Students accepted to begin in the fall 2015 semester registered for classes and heard presentations on financial aid, housing and student life. The brothers graduated from Union City High School.
VISIT UT MARTIN — Abigail Simmons (left) of Union City recently participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration activities. Students accepted to begin in the fall 2015 semester registered for classes and heard presentations on financial aid, housing and student life. Miss Simmons graduated from Obion County Central High School and made the UT Martin visit with her mother, Stacey Reynolds.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE

June 24, 2015

UT Martin To Offer New Ag Focus Within MBA Program

Agricultural professionals and those aspiring to enter the world’s largest industry will have a new educational option at the University of Tennessee at Martin beginning in the fall 2015 semester. A new agriculture option will be offered through the UT Martin Master of Business Administration program, allowing students to combine the benefits of an MBA with specialized agribusiness coursework.

"[Students] will be getting the best of both worlds. They’ll get the traditional MBA training in finance and marketing and that sort of thing, but then they’ll also take specialized courses in risk management issues and other topics specialized for agriculture," said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and professor, Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. "This will be more of an applied field that is directly in their area."

Students will take the same core classes as those earning a traditional MBA degree, with the addition of 12 hours of directed coursework designed to focus on the domestic and international agribusiness industry. Those who complete the program will finish with a specialized degree and training in agricultural risk analysis, international trade, commodity features and project management issues in agribusiness.

A master’s degree program in agribusiness benefits working professionals in a variety of existing fields, including agricultural lending, crop protection, seed distribution and animal health. Coursework is available in either online or hybrid formats, meaning students may work at their own pace and on their own time.

Interested parties must meet the general admission requirements for the university’s MBA program, including sufficient GMAT scores, which can be found in the online catalog at http://catalog.utm.edu/. Classes for the fall 2015 semester begin August 24.
Hannah Robison Wins Miss Tennessee Scholarship Title

Beauty Queen has ties to Gleason, UT Martin

Hannah Robison, a Henry County native and a University of Tennessee at Martin senior was crowned Miss Tennessee 2015 at the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant on June 20 in Jackson. Robison, of Buchanan Resort on the Kentucky Lake, is a chemistry major with a minor in psychology. She hopes to receive an advanced degree and teach at the college level.

She won two preliminary rounds: swimsuit and talent for her piano performance of “EL Cumbanchero.” She was crowned by Hayley Lewis, 2014 Miss Tennessee.

Robison will receive an $18,000 scholarship in addition to the job title of Miss Tennessee, who serves as Gov. Bill Haslam’s official spokesperson for character education. She competed in this year’s pageant as Miss Scenic City and uses her position as a titleholder to promote her personal platform “Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness.”

Robison is the 21-year-old daughter of Rusty and Pam Robison. Rusty is a Gleason native and the manager of Buchanan Resort. She is the granddaughter of the late Buddy Robison, a pharmacist at Gleason City Drugs, and Bobbye Robison, a long-time associate of the Bank of Gleason. Mr. Robison was a 1953 graduate of McKenzie High School.

“Hannah is really pretty and really smart,” said Bobbye, who acknowledged that she is a typical grandmother.

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The new Miss Tennessee and her mom, Pam have been running non-stop since the pageant, said Bobbye. They are doing interviews and preparing for the upcoming year of traveling and representing the Governor. She will be provided a car and wardrobe during her year as the representative of Tennessee. She will also compete in the Miss America pageant.

Hannah resides at the family-owned Buchanan Resort. She has two older sisters, Leah of Nashville, and Rachel, a recent UT-Martin graduate.

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Shelby Dotson, a junior elementary education major from Rutherford, represented the university as Miss UT Martin. She uses her position to support Relay for Life. Dotson was recognized by the pageant judges as one of five non-finalists whose performance in the preliminary rounds deserved honorary mention.

Robison will advance to the Miss America Pageant, held Sept. 13 in Atlantic City, N.J. She joins Linda Workman Shumate (1967), Elise Neal Davis (1979) and Valli Kugler Kelly (2002) as the fourth UT Martin student to claim the Miss Tennessee title.
Weakley County Students Attend Governor’s School For Humanities

Don McDonald Jr., left, a homeschooled student; Hannah Simpson, of Westview High School, and Zander Alley, right, of Dresden High School, are among the 56 students attending the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin this month. The four-week program includes high school juniors and seniors from across the state who have been selected to participate based on academic achievements, writing skills, school and community service, and the recommendations of high school principals, counselors and teachers. As part of the program, students take two courses for college credit and participate in afternoon seminars specially designed to challenge “the best and the brightest” students in Tennessee.

Smith attends Governor’s School—Lauren Smith, a student at Peabody High School, is one of 56 students attending the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin this month. The four-week program includes high school juniors and seniors from across the state who have been selected to participate based on academic achievements, writing skills, school and community service, and the recommendations of high school principals, counselors and teachers. As part of the program, students take two courses for college credit and participate in afternoon seminars specially designed to challenge “the best and the brightest” students in Tennessee.
UTM SUMMER MUSIC CAMP - The University of Tennessee at Martin, Department of Music hosted a five-day Summer Music Camp July 8-12 for middle school band students. Trenton Rosenwald Middle School had twenty, seventh and eighth grade band students attend the camp along with band students from other Gibson County area schools as well as Carroll County, Henry County, Obion County, Dyer County and Weakley County. All students participated in daily instruction that included music theory, rhythm study, class piano, jazz improvisation, chamber music ensembles, Master classes for their instrument and concert band rehearsal. Attendees from Trenton Rosenwald Middle School are (first row, from left) Jessica Phillips, Chloe Shelton, Abby Miller, Anna Nowell, Emma Ingram; (second row) Colson Anglin, Marleigh Malone, Christian Doss, Zachary Fry, Jacob Cross; (third row) Josi Greene, Cadence Horner, Thor Hollingsworth, Deacon Butler, Brandon Swift, Shania Lee; (fourth row) Holly Woods, Luke Fesmire, Seth Hinson and Zac Weaver.
KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (WVLT) - The cost to attend the University of Tennessee is again going up.

The UT Board of Trustees approved a 3-percent undergraduate tuition for UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin.

In-state undergraduate annual tuition increases from Fiscal Year 2015 to Fiscal Year 2016 are as follows:

UT Knoxville:
- Admitted before Fall 2013: $8,766 to $9,028, increase of $262
- Admitted in Fall 2013, Spring 2014 or Summer 2014: $10,074 to $10,376, increase of $302
- Admitted in Fall 2014 or later: $10,366 to $10,678, increase of $312

UT Chattanooga
- $6,430 to $6,624, increase of $194

UT Martin
- $6,716 to $6,918, increase of $202

"This tuition increase follows our 3-3-0 model we have been discussing for nearly a year now. This year, we are pleased that state appropriations were strong," UT President Joe 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 increased support but also plan for difficult budget circumstances in the future."

This is the lowest tuition increase for UT-Knoxville since 1997.

The board approved a six-percent in tuition increase last year.
The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees on Thursday approved raising tuition by 3 percent for the upcoming academic year, the system's smallest annual tuition hike in more than 30 years.

The board unanimously approved the tuition hikes, which were included in the system's 2015-16 budget, at its summer meeting in Knoxville. The budget also included $24.6 million for faculty and staff raises at UT campuses and centers across the state.

UT System President Joe DiPietro said the relatively low increase was made possible by a $24.4 million boost in state funding this year along with campus efforts to cut costs and create additional revenue.

Despite more robust support this year, state funding of higher education has followed a downward trend for several years, pushing the universities to rely more and more on tuition as revenue.

In 2006, tuition and student fees accounted for 33 percent of UT's revenue, according to university data. Tuition now accounts for half of UT's revenue.

DiPietro has bemoaned that emerging model, and in February urged campus leaders in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis to fix their "unsustainable slash broken budget model." To meet that challenge, he said, the chancellors could boost out-of-state enrollment, shutter programs that aren't profitable and offer optional retirement buyouts for some employees.

The board on Thursday approved the UT Institute of Agriculture's request to offer a retirement incentive plan. It was the second such plan approved for the system in six months.

"We have to keep fixing these problems ourselves," DiPietro said Thursday after the board meeting. "We're just running the place a different way."

Tennessee's other public college system, the Tennessee Board of Regents, also approved historically low tuition increases this month for Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee State University and Austin Peay State University, among other colleges. Like DiPietro, TBR leaders have attributed the action to increased state funding and cost-saving measures.

Reach Adam Tamburin at 615-726-5986 and on Twitter @tamburintweets.

### Tuition changes by campus

#### UT Knoxville

Admitted before fall 2013: $8,766 to $9,028, increase of $262

Admitted in fall 2013, spring 2014 or summer 2014: $10,074 to $10,376, increase of $302

Admitted in fall 2014 or later: $10,366 to $10,678, increase of $312

#### UT Chattanooga

$5,430 to $5,624, increase of $194

#### UT Martin

$6,716 to $6,918, increase of $202
University of Tennessee approves lowest system-wide tuition increase in over 30 years

WATE 6 On Your Side Staff
Published: June 25, 2015, 3:28 pm

KNOXVILLE (WATE) – The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees Thursday approved a 3 percent tuition increase, which it says is the lowest percentage increase in more than 30 years.

Undergraduate tuition will increase by 3 percent at all three campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin as part of the $2.13 billion budget for the 2016 fiscal year. The last time all three campuses increased tuition by 3 percent was in 1983.

Officials say the minimal increase is due to an increase of $24.4 million in state support and the university’s efforts to secure a sustainable long-term business model.
"This tuition increase follows our 3-3-0 model we have been discussing for nearly a year now. This year, we are pleased that state appropriations were strong," UT President Joe 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 increased support but also plan for difficult budget circumstances in the future."

The increases amount to an increase of $194 in tuition at UT Chattanooga, an increase of $362 for UT Knoxville students admitted before fall 2013, an increase of $302 for students admitted in fall 2013, spring 2014 or summer 2014, an increase of $312 for students admitted in fall 2014 or later, and an increase of $202 at UT Martin.

The board of trustees approved a 6 percent increase in 2014.

The board also paid tribute to former president Dr. Ed Boling who passed away earlier this month, voted to name the planned science building at Cumberland and 13th Street the Ken and Blaire Mossman building and to rename the Black Cultural Center the Frieson Black Culture Center for twin brothers and alumni Ron and Don Frieson, among other items.
MISS TN 2015 CROWNED

Miss Scenic City Hannah Robison of Paris, Tennessee, is crowned the winner as this year's Miss Tennessee 2015 at the Jackson Civic Center!

35 ladies from across the state of Tennessee competed all week in Jackson to be considered for the crown of Miss Tennessee! Robison, 21, is from Paris, Tennessee and is a senior at UT Martin. She is pursuing a major in chemistry.

Her platform is Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness. She won both her lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit preliminary as well as her talent for the piano performance of "El Cumbanchero."

Robison says she's looking forward to serving as Miss Tennessee and also serving as the official education spokesman for Governor Bill Haslam, as she's eager to meet children across the state.

The top five contestants were: Hannah Bobinger Miss Nashville, Meryl Anne Dexter Miss Rocky Top, Aria Stiles Miss Music City, Jaclyn Torrento Miss Henderson County, and Madison Snipes Miss Memphis.

By: Amanda Warf

The UTM Parsons Campus had 40 graduates this year. Since opening in fall of 2008 they have had 223 graduates with this year's class being the biggest yet. Pictured from left to right: Back row, Charley Deal-Alumni Office, Front row: Samantha Simpson, Brooklyn Black, Amanda Warf, Jim Ayers, Janet Ayers, Gail Rosson, Sherry Burton, Angela Gardner, Leanne Stanford and Dr. Kellie Decer-the center's director. Jim and Janet Ayers of the Ayers Foundation are recognized as one of the three large contributors of the UTM Parsons Campus.

"I speak not only for myself but for every Ayers Scholarship recipient, I am extremely grateful for the gift the Ayers gave, the gift of an education is a gift that cannot be lost or stolen it is a gift that lasts a lifetime," says graduate Amanda Warf.

"Jim and I are so proud of all of the graduates of the UTM Parsons Campus, including the Ayers Scholars, and we were honored to help them celebrate their achievement," Janet Ayers said. The Parsons campus offers the following degrees: Psychology, Nursing, Interdisciplinary Studies, Criminal Justice and Education K-6.
UT Martin will offer eligible high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to take up to two dual enrollment courses at no additional cost during the 2015-16 academic year. Students must qualify for the Dual Enrollment Grant offered through the Tennessee Student Assistance Program.

**UTM offers free dual enrollment courses**

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 881-3089 or email dualenrollment@utm.edu.
MARTIN, Tenn. — A 1991 graduate of Spencer High School who grew up on a small dairy farm in the Clark County town of Sherman is up for a GRAMMY award.

OK, it's unlikely that you will see John Oelrich, 42, the director of bands and an associate professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin on MTV any time soon. But he's been named as a quarterfinalist for the 2016 Music Educator Award, which is bestowed by the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy.

Oelrich, a married father of two children, is one of 213 music teachers from 914 cities in 42 states who have been selected in the initial round of competition out of more than 4,500 music educators were nominated for the award.

The Music Educator Award was "established to recognize current educators (kindergarten through college, public and private schools) who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools," according to the GRAMMY in the Schools website.

"It's very flattering and very humbling," Oelrich said in a phone conversation from Martin. "There are literally thousands of other people who are just as deserving as I am of this kind of recognition. ... I just do my job the best I can, and try to always continually improve."

Oelrich has been at the University of Tennessee at Martin since 2012, and in addition to teaching college students, he works in the area of recruiting, visiting and working with nearly 30 high schools. And outside of his job, he founded in 2013 the Martin Community Band and he directs the group. It was the first time the small town in northwest Tennessee had a standing community band since 1913.

Of course music is important to Oelrich. "It's always been a passion for me. It's always been in my heart, in my soul," he said. "I love making music, of course. But I love using music to help people succeed."

The farm life gave him the foundation for success in music and in teaching, he said. "First of all ... there was the establishment of a really strong work ethic, about working hard until the job is done," Oelrich said. "And secondly, and maybe this is inborn, but I have a sense of empathy and caring for others. On the farm, for example, you took care of the animals before you took care of yourself."

The love for music got its start while Oelrich started tinkering around on a piano that was in his home as he grew up. His aunt gave him piano lessons. His commitment grew in high school, under the influence of Spencer high music teachers Randy and Diane Veale.

But when he graduated high school, he went into the field of engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. "It was something I was interested in and was good at, and I knew it paid well," Oelrich said.

But by his third year of college, he realized that music education would, in the long run, give him more satisfaction. He completed a bachelor's degree in instrumental and vocal music education at Platteville, then went on to study at the University of Northern Iowa and Ohio State University.

Music, he says, is a vehicle that can build community, give people confidence and help them understand that work and persistence pays off. "I just want to let my students know that if you have something in your heart, there are ways to make that happen. Finances and location don't need to be a limiting factor," he said.

Jonathan Vest, an associate professor and the chair of University of Tennessee at Martin's music department, said Oelrich is a worthy recipient of the GRAMMY award.

"Dr. Oelrich is an outstanding educator who has brought many years of public school teaching experience with him to UT Martin," Vest said. "His recognition by the GRAMMYs indicates his dedication to his students and to the field of music education."

Keith Uhlig can be reached at 715-845-0651 or at kuhlig@gannett.com. Find him on Facebook or on Twitter as @UhligK (http://www.twitter.com/uhligk).

To learn more
Find out more about the 2016 Music Educator Award, log onto www.grammyintheschools.com (http://www.grammyintheschools.com/).
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is donating one of its hospitals to Fayette County.

The hospital, Methodist Fayette, which shut down in March, will officially be given to the town of Somerville today. The property, located at 214 Lakeview Road, has an appraised value of $5 million, and will be converted into a multipurpose facility that will house an extended campus for the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Methodist Fayette was closed due to a decline in patient numbers and insurance reimbursements. The hospital operated at an annual shortfall of between $1 million and $1.5 million. A referendum that would increase sales tax in the area last year was voted down, leading Methodist to the decision to close the hospital.

"The donation of this building to the town of Somerville represents our commitment to this region of West Tennessee and our continued support of additional opportunities within the Mid-South," said William Kenley, vice president and CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Germantown Hospital. "We have had a long history in Somerville and Fayette County, as well as with various educational institutions throughout the region, so we are delighted to be working with UT Martin and the town of Somerville to improve the educational opportunities available to the residents of Fayette County and beyond."

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam will be in attendance at the official donation.
University of Tennessee approves 3 percent tuition increase

KNOXVILLE (AP) — The University of Tennessee board of trustees has approved a tuition increase for undergraduates of 3 percent at its three main campuses.

The school said it is the lowest tuition percentage increase in more than 30 years, due to an increase of $24.4 million in state support and efforts to secure a long-term business model.

In-state undergraduate annual tuition increases amount to $312 for freshmen in Knoxville to $10,678; $194 in Chattanooga to $6,624; and $202 in Martin to $6,918.

Last week, the Tennessee Board of Regents approved tuition increases at the state’s colleges and universities that are among the lowest on average in nearly 20 years: 3.4 percent at 13 community colleges, up to 3.9 percent at six universities and 4 percent at 27 colleges of applied technology.

University of Tenn. approves 3 percent tuition hike

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Tuition up 3% at UT-Martin

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/

Tuition at UT-Martin will increase three-percent for the upcoming academic year.

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

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

Instate tuition and mandatory fees at UTM will now cost undergraduate students an additional $302 dollars annually, which includes a student-supported $50 per semester activity fee for athletics.

New tuition and fees will be $4,163 dollars per semester or $8,326 for a full academic year. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is a minimum of 12 credit hours.

For instate graduate students, tuition and mandatory fees will increase $340 dollars per semester for a total of $4,824 per semester.

Graduate students will pay a total of $9,648 dollars per academic year starting this fall. Full-time graduate enrollment is nine hours per semester.

Fall semester classes begin August 24th for the main campus and UTM centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer.
RECORD NUMBER OF UT MARTIN STUDENTS ATTEND VET SCHOOL IN THE FALL

Three 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 sciences faculty," said Dr. Todd Vanners, 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 Levelland, Brendan Newton, of Greenbrier, Kaylee Penick, of Martin, Zachary Ragan, of Whitehouse, Leslie Serrano, of Drummonds, Kelley Wigram, of Abrams, and Jason Wolf, of Sewanee. Four students will attend Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate. These students are Kathleen Aford, of Byersburg, Mckelley Martin, of Union City, Jamie Finkis, of Homewood, and Emma Sanders, of Chattanooga.

Laura Conklin, of Thompson Station, and Katherine Sanders, of Franklin, will both attend Mississippi State University. Laura Cramer, of Greenfield, will begin her studies at Auburn University. Crystal Coleman, of Bells, will study at the University of Missouri. Danielle Fuller, of Potosi, 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, housed in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. For more information on this degree program, contact the department at 731-881-7211.

Section: SCHOOL NEWS
First Teacher Cabinet includes Chester Co. educator

The first Governor’s Teacher Cabinet will include a Chester County teacher, alongside representatives from the state’s three grand divisions as well as cities, suburbs and rural areas. “I’m really excited to work with them,” said Cathy Whitehead. “I’m hoping that together we can really work to help drive student success in the state of Tennessee. I want to really help Tennessee students excel even more than they already have.”

Whitehead teaches third grade at West Chester Elementary, where she received Teacher of the Year for 2014-2015.

Gov. Bill Haslam announced the 18 teachers selected in mid-June. The cabinet will meet quarterly with Haslam and Education Commissioner Candice McQueen to share information from the classroom, advise on policy and provide a line of communication to schools and communities, according to a news release.

A year ago the governor traveled the state to hear from teachers. In December he announced plans to create the cabinet to improve teacher collaboration and communication.

“We’ve had a number of conversations with teachers in a variety of settings, and this is another way to receive direct feedback from teachers who are in front of a class every day,” Haslam said in the release. “As Tennessee continues to build on the success we’ve seen in our schools over the past four years, we want to hear from teachers about what is working and what needs improvement. These teachers have a lot on their plates, so I really appreciate their willingness to serve the state in this way.”

Directors of schools were asked to nominate one teacher from each of their districts. The 18 classroom teachers were selected based on the following criteria: Focused on student achievement, encourages collaboration among colleagues, demonstrates leadership, solutions-oriented and pursues excellence.

Teachers will serve two-year terms on the cabinet. The first meeting is planned for July 16. Whitehead said she has already worked with teachers throughout the area and is eager to do more for education in Tennessee. “I was surprised and very honored,” Whitehead said. “It’s a big responsibility and I’m excited to be a part of it.”
UT Martin’s final summer orientation and registration set 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 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 Fishier 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.

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.

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 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.

Fall semester classes begin Aug. 24 for the main campus and, UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer.
Robison ready for Miss America preparations

BY LESLEY JONES
POST-INTELLIGENCER

Competing for Miss America 2016 will be Henry County's own Hannah Robison, Miss Scenic City, who won Miss Tennessee 2015 during the scholarship pageant held June 20 in Jackson.

Robison, 21, will compete in the Miss America pageant in September in Atlantic City, N.J. It will be televised at 8 p.m. Sept. 13 on ABC.

She is the daughter of Pam and Rusty Robison of Buchanan, longtime owners of Buchanan Resort on Kentucky Lake.

"I had a section at Miss Tennessee full of about 55 close family and friends — I couldn't name everyone that was there but of course my immediate family, my grandmom, aunt and uncle, cousins, just lots of people from the Paris area," she said.

"It was really exciting every time I walked out on stage to have that support system in the audience.

"It helped keep me energized throughout the pageant, long days and long nights, and it was encouraging that they came out to support me every night."

She is the fifth woman from Henry County to be crowned Miss Tennessee. The others are: Carrie Folks McSorley in 1988; Elise Neal Davis, 1979; Marcia Murray Moss, 1965; and Ethel McFadden Humphreys, 1930.

Only two women from Tennessee — Kelly Cash-Sheppard in 1987 and the late Barbara Jo Walker Hummel in 1947 — have ever been named Miss America, while six were runners-up.

In 2010, Robison was crowned Hostess Princess of the World's Biggest Fish Fry in Paris. Her mother had also been crowned Hostess Princess in 1979.

"When I competed in the Hostess Princess pageant, I never even thought about competing with the

Henry County's Hannah Robison (left) is shocked and overjoyed to find out that she has won the title of Miss Tennessee during the state pageant June 20 in Jackson. At right is Grace Burgess, Miss Tipton County, who was first runner-up to Robison.
Miss Tennessee and Miss America organization. It felt like such a different life, like you almost had to be famous already to compete on that stage,” she said about her earlier pageant years.

“It really didn’t cross my mind as a young girl, although I looked up to Miss Tennessee every year, I just didn’t really think it was an option for me, but as I got older and learned more about the program I really became interested in the services scholarship aspects of the program.”

She said the Miss Tennessee organization helped her pay for more than $30,000 of schooling, collectively in the past three years.

“All the money I’ve earned goes directly to my university or to student loans, the contestant is not allowed to get cash from the program, it is only to benefit her throughout her education,” she said of the Miss America organization, which she added is the No. 1 provider of scholarships for women in the world.

A senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Robison will take this year off to reign as Miss Tennessee, but will complete her degree next year.

With all of the excitement of winning Miss Tennessee and the ensuing interviews and photo shoots, Robison said Thursday she is still excited about winning.

“I honestly don’t think it has set in yet. I have had several interviews with radio stations and newspapers and they introduce me as ‘Miss Tennessee,’ and every time it feels so exciting, just as exciting as the last time.

“I don’t know if I’ve had enough time for it to set in yet, but hopefully that happens before Miss America,” she said. “I’m just really excited and I’ve been super busy since last Saturday. I’ve had appearances, interviews and pictures every day since.

“I’m really excited I get to come back home over Fourth of July ... to be home for a few days, and catch up with my family over the holidays. Maybe it will sink in once I get back home,” she said.

Robison also received the Miss Tennessee State Community Service Award for her platform “Campaign Against Pain-Arthritis Awareness.”

“Each contestant has their own personal platform they raise money for, and mine is the Arthritis Foundation. I’ve had several meetings with the Nashville local office, and meetings, conference calls, with the national office. I get to do a lot of stuff with the Arthritis Foundation,” she said.

She added that she is preparing now for the Miss America pageant.

“Personally I have to be at the Miss America pageant two and a half weeks prior, so I only have seven weeks to prepare, finishing up paperwork, doing lots of interviews and talent practices.

“I have to continue to eat healthy, exercise in the gym for the lifestyles/swim portion, and my talent is piano so I have to continue to practice that.”

She said she will focus mostly on preparing for the 10-minute personal interview portion.

“They are allowed to ask you absolutely anything. They have your résumé and some paperwork on your platform, but they are free to ask anything — you have to be on your toes and ready for whatever they throw at you.... When a lot of stuff goes on in the news, there is a lot to keep under control and learn, so I’ll be very busy keeping up with current events.”

Once she returns from the Miss America pageant she will work full-time as Miss Tennessee, as Gov. Bill Haslam’s spokesman for Character Education.

“I will come to Tennessee and travel and speak to school children about responsibility, and I’m also the state’s spokesperson for the five Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals in Tennessee.”

Robison will serve as a STEM education reporter and will go to schools and hospitals across Tennessee talking about the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education.

“(STEM) is something I’m passionate about because I’m a chemistry major at UT Martin, I have several things on the agenda when I return from Miss America, but before that it’s mostly preparation,” she said.

Although she is representing Scenic City in the Miss Tennessee pageant, Robison is appreciate of her native Henry County.

“Henry County has always been the most supportive community that I could have asked to be from.

“After I won it was hard to keep up with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, because our town is so supportive and encouraging... I’m really honored to represent our entire county.”

To follow Robison on her journey to the Miss America pageant, follow her on Facebook at Miss Tennessee 2015 or on Twitter and Instagram using #MissTennessee2015.