A former Humboldt native will address graduates at the University of Tennessee-Martin Spring Commencement services Saturday morning.

Dr. John Barker, who graduated from UTM in 1989, and then continued his masters and doctoral degrees at Vanderbilt, is now the chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools.

Dr. Barker had previous administrative roles at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, and with the Memphis City School System.

The graduation ceremonies will begin at 11:00 at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Mariah Whitney of Clarksville, received the Darrin Devault Public Relations Scholarship during a University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet held April 9. She was also recognized as an outstanding member of the UT Martin chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

The scholarship is named for Darrin Devault, a member of the Memphis chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, who advised the UT Martin student chapter for five years. Whitney is a senior communications major completing the public relations sequence.
**UT Martin's commencement speaker: Remember who you are**

*The Jackson Sun*

Life offers many special moments, and receiving a college degree after 43 years is easily one of those moments. Joe Barker, of Pickwick in Hardin County, finished what he started when he received his Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree Saturday during spring commencement at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He joined more than 750 students who were eligible to participate in commencement and receive degrees.

Barker first attended UT Chattanooga on a football scholarship and then transferred to UT Martin to continue his education and play baseball. At the start of his senior year in 1972, Barker's father was involved in a boating accident at Pickwick. “We had a family business, and I dropped out of school,” he said. “I went home to the family business... So, 43 years after that I'm able to graduate.”

Barker said completing his degree would make him even more effective in his work as executive director for the Southwest Tennessee Development District. “One of the things we do is work with high school seniors across West Tennessee, encouraging them to go on to postsecondary education,” he said. “And I felt like as I talked to these students that I hadn't completed mine (college degree), and I was being a little bit hypocritical. And so I just decided, you know, at my age if I can do it, they can do it, and here I am.”

He added that finishing a degree doesn't make a college graduate better than anyone else. “What it does is create opportunities for you, and I don't know what it'll do for me at 64, but it sure gives me a large measure of satisfaction.”

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes welcomed the commencement crowd, noting that the May graduates represented 61 Tennessee counties, 18 states and nine countries. Following introductions, he welcomed Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, as commencement speaker.

Barker, a Humboldt native and 1989 UT Martin graduate, talked about his own UT Martin diploma, what it means to him and the memories it holds. “Like the ones that you'll receive today, it (the diploma) represents a credential, something to list high on your résumé, an achievement that you'll remember for a lifetime,” he said. More importantly, he said a diploma is an important symbol that helps “remind you of who you are.” He added, “That symbol says that you are a champion, you are a warrior, you have the right stuff, you can persevere against long odds, and you can make it where so many gave up.”

Barker recalled that “remember who you are” was one of his mother's favorite sayings, and he heard it often when he left his home. “It became her favorite phrase because she understood deeply that there will be times in life when you're tempted to take the easy way out,” he said.

At other times, “we might be tempted to do something that's out of character when no one is watching.” He reminded graduates that in the Internet age and with cameras virtually everywhere, “everyone is watching all the time.”

“Not only will you be judged by your actions and by your Facebook, and Twitter and Instagram posts, but your family, your employer and UT Martin will (be judged), as well,” he said. “Remember who you are.”
Nepal missionaries: Corruption an issue

Government is described as ‘hard thing to deal with’

NATHAN HANDLEY
nhandley@jacksonsun.com

John Sellers has been planning a trip to Nepal for months, but he has even more reason to since an earthquake struck the country last week.

Sellers, a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will travel to Nepal on June 8 to deliver handwritten letters to orphans as part of his Letters in Motion project.

He said he and his team have seen renewed interest in the project because of recent events.

“Everyone has been asking me what we are going to do and what they can do,” Sellers said.

He said his team is working on the itinerary for their trip now, and they will definitely be doing humanitarian work, but he said it is hard to determine what is needed. Sellers said aid sent to Nepal is getting backed up in airports and is not going where it is needed.

“The Nepali government is a hard thing to deal with,” Sellers said. “They want to make sure everything that comes in goes through them.”

Chad Sellers, John Sellers’ father, is from Henderson, but he has lived in Nepal for the past four years, working on a mission his parents started. He and his family were not in Nepal at the time of the earthquake, but they are scheduled to return in early June.

Chad Sellers said his home in Kathmandu was not damaged, and the children’s homes saw minimal damage. He said corruption is a big problem in the country, and supplies are not going where they are needed.

“We had a friend that was taking aid into an area, and they were stopped because they did not have the right paperwork,” Chad Sellers said. “All money has to go through the Prime Minister’s relief fund.”

Chad Sellers encouraged people to give to help Nepal, but he said they need to make sure the people they give to are able to use the funds and supplies.

John Sellers said his biggest concern is that people will forget about the crisis by the time the government roadblocks are worked out.

“Disaster relief usually lasts about three months,” he said. “Then people move on to the next thing.”

Chad Sellers said protests are occurring in Nepal because of the issues with the government, and people need to stay informed of the situation.

He said he is praying that some of the difficulties will get worked out of the system.

“Prayer is worth more than anything else right now,” he said.

For more information on Letters in Motion, visit golettersinmotion.com.

See NEPAL, Page A3
Robert M. Smith returns to UT Martin as Interim Chancellor

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro introduced Dr. Robert M. Smith of Franklin to the campus and community today as interim UT Martin chancellor during a Friday morning reception in the Boling University Center.

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.

Smith follows Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor since 2007, who announced April 13 that he is stepping down as chancellor and will return to teaching effective May 31.

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

DiPietro welcomed the large crowd and acknowledged Tom and Glenda Rakes for their work on behalf of UT Martin. He noted the university's highest enrollment of almost 8,500 students and the completion of more than $100 million in capital and maintenance projects during Rakes' administration.

He also recalled unveiling the university's newly completed campus lighting project in 2012 and seeing the lights from the airplanes as he flew back to Knoxville.

"So, lots of great things have happened on your watch, and we really deeply appreciate all you've done for the institution," he said.

DiPietro described the event as a re-introduction of the Smiths to the university and the area. He said many names surfaced as possible choices for the position, but he quickly became interested in Smith's background and credentials. His extensive experience and reputation in the local community stood out, plus his leadership record at Slippery Rock University.

"I thought that for an interim person, he was just a really good fit for UT Martin," said DiPietro. He described Smith as a servant leader who readily accepted the position.

DiPietro invited Smith to the podium, who immediately surveyed the room packed with faculty, staff and community members, and joked, "Why aren't you grading papers? We've got finals to finish up here."

Smith proceeded to thank Rakes for his support and friendship.

"I consider it a real privilege and an honor to follow in your steps, and I hope that I'm going to be worthy for the things that have happened here," he said.

"And as we move forward, it's as the president (DiPietro) said, 'It's an interesting time in all of higher education.'"

Smith also thanked Ramona for supporting his accepting the position and said both looked forward to returning to Martin.

"UT Martin has always been a place that has a culture of family and of community, and for the two of us to come back and to rejoin that community is very emotional for us," he said.

He acknowledged that some tough decisions were ahead for the institution.

"This is something that collectively, and I want to emphasize that collectively, we'll do together."

Former State Representative Don Ridgeway, of Paris, attended the event and described Smith's accepting the interim chancellor's position as "a wonderful day for the University of Tennessee at Martin." He called Smith "a true leader who's known all over Northwest Tennessee and Tennessee." Ridgeway previously served on the WestStar Leadership Program Board of Trustees and also arranged through his office annual legislative visits for Smith and each WestStar class.

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 25th year and is Tennessee's oldest and largest regional leadership program.

"Personally I think the community and the university - everyone is thrilled for Dr. Smith coming back to this area," said Dee Fields Pritchett, broker and owner, Fuller Partners Real Estate, in Martin.

"He'll be great for both the community and the university. He's a great leader, and he knows UTM and what it needs and how we can move forward."

The Smiths will return to Martin closer to June 1 as he prepares to officially assume the interim chancellor's position on that date.
**Interim chancellor**

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"So, lots of great things have happened on your watch, and we really deeply appreciate all you've done for the institution," he said. DiPietro described the event as a re-introduction of the Smiths to the university and the area. (See Page 8, Col. 3)

**Interim...**

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**Carroll County Students Receive Scholarships to Attend UT-Martin**

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

- Matthew Jones, of Lavinia, son of Stephanie Jones and Ricky Jones, will be a freshman. He received the Dean's Scholarship.
- Ryan McDaniel, son of Stanley and Dione McDaniel, of Yuma, will be a freshman. He received the Freshman Scholarship.
- Holden Stanfill, son of Grady and Linda Stanfill, of McKenzie, will be a freshman. He received the Freshman Scholarship.
MHS Grad Named Outstanding UTM Student Employee

MARTIN (April 28) — Mirna Noreli Mendez (center), a biology major from McKenzie, recently received the Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award for the spring 2015 semester. The award is named for the late Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who was a strong advocate of student employment. The award recognizes exemplary work ethic and commitment to the university. Mendez is an active employee in the UT Martin Office of Campus Recreation and teaches fitness classes, coordinates Student Recreation Center activities and ensures the safety of facility patrons. She will graduate on May 2. Mendez is pictured with Jennifer Maloan (left) and Mike Maloan, family members of Beth Maloan.

MMS Students win UTM Math Contest

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

A pair of students from Milan Middle School went home with first place awards, and three others placed in the competition.

Sixth grader Vic Wang won first place in his division and Canaan White placed 4th, followed by Blaine Sitton at 10th.

In the seventh grade group, William Carter won the title for the second straight year. Colin Klein placed eighth and Kaylah Richards tied for ninth.

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

MMS MATH WINNERS - William Carter (left) and Vic Wang (right) took home top honors in their categories at the 2015 Middle School/Junior High School Mathematics Contest April 21, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Carter won the title for the second straight year.
WC students receive UTM scholarships

Several Weakley 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.

- Gian Garma, son of Victor and Petchie Garma, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Harold Conner Scholarship.
- Jessica Garrigus, of Martin, daughter of Cheryl Hensley and the late Mike Garrigus, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.
- Nicole M. Hicks, of Sharon, will be a senior. She received the Glen S. Gallien Student Award.
- James R. Holland, son of Edward and Jane Holland, of Martin, will be a senior. He received the Literary Award for the 2014-15 academic year.

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.

Middle school math contest brings 260 students to UTM

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Jace Brown of Martin Middle School placed fifth in the seventh-grade division. Martin Middle School’s Esther Kim placed eighth in the eighth-grade division.

SOAR — Gian Garma (left) and Nathan Williamson, both of Martin, participated in summer orientation and registration activities at UT Martin on April 25. Students accepted to begin in the fall 2015 semester were able to register for classes and hear presentations on financial aid, housing and student life. The students are both seniors at Westview High School. For additional SOAR dates and information, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/soarregister.php.
By CLAY SMITH
Special to The Press
The 22nd annual Tennessee Soybean Festival is only a few months away, and the entertainment lineup has just been announced.

Wednesday, Sept. 9, is faith and community night, sponsored by the Martin Ministerial Alliance. Wednesday night’s entertainment will feature Sanctus Real, a Toledo, Ohio, based Christian rock band best known for songs such as “We Need Each Other,” “Forgiven” and “Lead Me.” The act has won a Dove Award and been nominated for two Grammy awards.

Thursday, Sept. 10, is UT Martin student night and is co-sponsored by the Student Activities Council. The featured act will be Joan Jett and the Blackhearts. The band has been a staple in the rock ‘n’ roll world for years with songs such as “Bad Reputation,” “Love is All Around” and “I love Rock ‘n’ Roll.” This year, Joan Marie Larkin, the frontwoman of the band, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

“Joan’s manager, Ed Sargent, is actually a UTM graduate,” said David Bello, executive director of the Soybean Festival. “Joan Jett and the Blackhearts is a pretty big act and might normally be a little bit above our means at the Soybean Festival. Fortunately, our connection with Ed being a UTM graduate really helped solidify Joan Jett playing here this year.”

Friday, Sept. 11, is traditionally declared “classic rock night,” and this year is no exception with Night Ranger of 80s rock fame taking the stage. The quintet is probably best known for their power ballad “Sister Christian,” which peaked on the Billboard charts at No. 5 in June 1984. Other hits include “Sentimental Street” and “I Did It for Love.”

Saturday, Sept. 12, is contemporary country night, and this year will feature Joe Nichols. Originally from Rogers, Ark., Nichols is famous for a number of hits that have topped No. 1 on the Billboard Hot Country charts in recent years, including “Brokenheartsville,” “Yeah” and “Sunny and 75.”

“We’ve had great success, especially in the last five years with our festival entertainment, and we’re confident that this year will be no different,” said Bello. “We like to ask ourselves, ‘Will that act fill the yard up?’ and we’re very confident this year that all of our acts will fill the yard up.”

Additional entertainment and activities, including a possible bluegrass performance for Friday’s cookout, will be announced in coming weeks.
Robert M. Smith returns to UT Martin as interim chancellor

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packed with faculty, staff and community members, and joked, "Why aren’t you grading papers? We’ve got finals to finish up here.” Smith proceeded to thank Rakes for his support and friendship. "I consider it a real privilege and an honor to follow in your steps, and I hope that I’m going to be worthy for the things that have happened here,” he said. “And as we move forward, it’s as the president (DiPietro) said: ‘it’s an interesting time in all of higher education.’”

Smith also thanked Ramona for supporting his accepting the position and said both looked forward to returning to Martin. “UT Martin has always been a place that has a culture of family and of community, and for the two of us to come back and to rejoin that community is very emotional for us,” he said. He acknowledged that some tough decisions were ahead for the institution, and said, "... This is something that collectively, and I want to emphasize that collectively, we’ll do together.”

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The Smiths will return to Martin closer to June 1 as he prepares to officially assume the interim chancellor’s position on that date.

LOCAL INDUCTIONS — Zoe Stringer (left), of Martin, and Cody Worley, of Greenfield, were inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a recent ceremony. Stringer is a junior family and consumer sciences major and Worley is a senior accounting major. The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi is America’s oldest all-discipline collegiate honor society and awards its members more than $700,000 annually to finance further academic study.
CHEMISTRY MEETING — Twenty-five students and faculty members from the University of Tennessee at Martin participated in the 38th annual area collegiate chemistry meeting April 11 at Murray State University. UT Martin students presented seven research papers at the event. The meeting was co-hosted by the UT Martin and Murray State chapters of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society. Pictured at the meeting are (from left) Dr. S. K. Airee, professor of chemistry and SMACS faculty advisor; Michaela Short, of Hendersonville; Justin Barnes, of Arlington; Lauren Snider, of Lexington; Krysten Harris, of Union City; Heather Streckert, of Dyersburg; Joseph Zitnyar, of Cordova; Brianna Foss, of Martin; Charles Haynes, of Columbia; Dwight Johnson, of Brownsville; Dr. Genessa Smith, assistant professor of chemistry; Dr. Jozsef Devenyi, professor of chemistry; William Kuenzinger, of Germantown; Benjamin Ide, of Dover; William Crosby, of Parsons; Kendall Oziminski, of Mt. Juliet; Jacob Thompson, of Linden; Dr. Abigail Shelton, assistant professor of chemistry; Dr. Phillip Shelton, associate professor of chemistry; and Layla Gargus, of Martin, SMACS president. Attending the meeting, but not pictured, were Dr. Robbie Montgomery, associate professor of chemistry; Anita Afshari, of Brentwood; Hye Oh, of Franklin; Amber Taylor, of Martin; and Chelsea Southerland, of Obion.

FACULTY SCHOLAR — Dr. Marti Herndon, professor of child and family studies at UT Martin, was honored as the spring semester’s featured faculty scholar at an April 23 reception. Herndon joined the UT Martin faculty in 1985 as an assistant professor. She was promoted to associate professor in 1987 and full professor in 2002. Prior to UT Martin, she taught at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. She also worked at UT Knoxville as a graduate teaching assistant and teacher’s aide at the Montessori Children’s House in Knoxville. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts, Master of Science and doctoral degrees from UT Knoxville in 1973, 1976 and 1978, respectively. Herndon (second from right) is pictured with (from left) Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean, College and Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; and Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.
Speaker urges graduates to 'remember who you are'

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Barker said completing his degree would make him even more effective in his work as executive director for the Southwest Tennessee Development District. “One of the things we do is work with high school seniors across West Tennessee encouraging them to go on to postsecondary education,” he said. “And I felt like as I talked to these students that I hadn’t completed mine (college degree), and I was being a little bit hypocritical. And so I just decided, you know, at my age if I can do it, they can do it, and here I am.”

He added that finishing a degree doesn’t make a college graduate better than anyone else. “What it does is create opportunities for you, and I don’t know what it’ll do for me at 64, but it sure gives me a large measure of satisfaction.”

Turner Cagle, 23, of Selmer, received a degree in agricultural business, and he, too, took a little longer to earn his diploma. Cagle began college in 2009, dropped out of school, then attended Jackson State Community College and later returned to UT Martin. He will soon start a new job at Crop Production Services at the company’s West Tennessee headquarters in Union City. He says that having a college degree is important, because “a high school degree 30 years ago is about the same as a college degree now, so I don’t think you can have a very profitable life without it.”

Maegan Smith, 21, of Dresden, received a communications degree with concentrations in public relations and media design. “I want to be a multimedia designer,” she said. “That’s really pretty much the end goal.” Smith earned her degree on schedule and credits her success to setting goals and priorities and sticking to them. “I made a list of everything that I wanted to do, and I just made sure that I didn’t let anything get in the way of that,” Smith said.

Camille Hall, 24, of Covington, also received a degree in communications with a concentration in public relations. She hasn’t landed a job, but she has broad career interests and is optimistic about finding a position. “Community development, I love that,” she said. “I love working with the community and just outreach, and philanthropy would be cool way to go. That’s my plan.”

Hall leaves UT Martin with plenty of real-world experience after working a full year as an intern with Brad Thompson, director of community development, for the city of Martin. “It was critical (the intern experience) in my success, and it was the most important thing I probably did in my college career,” she said.

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noting that the May graduates represented 61 Tennessee counties, 18 states and nine countries. Following introductions, he welcomed Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, as commencement speaker.

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More importantly, he said a diploma is an important symbol that helps “remind you of who you are.” He added, “That symbol says that you are a champion, you are a warrior, you have the right stuff, you can persevere against long odds, and you can make it where so many gave up.”

Barker recalled that “remember who you are” was one of his mother’s favorite sayings, and he heard it often when he left his home. “It became her favorite phrase because she understood deeply that there’ll be times in life when you’re tempted to take the easy way out,” he said.

At other times, “we might be tempted to do something that’s out of character when no one is watching.” He reminded graduates that in the Internet age and with cameras virtually everywhere, “everyone is watching all the time.”

“Not only will you be judged by your actions and by your Facebook, and Twitter and Instagram posts, but your family, your employer and UT Martin will (be judged), as well,” he said. “Remember who you are.”

He reminded graduates that they did not reach commencement day alone. “There’s an old African saying that says, ‘If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.’” Barker then asked the graduating seniors to acknowledge those in attendance who have supported and guided them and added, “You’ve gone far not only because of what you brought to this experience but because of who has joined you on your journey.”

Barker closed by reminding graduates that commencement isn’t the end of the journey but rather the beginning. “No matter where this life takes you, where you go, know that you’ve been greatly benefitted by the time that you’ve spent in this place at this time,” he said. “Graduates, I wish you well. Remember who you are.”

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro congratulated the graduating class and conferred degrees. He also honored Tom Rakes in his final commencement as UT Martin chancellor. Rakes will step down as chancellor effective May 31 and return to teaching.

ZIMMERMAN RETIREMENT — Ken Zimmerman, of Martin, was honored at a retirement reception April 23 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Zimmerman is an instructor of theatre and director for Vanguard Theatre productions. He joined the UT Martin faculty in 1999 and has directed more than 35 theatre productions at UT Martin since that time. Zimmerman previously worked as the artistic director for Playhouse on the Square in Memphis and continues to work as an actor and director in professional productions throughout the region. He is a Union City native and still owns a home in Memphis. He is pictured with students and UT Martin alumni who have been involved with the Vanguard Theatre over the years. Pictured are (from row, from left) Rebekka Koch, a 2014 graduate from Martin; Douglas Cook, professor and chair, Department of Visual and Theatre Arts; Zimmerman; Matthew Caldwell, a 2014 graduate from Sharon; Kayla Ballard, a 2014 graduate from Munford; (back row) Nathan Bowden, a senior theatre student from Memphis; Jonathan York, a sophomore education student from Martin; Dillon Davis, a senior theatre student from Murfreesboro; Cody Jarman, a senior theatre student from Cumberland Furnace; John Nicholson, an alum from Centerville; and Shelby Frye, a sophomore English student from Paris.
Locals inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

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

STAFF REPORTS WILSON COUNTY

MAY 5, 2015

From Lebanon: Lara Miller was initiated at Middle Tennessee State University, Robert Erie was initiated at The University of Tennessee at Martin and Jake Forczek was initiated at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

From Mt. Juliet: Susan Wright was initiated at Samford University and Kendall Oziminski was initiated at The University of Tennessee at Martin.

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

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes welcomed the commencement crowd, noting that the May graduates represented 61 Tennessee counties, 18 states and nine countries. Following introductions, he welcomed Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, as commencement speaker. Barker is the son of Mike Barker and the late Martha Carol Barker.

Barker, a Humboldt native and 1989 UT Martin graduate, talked about his own UT Martin diploma, what it means to him and the memories it holds. “Like the ones that you’ll receive today, it (the diploma) represents a credential, something to list high on your resume, an achievement that you’ll remember for a lifetime,” he said.

“More importantly, a diploma is an important symbol that helps remind you of who you are,” Barker added. “That symbol says that you are a champion, you are a warrior, you have the right stuff, you can persevere against long odds, and you can make it where so many gave up.”

Barker recalled that “remember who you are” was one of his mother’s favorite sayings, and he heard it often when he left his home.

“It became her favorite phrase because she understood deeply that there’ll be times in life when you’re tempted to take the easy way out,” he said. “We might be tempted to do something that’s out of character when no one is watching.”

He reminded graduates that in the Internet age and with cameras virtually everywhere, everyone is watching all the time.

“Not only will you be judged by your actions and by your Facebook, and Twitter and Instagram posts, but your family, your employer and UT Martin will (be judged) as well,” he said. “Remember who you are.”

He reminded graduates that they did not reach commencement day alone. “There’s an old African saying that says, ‘If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.’” Barker then asked the graduating seniors to acknowledge those in attendance who have supported and guided them and added, “You’ve gone far not only because of what you brought to this experience but because of who has joined you on your journey.”

Barker closed by reminding graduates that commencement isn’t the end of the journey but rather the beginning. “No matter where this life takes you, where you go, know that you’ve been greatly benefited by the time that you’ve spent in this place at this time,” he said. “Graduates, I wish you well. Remember who you are.”

Local residents graduate

Several Obion 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 UT Martin campus, in Martin, Tenn.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were, from South Fulton, Brandon Tyler Allen, Samuel Charles Curtis, Andrea Kelly Glover, Lauren Hope Nabors, and Lynmita Fowler Pierce.
At the college level

Several Obion County residents received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement Saturday.

Among those who received undergraduate degrees were:
- Hornbeak — Brook Rubie.
- Kenton — Lauren Chantelle Barnes, David Wayne Crum, Shelley Kay Simpson and Cynthia Dianne Tilghman.
- Obion — Tara Elise Evans, Rachael Cele'a Holloway, Clinton Marshall Scobey and Jennifer A. Webber.
- South Fulton — Brandon Tyler Allen, Samuel Charles Curtis, Andrea Kelly Glover, Lauren Hope Nabor, and Lynita Fowler Pierce.
- Troy — Tanner Oakes Maunder and Taylor Madison Turner.

STUDENT INDUCTED — Rebecca Bloodworth of Hornbeak was inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a recent ceremony. She is a junior biology major. The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi is America’s oldest all-discipline collegiate honor society and awards its members more than $700,000 annually to finance further academic study.

Three local students were among 45 honored recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin as new members of Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges.

The honorees included Krysten Harris, a senior chemistry major from Union City; Mark Maloney, a senior communications major from South Fulton; and Krista Tate, a senior integrated studies K-6 major from Union City.

Each was nominated by a faculty member and completed an extensive application process before being chosen by a committee.
WESTSTAR TOURS GIBSON COUNTY ENERGY COMPLEX – The WestStar Class of 2015 recently toured the Gibson County Energy Complex, which will hold its grand opening Tuesday, May 19. Members of the UT Martin leadership class learned about the Gibson County Utility District's efforts to build the first public CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) filling station between Memphis and Nashville and what is believed to be one of the “greenest” stations in the country. Photos by Crystal Burns.

Scott is named to Who’s Who

Sheila Scott, a senior communications and English double major from Kenton, was one of 45 students at the University of Tennessee at Martin to be honored April 19 as new members of Who’s Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges.

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

LOCAL RESIDENTS INDUCTED – Morgan Fitzgerald (left) of Milan and Amber Simmons of Dyer were inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a ceremony held in April. Fitzgerald is a senior political science major and Simmons is a senior biology major. The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi is America's oldest all-discipline collegiate honor society and awards its members more than $700,000 annually to finance further academic study.
Local Residents Receive Degrees From UT Martin

Several Weakley 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 UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Dresden – Hailey Ann-Marie Austin, Corey Allen Brock, Jordan Paul Cherry, Hannah Marie Cooper, Breanna Marie Dubruiel, Cynthia Needham Farrar, Christopher Blake Fulcher, Zachary T. Garner, Ryan C. Roark, Kaci Nicole Robbins, Maegan Marie Smith, Jacob Dillon Valleee, John Michael Wilson, Rebecca Lynn Wright;
- Gleason – Colin Drew Bennett, Ryan Wesley Clark, Katie Elyse Nicholas, Michael Blake Snider;
- Greenfield – Lea Jordan Galey, Tyler Neblett Jones, Barbara Ann Manning, Abbey Tez McDaniel, Kelly Danielle Pence, Mary Alice Straley, Jessica Lee Williams, Cody Lee Worely;
- Palmersville – Thomas G. Bell;
- Sharon – Nicole M. Hicks, Kayla Lynn Jackson, Matthew Ray Wright;
- Sidonia - Hailey Dawn Allen;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Dresden - Zachary O’Neal Baker, Sunni Jackson Cooksey;

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Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

Several McNairy 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 UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

Adamsville:
Britney Jo Dowdell, Regina Mae Jackson, Kateryna Kucherenko, Mallory Dawn Leath, Jacob Thomas Warshaw, Kory Seth White, and Esthlee Marie Wright.

Bethel Springs:
Turner Adam Cagle, Julie Denise Lawson, and Jeffery Dee Mitchell.

Michie:
Alyce D. Massengill.

Ramer:
Ashley Anne Hollingsworth, Robin Chelsea Kistler, and Daniel Allen Walker.

Selmer:
Bryan E. Burks, Keaton Burney, Danielle Renee Fuller, Selina Marie Hill, Kelsey L. Hutson, Karlee Anjewelia Jackson-Carney, Meredith Nicole Jaggars, Julie Ann Johnson, Morgan Elizabeth Kinchen, Clinton James Murby, Cassandra Nicole Rogers, Teresa Ann Smith, and Marlee D. Williams.
Degrees Awarded To Local Students

Several Lauderdale County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring commencement held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus. Receiving undergraduate degrees were Phillis Lavern McCadney, of Gates; Christopher Allen Cessac, Tonya Annette Paris, and Erin Elizabeth Newsom, all of Halls; Amber Nichole Roark, of Henning; and Michelle L. Adams, Jessica Leigh Campbell, Tina Edwards, Seth T. Emerson, Olivia Ashton Gaines, Demetria LeShale Harding, Pamela Carol Hastings, Tammy Pitcher Herron, Cynthia L. Holland-Peete, Neally Lynn Hutchins, Zachary Neal Lankford, Jimmy D. Moore, Taretha Danielle Reed, Alisa J. Smith, Qurneeeya Katrice Steward, Ashley Phillips Vance, and Priscilla Robinson Waits, all of Ripley.

Local UT Martin student receives communications awards

Josh Terry (right), of Camden, received the Faculty PReps Award and the Nick and Cathy Dunagan Team Spirit Award during a University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet held April 9. The Faculty PReps Award is given to an outstanding public relations student with excellent public speaking skills, as selected by the department faculty. The Dunagan Team Spirit Award is given for excellence in team spirit and positive interactions. Terry is a senior communications major completing the public relations sequence. He is pictured with Dr. Teresa Collard, associate professor of communications.
Several Weakley 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 UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

**Dresden** – Hailey Ann Marie Austin, Corey Allen Brock, Jordan Paul Cherry, Hannah Marie Cooper, Breanna Marie Dubriel, Cynthia Needham Farrar, Christopher Blake Fulcher, Zachary T. Garner, Ryan C. Roark, Kaci Nicole Robbins, Maegan Marie Smith, Jacob Dillon Valle, John Michael Wilson, Rebecca Lynn Wright.

**Gleason** – Colin Drew Bennett, Ryan Wesley Clark, Katie Elyse Nichols, Michael Blake Snider.

**Greenfield** – Lea Jordan Galey, Tyler Neblett Jones, Barbara Ann Manning, Abbev Tez McDaniel, Kelly


**Palmersville** – Thomas G. Bell.

**Sharon** – Nicole M. Hicks, Kayla Lynn Jackson, Matthew Ray Wright.

**Sidonia** – Hailey Dawn Allen.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

**Dresden** – Zachary O’Neal Baker, Sunny Jackson Cooksey.

**Martin** – Maxwell Kent Gearin, Miranda Patrice Jones, Daniel Richard Kelley, Stanton Tyler Watson.

**OUTSTANDING SERVICE** – Faculty members as well as students were recognized as part of the annual Honors Day ceremony in April. Pictured are (seated from left) award winners Dr. Jason Roberts, assistant professor of animal science (Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award); Anna Clark, instructor of English (Outstanding Advisor Award); Dr. Arthur Hunt, associate professor of communications (Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award); and Dr. Laura Brown, associate professor of health and human performance (Outstanding UTAA Teacher Award). Joining them (standing) are Dr. Paula Moore, associate professor of accounting and business law; Dr. David Carithers, associate professor of English; Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor; Dr. E. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs; and Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor of student affairs.
GRADUATION — (From left) Christy Lee, of Martin; Michael Wilson, of Dresden; Wes Clark, of Gleason; and Saumil Patel, of Martin, graduated with honors from UT Martin on May 2. Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, served as the spring 2015 commencement speaker.

COMMUNICATIONS AWARD — Brittany Sensing (right), of Martin, received one of two Swafford Public Relations Scholarships and the Nanney-Segebarth Scholarship during a University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet held April 9. The Swafford Scholarships are funded by Jeanna Curtis-Swafford, UT Martin assistant vice chancellor of development, to recognize outstanding upperclassmen public relations students. The Nanney-Segebarth Scholarship is funded by Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chair, Department of Communications, and his wife, Jeanie Nanney, in honor of their parents, and given to an outstanding local and/or non-traditional student. Sensing is a junior communications major completing the public relations sequence. She is pictured with Chelsea Monroe, of Columbia, who received the other Swafford scholarship, and Curtis-Swafford (center).

COMMUNICATIONS AWARD — Chuck Hammer (right), of Martin, received the Duke Drumm – WCMT Broadcasting Excellence Award and the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters Award during a University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet held April 9. The Duke Drumm and Tennessee Association of Broadcasters awards are given to an outstanding broadcasting student, as selected by the department faculty. The Dr. Gary Steinke award is named for Dr. Gary Steinke, who recently retired as professor of communications, and is presented to WUTM’s most outstanding staff member. Hammer is a junior communications major completing the broadcasting sequence. He is pictured with Paul Tinkle, president of Thunderbolt Broadcasting Corporation.
Artists from the STAR Center featured their work in an exhibition titled 'Work of Heart,' hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center.

Judy Duke admires the artwork during the exhibition titled 'Work of Heart,' hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center.
From left: Mary Kate Haines, of Martin; and Katie Flynn, of Jackson, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2. They are pictured with Katie's mother, Meshell Flynn.

From left: Rico Thomas, of Lexington; Joel Conway, of Loretto; and Garrett Rackley, of Pulaski, graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2.

From left: Tyler Jones, Cody Worley, Danielle Pence and Jordan Galey, all of Greenfield, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2.
Cory Riley, left, of Alamo, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army on May 2. Riley completed the ROTC training program at UT Martin and took the Oath for Commissioning Officers shortly before the university’s spring commencement exercises. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in interdisciplinary studies and will be joining the Medical Service Corps for reserve forces duty. Riley is pictured with Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, professor of military science and leadership.

Lauren Rinks, of Lexington, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2. She is pictured with Debbie Grooms.

Allen Perry, left, of Humboldt, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army on May 2. Perry completed the ROTC training program at UT Martin and took the Oath for Commissioning Officers shortly before the university’s spring commencement exercises. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in history and will be joining the infantry for reserve forces duty. Perry is pictured with Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, professor of military science and leadership.

From left: Robin Kiestler and Ashley Hollingsworth, both of Selmer, graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2.

From left: Christy Lee, of Martin; Michael Wilson, of Dresden; Wes Clark, of Gleason; and Saumil Patel, of Martin, graduated with honors May 2 from the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Colts sign rookie running back Abou Toure

An undrafted free agent running back who tried out for the Colts at their rookie minicamp has been added to the 90-player roster.

University of Tennessee at Martin's Abou Toure, who racked up 1,138 yards in his final collegiate season in 2014, has signed with Indianapolis, the club said Sunday morning.

Toure (6-2, 230) attended Dean (Mass.) Junior College and Utah State before moving on to UT Martin for his final two seasons. He is one of seven tailbacks on the Colts' roster.

In a corresponding transaction, the Colts waived rookie outside linebacker Terrell Hartsfield, an undrafted free agent from Cincinnati.

The Colts have filled all 90 roster spots, with 26 spots going to rookies.

Jake Amis of Fayetteville has been initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

RETIREMENT RECEPTION — Ken Zimmerman of Martin was honored at a retirement reception recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Zimmerman is an instructor of theater and director for Vanguard Theatre productions. He joined the UT Martin faculty in 1999 and has directed more than 35 theater productions at UT Martin since that time. Zimmerman previously worked as the artistic director for Playhouse on the Square in Memphis and continues to work as an actor and director in professional productions throughout the region. He is a Union City native and still owns a home in Memphis. He is pictured with students and UT Martin alumni who have been involved with the Vanguard Theatre over the years, including (front row, from left) Rebekka Koch, a 2014 graduate from Martin; Douglas Cook, professor and chair, Department of Visual and Theatre Arts; Zimmerman; Matthew Caldwell, a 2014 graduate from Sharon; Kayla Ballard, a 2014 graduate from Munford; (back row) Nathan Bowden, a senior theater student from Memphis; Jonathan York, a sophomore education student from Martin; Dillon Davis, a senior theater student from Murfreesboro; Cody Jarman, a senior theater student from Cumberland Furnace; John Nicholson, an alum from Centerville; and Shelby Frye, a sophomore English student from Paris.
Byrd takes nurse’s pledge

Katelyn Byrd (left), of Lebanon, took the Florence Nightingale Pledge during a pinning ceremony May 1 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

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The pledge is taken by students entering the nursing profession and holds each candidate to a high standard of professional care in the health-care industry.

Byrd received her bachelor’s of science degree in nursing during the university’s commencement exercises May 2.

She is pictured with Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor and chair of the department of nursing.

UT Martin hires new volleyball coach

Jaclynn Yocum is the new head volleyball coach at UT Martin, the school announced Monday.

Yocum led Columbus State Community College in Ohio to a 118-29 record overall and 46-4 conference record over the past four seasons.

“Like with other coaching hires, we were looking for a variety of attributes and Jaclynn checked all the boxes,” UTM athletic director Freire said in a press release. “She possesses great character and is a relentless recruiter. She has a passion and is committed to the full student-athlete experience – academically, athletically and socially.”

Yocum replaces Darrin McClure, who resigned after a season in which the Skyhawks were 11-19 overall and 4-12 in the Ohio Valley Conference. McClure’s assistant coach, Julia Noe, will remain as an assistant for Yocum. (McClure now coaches at Union University.)

Yocum started her playing career at Coastal Carolina and suffered a severe shoulder injury in 2004, but she returned to the game as a transfer at Columbus State in 2009. UTM must replace two seniors from last year’s team, outside hitters Emily Keaton and Allie Whimpey.

LOCAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE DEGREES FROM UT MARTIN

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MARTIN—Several Hardeman 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 UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

Bolivar – Brooke Shonyla Crisp, Freida Marie Phipps;
Grand Junction – Shamiqueana Genola Morgan;
Middleton – Zedchery Thomas Simpson Daniel;
Saulsbury – Leslie William Howard;
Whiteville – Robert Emmanuel Norment;
The student receiving a graduate degree was:
Toone – Aaron Gibson.
UC resident is picture of perseverance during UT Martin’s commencement

MARTIN — As the old saying goes, "If at first, you don’t succeed — try, try again." Mallory Martin, a Union City resident, proved that adage true this year and crossed the commencement stage May 2 with two degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin and an acceptance letter to veterinary school at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate.

Ms. Martin, the daughter of a Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency agent, grew up surrounded by animals. "Ever since I knew what a vet was, that’s what I wanted to do. I’ve just never changed my mind," she said.

She graduated with a bachelor of science in agriculture, with a concentration in animal science, in May 2014, but was disappointed to learn she had not been accepted to veterinary school.

"I was devastated when I didn’t get in the first time, but Dr. (Jason) Roberts (assistant professor of animal science) calmed me down and told me, ‘Just keep trying and work hard, but don’t work so hard that you get burned out and you don’t have a life, because that will hurt you more in the long run,’” Ms. Martin said. With this advice in mind, she began work on plan B.

At the encouragement of Roberts, Ms. Martin returned to UT Martin to complete a second bachelor’s degree in the veterinary health technology program. "It was a toss-up between working full-time for a year or coming back and doing the vet tech program. ... (The program) prepares you for real life. You learn a lot working in a practice, but it’s still good to know what the books say and be able to apply it in a real environment," she said.

Ms. Martin said the hands-on experience in the veterinary health technology program helped in her second round of applications to veterinary school, ultimately convincing the selection board at Lincoln Memorial University that she has the academic and practical experience to succeed in their program.

The UT Martin veterinary health technology program is a four-year curriculum, but Ms. Martin was able to finish in one year, thanks to prerequisite classes from her first degree. She will be part of the second graduating veterinary class at Lincoln Memorial University, which began its program in 2013.

Ms. Martin will complete her required six-week internship at Auburn University this summer before beginning veterinary courses in August. She plans to return to the Obion County area to work in mixed-animal practice after her schooling is complete.

EARNs DEGREE — Mallory Martin (center), a Union City resident, crossed the commencement stage May 2 with two degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin and an acceptance letter to veterinary school at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate. She was joined by Erica Carroll (left) and Amanda Waldon, licensed veterinary technicians and laboratory instructors for the UT Martin veterinary health technology program.
Enrollment underway for UTM Kid College

The annual Kid College summer program, hosted by UT Martin, is scheduled for June 8-12. Courses are enrolling now on a first-come, first-served basis and will fill up, so early registration is encouraged.

Kid College is open to children who will be in kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall of 2015. This year’s theme is “Picture Yourself at Kid College” and includes more than 60 course options. Children may enroll in up to five courses of their choosing, based on grade level.

The first course is $30 per child; additional courses are $25 each. Many of the individual courses have additional supply fees. The registration fee includes a Kid College T-shirt.

Courses for students in kindergarten through second grade include magnificent mad scientists, discovering the night sky, linguakidz French, LEGOs, ARTventure time, fitness is fun, yoga, wood working, carousel kitchen, football, baseball/softball, karate, personality pets, and the wacky world of games.

Courses for children in third through fifth grade include space academy, kids hunt too, creative canvas, hello cupcakes, balloons with a twist, the Skyhawk report, photography, linguakidz Spanish, chemical reactions, author’s corner, kid with a blog, wood working, and simple and powered machines.

For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/kidcollege.php.

http://www.lebanondemocrat.com/

School News for May 12, 2015

Campbell receives scholarship

Loren Sierra Campbell of Mt. Juliet has been awarded a scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin. She is the daughter of Ivy Campbell, of Mt. Juliet. She received the Freshman Scholarship.
Entrepreneurs graduate business boot camp

Thirteen West Tennessee entrepreneurs participated in the Small Business Basics Boot Camp hosted in April by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center and the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center.

The boot camp is a four-week program designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship. Participants were exposed to a variety of topics, including writing a business plan, financing a business, banking practices, marketing strategies and pitching a business loan. The goal of the course is to help new entrepreneurs begin their small business ventures or for new, existing businesses to obtain new skills for success.

Landy Fuqua, REED Center director, instructs the course with the help of special topic speakers. This year’s guests included Beau Pemberton, an attorney from Dresden, who spoke on legal matters for the small business owner; Darlene Adkins, lecturer of accounting at UT Martin, who spoke on best accounting practices; and Hollie Holt, a certified business counselor at the REED Center, who spoke on best marketing practices, including the use of social media.

“Anyone wanting to start or thinking about starting a business should invest in all of the courses that the REED Center/TSBDC has to offer,” said Joyce Klides, of Martin.

“The Small Business Boot Camp taught me so many things that I didn’t know before about starting a business. It has changed my perspective on the business world,” added Brittany Martin of McKenzie.

Participants graduated April 28.
Local residents earn UT Martin undergraduate, graduate degrees

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 UT Martin campus, including:

- Trenton: Zachery J. Barker, Cal Doyle Crenshaw, Bethany Carol Crockett, Holly L. Dunnagan, Whitley Ann Forester, Niki Lynn Hensley, Abigail Ruth Tucker, Hannah Leigh Wallsmith;
- Bradford: Kristen Lynne Allen, Chrystyna Marie Childress;
- Dyer: Jonathan Lance Fisher, Kelley Ann Parks, Amber Fawn Simmons, Sean Tyler Stephens;
- Gibson: Lauren Rachelle Barkley;
- Rutherford-Clay: Robert Laney Brewer;
- Humboldt: Douglass Grant Hunderup;
- Idlewild: Robert Lane Mullens;
- Medina: Dylan William Brown, Samantha Paige Clark, Heather Nichole Torrance;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Dyer: Amanda M. Walden;
- Humboldt: Kimberly Boswell White;
- Milan: Misty Autry Lewis and Cassie Marie Miller.

Fayette Academy Students Ranked at Math Competition

The University of Tennessee at Martin held its 2015 Middle School Math Competition on April 21. There were 260 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students representing sixteen schools from across West Tennessee. Fifteen students from Fayette Academy participated with Halle Jordan ranking 13th in the 7th grade competition. Nee Nee Lyons and Casey Melton ranked in the top 20% in the 8th grade competition. Pictured left to right, 1st row: Jon Dwyer, Nee Nee Lyons, Lizzie Rhea, Austin Abernathy. 2nd row: Kara Cossar, Matthew Walker, Kaci Gilliom. 3rd row: Lauren Alexander, Casey Melton, Dunstan Ashe, Jake Cocke, Carolyn Rinks, Matthew Boozer, and Isabelle Johnson.
Local residents graduate from UT Martin May 2

Robin Kiestler and Ashley Hollingsworth, both of Selmer, graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2. Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, served as the spring 2015 commencement speaker.

Sanders graduates from UTM

Shayla Sanders, daughter of Tommy and Donna Sanders and granddaughter of Samuel and Dorothy Lee and the late Joe Neal and the late Bertha Horton Sanders, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on Saturday, March 2, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. Shayla's grandmother, Dorothy Lee, is recovering from a stroke she suffered on Feb. 11, and was not able to attend. Pictured are, from left, Tommy Sanders, Shayla Sanders, Donna Sanders, Samuel Lee, and Paula Lee Boger.

Barber Commissioned As United States Army Second Lieutenant

Joseph Barber (left), of Martin, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army on May 2. Barber completed the ROTC training program at the University of Tennessee at Martin and took the Oath for Commissioning Officers shortly before the university's spring commencement exercises. He received a Bachelor of Science in geography and will be joining the Transportation Corps for active duty service. Barber is pictured with Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, professor of military science and leadership.
Local Residents Receive Degrees From UT Martin

Several Weakley 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 UT Martin campus.

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* Gleason – Colin Drew Bennett, Ryan Wesley Clark, Katie Elyse Nichols, Michael Blake Snider;
* Greenfield – Lea Jordan Galey, Tyler Neblett Jones, Barbara Ann Manning, Abbey Tez McDaniel, Kelly Danielle Pence, Mary Alice Straley, Jessica Lee Williams, Cody Lee Worley;
* Palmersville – Thomas G Bell;
* Sharon – Nicole M Hicks, Kayla Lynn Jackson, Matthew Ray Wright;
* Sidonia – Hailey Dawn Allen;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
* Dresden – Zachary O’Nea Baker, Sunni Jackson Cooksey;

Scholarship Established In Memory Of Weakley County Educator

The Westview High School Class of 1983 has established a scholarship in memory of Carolyn White, longtime Weakley County educator. The Carolyn White Scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Westview senior who will attend UT Martin and major in history or political science. Pictured (l to r) are Julia Brundige, daughter of Carolyn White; Bonnie Brundige Moore, Brundige’s daughter and White’s granddaughter; and Alicia Field Pinto, scholarship organizer and Westview class of 1983 member.
Two resolutions approved by UTM’s Faculty Senate

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty Senate recently passed two resolutions advocating for increased support of higher education and inclusive faculty involvement in policy development and implementation.

Both items have been shared with all members of the system-wide University of Tennessee Faculty Council and University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro.

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

The first resolution expresses faculty support of the university and progressive higher education that advances a diversity of ideas.

In addition to initiatives such as the Tennessee Promise that expand opportunities for community and technical college students, the resolution calls for increased recognition and support for the significant contributions of four-year institutions and the UT System.

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

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

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

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

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

University enrolling children for classes

The annual Kid College summer program, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin, is set for June 8-12 on the main campus.

Courses are enrolling now on a first-come, first-served basis and will fill quickly.

Kid College is open to children who will be in kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall of 2015. This year’s theme is “Picture Yourself at Kid College,” and it includes more than 60 course options. Children may enroll in up to five courses of their choosing, based on grade level.

The first course is $30 per child; additional courses are $25 each. Many of the individual courses have additional supply fees. The registration fee includes a Kid College T-shirt.

Everyone is encouraged to wear their Kid College T-shirts on Wednesday for “Selfie Day.”

Registration is now open and parents are encouraged to register early. For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/chil-dren/kidcollege.php.
As Jeanne Prince received her diploma from the University of Tennessee at Martin earlier this month, she recalls she couldn't help but notice "that look of pride" on her son's face.

Days later, it was her turn to show that pride as her son Richard Cody Prince graduated at UT's flagship campus in Knoxville.

The mother and son, both of Huntingdon, Tenn., are members of the UT class of 2015.

For her, it's a degree in nursing. For him, it's a degree from the College Scholars program with an emphasis in science policy and administration and a second major in physics with an academic focus.

Mother and son each said they are proud of the other and agree they were essential to each other's success. But they couldn't resist some playful teasing.

She won't let her son forget, for example, that her graduation came five days before his.

"She rubbed it in my face a little that she beat me to the degree," the son said.

Jeanne, a single mom, enrolled in college courses on and off throughout her son's life. When he was 12, she left a well-paying factory job to become an licensed practical nurse and take a step closer to her dream of being a nurse. She worked in an emergency room and said she loved helping others.

"I could tell I was making a difference," she said.

But when her son was preparing for college, Jeanne said she knew if she was going to tell him how important school was, she had to "walk the talk" and set an example. Plus, she said becoming a registered nurse gave her more opportunity to advance.

For Richard — whose mother sometimes calls him Cody — a self-described "quintessential science nerd," college was never a question. For Jeanne, he served as her motivation.

The two could be playfully competitive with their grade-point averages, and Jeanne said she'd turn to her son for homework advice.

"He was strict on me," she said.

They were there for each other to lean on. Jeanne said junior year was tough for both of them, but they helped each other with phone calls and support.

That tutoring and support will continue as each heads to graduate school. Richard is going to the University of California at Irvine to continue his passion of studying and lobbying for science. Jeanne plans to start an online program in January to receive her master's and doctoral degrees in nursing.

Jeanne said her son grew up in awe of his grandfather's UT class ring.

"I'm going to get one just like that," she recalls him saying.

Now Richard has his own ring with a torchbearer on one side. The torchbearer stands in the shadows so someone else can stand in the light, and that's what Richard's grandfather did for him, Jeanne said.

She has a torchbearer of her own.

"Cody's been mine," she said.
UT MARTIN GRADUATES - From left, Olivia Gaines, of Ripley; Theresa Ong, of Cordova; and Brad Mose, of Big Sandy, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2. Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, served as the spring 2015 commencement speaker.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE - Bobbie Smith (center), of Camden, took the Florence Nightingale Pledge during a pinning ceremony May 1 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The pledge is taken by students entering the nursing profession and holds each candidate to a high standard of professional care in the health-care industry. Smith received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree during the university's commencement exercises May 2. She is pictured with fellow student Madison Moody (left), of Paris, and Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor and chair, Department of Nursing.

Warf graduates from UTM

Benton County resident Amanda Warf received her degree in Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Psychology from The University of Tennessee at Martin on Saturday, May 2, 2015.

Warf was in the top 12% of her class with a GPA of 3.62, graduating Magna Cum Laude. She is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success Sigma Alpha Pi.

Amanda is the mother of Tiffani Katherine Miller, and she is the daughter of Aubrey and Judy Warf of Camden, and the late Linda Butler Warf.
**Award Presented**

LINDSEY BOWIE, left, daughter of Stan and Pam Bowie, of Halls, was awarded the Leslie Duke Outstanding Junior award April 20th in Park and Recreation Administration at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She is pictured with Dr. Phillip Smartt, advisor and professor of natural resource management at the university. A 2013 Halls High School graduate, she is majoring in natural resource management with a concentration in park administration, and plans to continue to pursue her goal of working as a state park. Lindsey plans to work at Fort Pillow State Historic Park as a seasonal interpretive ranger this summer.

**Celebrating Graduation**

SHAYLA SANDERS, second from left, daughter of Tommy and Donna Sanders and granddaughter of Samuel and Dorothy Lee and the late Joe Neal and Bertha Horton Sanders, all of Ripley, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin Saturday, March 2nd with a bachelor of fine arts degree in graphic design.

Shayla's grandmother, Dorothy Lee, is recovering from a stroke she suffered February 11th and was unable to attend. Shayla is pictured with her parents, grandfather, Samuel Lee, and aunt, Paula Lee Boger.

**UT-Martin Graduate**

OLIVIA GAINES, left, of Ripley, pictured with Theresa Ong, of Cordova, and Brad Moss, of Big Sandy, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin May 2nd. Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, served as the spring 2015 commencement speaker.
Students win big at Tennessee Collegiate AP Awards

Staff members from the University of Tennessee at Martin campus radio station, WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," brought home seven awards from the Tennessee Associated Press Collegiate Journalism Awards Competition, distributed at a ceremony March 28 in Nashville.

"The students this year were very engaged. They asked great questions of the panelists and took full opportunity of the pros who were in attendance," said Sandy Boonstra, president of the Tennessee Associated Press board and news director at NewsChannel 5 Nashville. "It's no wonder the students at UT Martin took home several awards. You could see from their participation they are serious about their studies and future profession. They represented our school well."

The awards were presented during the Tennessee Associated Press Broadcasters and Media Editors College Career Day at the First Amendment Center on the Vanderbilt University campus. Students from all college media outlets across the state submitted portfolio collections for consideration in their respective categories.

Sydney LaFreniere, a junior from Oak Ridge, took home first place in the best radio reporter and best radio newscast categories. She was also named "best in show" and won first place overall for the radio division.

Chuck Hammer, a junior from Martin, won first place in the best radio sports reporting category for a collection of submitted stories, including women's soccer, women's basketball and football reports. Hammer and Quinton Stevens, a senior from Bernie, Mo., won second place in the best radio sports coverage for a broadcast of a home baseball game between UT Martin and Missouri State University.

Blake Stevens, a senior from Brighton, placed second in the best radio reporter category and third in the best radio in-depth/investigative reporting category. In the latter category, Stevens submitted a story covering the impeachment of a student government association executive council member.

"In the profession of journalism, the Associated Press is held up as the gold standard. The students did excellent work this year and were recognized by AP for it," said Dr. Richard Robinson, UT Martin associate professor of communications and faculty adviser for WUTM. "I believe this indicates that the communications department at UT Martin is teaching our students what they need to know to compete in today's workplace."

These awards come on the heels of WUTM's outstanding performance at both the Southeastern Journalism Conference and the Intercolligate Broadcasting System Conference earlier this year.

Students to present recitals on Sunday at UTM

Westview Seniors Gian Garma and Nathan Williamson will present their senior piano recitals on Sunday in Blankenship Recital Hall in the UTM Fine Arts Building. Garma will perform at 2 p.m. and Williamson will perform at 3:30. Both are students of Dr. Elaine Harriss of Martin.

Garma is the son of Victor and Petiche Garma of Martin. He is a 2015 honor graduate of Westview High School and has studied piano for 12 years with Dr. Harriss. He earned the Paderewski Medal and the High School Diploma in Music from the National Guild of Piano Teachers, has won the high school division of the UTM piano competition, and attended the 2014 Governor's School for the Arts in piano.

He will attend UTM as a music major in the fall.

He will perform works by Beethoven, Debussy, Chopin, and Copland.

Williamson is the son of David Williamson of Rives and Melinda Schmidt of Martin. He is a 2015 Honor graduate of Westview High School and has studied piano for three years. He has participated in auditions of the National Guild of Piano Teachers and the Martin Area Music Teachers Association, and has earned the High School Diploma in Music from the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

Williamson will attend UTM as a music major in the fall. He will perform works by Bach, Mozart, Grieg, Griffes, and Sibelius.

Each program will be followed by light refreshments.

The programs are free of charge and the public is cordially invited to attend.
DIETETICS INTERNSHIP — Riley Auvenshine (second from right), of Dresden, recently completed her dietetics internship as a required component of UT Martin’s dietetics concentration. The internship is a nine-month supervised practice program during which the intern performs under the supervision of a registered dietitian. Students are eligible to sit for the national registration exam after completing the internship requirement. Auvenshine completed her intern experience at Methodist Hospital in Memphis. She is pictured with (from left) Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Brian Carroll, lecturer and dietetic internship director; and Dr. Sue Byrd, professor and chair, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

PLEDGE — Sara Olds (left), of Martin, and Rebecca Wright (right), of Dresden, took the Florence Nightingale Pledge during a pinning ceremony May 1 at UT Martin. The pledge is taken by students entering the nursing profession and holds each candidate to a high standard of professional care in the health-care industry. Olds and Wright received their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees during the university’s commencement exercises May 2. They are pictured with Dr. Mary Radford (center), associate professor and chair, Department of Nursing.
LOCAL GRADUATES — (From left) Tyler Jones, Cody Worley, Danielle Pence and Jordan Galey, all of Greenfield, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2. Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, served as the spring 2015 commencement speaker.

LOCAL GRADUATES — (From left) Mary Kate Haines, of Martin; and Katie Flynn, of Jackson, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2. They are pictured with Katie's mother, Meshell Flynn. Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, served as the spring 2015 commencement speaker.
Enrollment underway for STEMulation camps at UTM

Students that will be in the sixth through ninth grades in the fall of 2015 are invited to participate in one of two STEMulation camps hosted by UT Martin. STEM camps focus on introducing science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts to school-aged children.

STEMulation Camp 2015 – A Summer of STEMulating Science is open to students who will be in the sixth through eighth grades. The camp is scheduled for 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., June 1-5. Participants will work individually and in teams through a series of hands-on activities, including solar vehicle construction, rocketry, T-bot hydraulic arms, video game design, webquest design and exploratory activities.

The Skyhawk STEM Camp 2015 is a new event designed for rising ninth grade students. It is scheduled for 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., June 8-12. Students will be able to explore major topics taught in high school physical science classes and get a head start on important concepts. Camp activities will focus on the same topics presented at STEMulation Camp 2015.

Pre-registration is required and slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is $195 per student and includes a camp T-shirt and all activity supplies.

Both STEMulation camps are under the direction of Dr. Louis Glover, assistant professor, UT Martin Department of Educational Studies. Glover joined the UT Martin faculty in 2011 after serving as a secondary mathematics and science instructor in Dallas, Texas. Select pre-service education majors from UT Martin will assist Glover with camp activities.

For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/stemulation_camp.php.

SECOND LIEUTENANT — Joseph Barber (left), of Martin, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army on May 2. Barber completed the ROTC training program at the University of Tennessee at Martin and took the Oath for Commissioning Officers shortly before the university’s spring commencement exercises. He received a Bachelor of Science in geography and will be joining the Transportation Corps for active duty service. Barber is pictured with Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, professor of military science and leadership.
Elliott to speak at 15th annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony

Lt. Col. Steve Elliott will be the guest speaker for the University of Tennessee at Martin Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony set for 9 a.m., Friday, May 22, in front of the Hall-Moody Administration Building located on University Street. The event will be moved in case of inclement weather to the Student Life Center next to Graham Stadium. The public is invited to attend.

This will mark the university’s 15th annual Memorial Day Commemoration and the second year Elliott has spoken at the ceremony.

Elliott, who was raised in Alabama, graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1993 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant of field artillery. He joined the Army National Guard after five years of active service at Ft. Stewart, Ga., and began graduate school at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He completed his Ph.D. in mathematics and became an assistant professor at UT Martin in 2005. Since then, he has deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom and to Djibouti for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Elliott currently commands the 1st Battalion, 238th Field Artillery, and he continues to teach mathematics at UT Martin. He and his wife, Holly, have two sons: Cannon, 7, and Conner, 2. The family lives in Martin.

Cpt. Troy Shoemaker, UT Martin Department of Military Science and Leadership, will serve as the master of ceremonies. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will welcome guests.

Dr. Roberto Mancusi, assistant professor of music, will perform the national anthem. Dr. Jerry Gresham, a former U.S. Army captain, Vietnam War veteran and UT Martin professor emeritus of animal science, will offer the invocation. U.S. Army and World War II veteran Joe Walker, of Martin, will offer the benediction. Walker is a retired UT Martin housing employee.

The UT Martin Department of Public Safety and Martin Police Department will present a 21-gun salute. The UT Martin ROTC Battalion will provide taps to conclude the program.

Several locals earn degrees at UTM

Several Henry County students were among those who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the school’s spring commencement.

Carrye Moody Jackson of Paris received a graduate degree during the ceremony.

Those receiving undergraduate degrees were Kaitlin R. Byrd, Amy Marguerite Dodd, Brianna Jaye Victoria Rachel Foss, Kelsey Taylor Head, Audrey Lynn Lamb, Dustin Jerome Lutz, Amanda Jean Matthews, Seth William Mayoga, Madison Karlee Moody, Miranda Lane Pashall, Brett Brittany Pugh, Joshua Keith Revel, Rachel Buchanan Robison and Jade Austin Younger, all of Paris.

Drew F. Brown of Cottage Grove; Danielle Preben Hilt of Henry; and Cory Andrew Brandstetter of Puryear.
Local Residents Graduate From UT Martin

Robin Kiestler (left) and Ashley Hollingsworth, both of Selmer, graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2nd. Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, served as the spring 2015 commencement speaker.

Elliott to speak at UTM for Memorial Day event

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The UT Martin Department of Public Safety and Martin Police Department will present a 21-gun salute. The UT Martin ROTC Battalion will play “Taps” to conclude the program.

Elliott...

(Continued from Page 1)
Enrollment open for UTM Kid College

Posted on May 16, 2015 by Steve James in Local News

Enrollment is going on now for the annual UT-Martin Kid College summer program.

The program will run June 8th through the 12th on the UTM main campus. Courses are on a first-come, first-served basis and will fill up, so early registration is encouraged.

Kid College is open to children who will be in kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall of 2015 and includes more than 60 course options. Children may enroll in up to five courses of their choosing, based on grade level.

The first course is $30 per child; additional courses are $25 each. Many of the individual courses have additional supply fees. The registration fee includes a Kid College T-shirt.

To enroll your child in this year’s Kid College, go online to utm.edu.

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Memorial Day Service at UT-Martin

Posted on May 16, 2015 by Charles Choate in Local News

Lt. Col. Steve Elliott will be the guest speaker for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 15th annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony this Friday.

The event will take place at 9:00, in front of the Hall-Moody Administration Building located on University Street.

Elliott was raised in Alabama and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1993, where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant of field artillery.

He joined the Army National Guard after five years of active service at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, and began graduate school at the University of Kentucky.

He completed his Ph.D in mathematics and became an assistant professor at UT Martin in 2005, and currently commands the 1st Battalion, 238th Field Artillery, and he continues to teach mathematics at UT Martin.

The UT Martin Department of Public Safety, and Martin Police Department, will present a 21-gun salute.

The UT Martin ROTC Battalion will provide taps to conclude the program.
Mom, son share journey to UT graduations

M.J. Slaby
Knoxville News Sentinel

HUNTINGDON — As Jeanne Prince received her diploma from the University of Tennessee at Martin earlier this month, she recalled she couldn’t help but notice “that look of pride” on her son’s face.

Days later, it was her turn to show that pride as her son Richard Cody Prince graduated at UT’s flagship campus in Knoxville.

The mother and son, both of Huntingdon, Tennessee, are members of the UT class of 2015.

For her, it’s a degree in nursing. For him, it’s a degree from the College Scholars program with an emphasis in science policy and administration and a second major in physics with an academic focus.

Mother and son each said they are proud of the other and agree they were essential to each other’s success. But they couldn’t resist some playful teasing.

“She won’t let her son forget, for example, that her graduation came five days before his. "She rubbed it in my face a little that she beat me to the degree,” the son said.

Jeanne, a single mom, enrolled in college courses on and off throughout her son’s life. When he was 12, she left a well-paying factory job to become a licensed practical nurse and take a step closer to her dream of being a nurse. She worked in an emergency room and said she loved helping others.

“I could tell I was making a difference,” she said. But when her son was preparing for college, Jeanne said she knew if she was going to tell him how important school was, she had to “walk the talk” and set an example. Plus, she said becoming a registered nurse gave her more opportunity to advance.

For Richard — whose mother sometimes calls him Cody — a self-described “quintessential science nerd,” college was never a question. For Jeanne, he served as her motivation.

The two could be playfully competitive with their grade-point averages, and Jeanne said she’d turn to her son for homework advice.

“He was strict on me,” she said.

They were there for each other to lean on. Jeanne said junior year was tough for both of them, but they helped each other with phone calls and support.

That tutoring and support will continue as each heads to graduate school.

Richard is going to the University of California at Irvine to continue his passion of studying and lobbying for science. Jeanne plans to start an online program in January to receive her master’s and doctoral degrees in nursing.

Jeanne said her son grew up in awe of his grandfather’s UT class ring.

“I’m going to get one just like that,” she recalls him saying.

Now Richard has his own ring with a torchbearer on one side. The torchbearer stands in the shadows so someone else can stand in the light, and that’s what Richard’s grandfather did for him, Jeanne said.

She has a torchbearer of her own.

“Cody’s been mine,” she said.

Jeanne received her master’s degree in public service and administration from California State University, San Bernardino.

Richard received his master’s degree in security studies from the University of Maryland, College Park.

JPD Capt. Miller receives WestStar Leadership Award

Capt. Tyreece Miller of the Jackson Police Department, received the Outstanding Leadership Award at the African American Leadership Conference in April.

The conference was hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program.

A native Jacksonian, Miller began working with the Jackson Police Department in 1997, after serving in the United States Marine Corps.

He began in the criminal investigation division as an investigator in the metro narcotics unit in 2000 before transferring to the violent crimes unit as an investigator in 2002, serving 11 years.

He became a sergeant, then a lieutenant before attaining his current rank of captain and becoming commander of the criminal investigation division.

As commander, Miller is responsible for the major crimes bureau, general investigations bureau, special investigations bureau and Crime Stoppers. He holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Bethel University and is a graduate of the Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy, 10th session, at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. A 2012 graduate of the Leadership Jackson program, Miller is also a member of the Jackson Rotary Club and serves on its board of directors.
U.T. Martin names White County students to chancellor’s honor roll

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

- Ashtyn N. Farris, Sparta, High Honors
- Kaytlyn M. Franklin, Sparta, High Honors
- Alexandra T. Stover, Sparta, High Honors

The first course is $30 per child. Additional courses are $25 each. Many of the individual courses have additional supply fees. The registration fee includes a Kid College t-shirt.

Courses for students in kindergarten through second grade include magnificent mad scientists, discovering the night sky, linguakidz French, LEGOs, ARTventure time, fitness is fun, yoga, wood working, carousel kitchen, football, baseball/softball, karate, personality pets, and the wacky world of games.

Courses for children in third through fifth grade include space academy, kids hunt too, creative canvas, hello cupcakes, balloons with a twist, the skynhawk report, photography, linguakidz Spanish, chemical reactions, author's corner, kid with a blog, wood working, and simple and powered machines.

Registration is now open and parents are encouraged to register early. For more information, visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/kidcollege.php.
For town in Bill Clinton ad, jobs have only withered since 1992
In 1992, Bill Clinton promised hope to a Tennessee town hurt by global trade. Today, people there doubt any politician can help.

DECATURVILLE, TENN. — Ricky Mullins was sitting in his granddad's living room, watching the World Series, when the station cut to commercial and his face popped up on the TV. There was a sign that said "Crafted with pride in U.S.A." and then there was Ricky, his head cocked, telling the camera, "That sign means nothing, really — not if the government's going to take it away from you."

It was 1992, and Mullins was a star of a campaign ad, cut by presidential candidate Bill Clinton, that lamented the closing of the textile mill where Mullins and hundreds of other residents of this rural Tennessee town had worked. Production from the factory had moved to El Salvador, and President George H.W. Bush was to blame for the policies that let it happen. Clinton, the narrator concluded, was "ready to invest in America."

Today, though, all traces of the Decaturville Sportswear plant, which once employed some 1,500 locals, have vanished, and nothing comparable has replaced it. The unemployment rate is higher in Decatur County now than it was when Clinton took office. One out of every four residents uses food stamps.

Now another Clinton is running for president, offering more promises to revitalize the country and lift downtrodden workers. Where her husband kindled hope, Hillary Rodham Clinton will find cynicism and skepticism — an abiding sense among many blue-collar workers that no one in Washington can or will do anything to soothe the economic struggles that came after Bill Clinton and sometimes were caused by his policies.

Much of that cynicism flows from the expansion of global trade in recent decades. While trade deals open new markets...
TRADE FROM A1

for U.S. businesses and make goods cheaper for consumers, they can punish places like Decaturville with a decades-long void where good jobs used to be. Trade already looms large over the 2016 election, especially for Hillary Clinton, who has declined to take a firm position on a new trade pact with Asia that President Obama is attempting to push through Congress despite heavy opposition.

No one expects Clinton to win Decatur County or carry Tennessee, as her husband did in 1992. But blue-collar voters could prove key to her chances, and her Republican opponents; in swing states such as Virginia, North Carolina and Ohio. Many of those workers have long grown tired of politicians promising relief from their trade-induced job losses but never delivering.

"The working class," the head of the Decatur County Chamber of Commerce, Charles Taylor, said on a recent drive over green hills and past abandoned storefronts, "has gotten to the point where they don't trust anybody."

Bill Clinton expanded trade as president, but many folks in Decaturville fondly remember him as a candidate, including Mullins, who met then-Arkansas Gov. Clinton in Nashville. "He seemed to me to be a little bit more caring than some others," Mullins said, and he plans to vote for Hillary Clinton this time around. He also said Bill Clinton's economy, for all its growth, didn't help him personally.

Mullins, a longtime Democrat who is now 60 years old, worked 18 years at the sportswear plant before it shut down. He hasn't found a comparable job since. He draws a disability check for the arthritis in his joints. Some days he works a shift behind the register at a dockside grocery store on the Tennessee River, on Decatur County's eastern edge.

He'd like to be more optimistic about the local economy, he said, but the plant closure just took so much money out of it. "It hurt us pretty bad," he said. "I don't know what would help."

Decatur County's losses

Decatur County has just under 12,000 residents. About 800 of them live in Decaturville, the county seat. The county's unemployment rate has doubled, to 9 percent, from where it was at the end of the Clinton administration. Factory employment has been cut in half since 2000. Fewer people had jobs in the county last year than in 2001.

Only recently have civic leaders begun taking steps to prepare the area for a more knowledge-based economy, and even then, many say they're not sure why any college graduate would settle here. There just aren't a lot of professional jobs that require a degree.

Decaturville has never been a wealthy place, but for a few decades, its economy hummed with the sort of assembly-line clothing production that hardly exists in
America anymore. The largest of the local garment plants was Decaturville Sportswear. It rose in 1960 from the ashes of a high school gymnasium, which had burned 17 years after the federal Works Progress Administration built it during the Great Depression.

It was a plant where wives of hog farmers hunched over sewing machines, their hair piled up in beehives; where young men fresh from high school could land jobs punching buttonholes and work their way into supervisory positions; where the beloved manager carved room in his budget to build a youth center in town with an outdoor pool and pay local students to lifeguard.

The pay was never high, but it was steady. Many people in town remember the 1960s and '70s as their economic apex. A lunch counter sold hot bologna sandwiches to long lines of workers. There were three furniture galleries.

Plant employment began dropping in the 1980s, as lower-cost foreign competitors began to rise. Decaturville Sportswear was sold, and in 1991, it closed down. Unemployment in Decatur County hit 20 percent shortly before the Clinton campaign sent its camera crew to Decaturville, on the heels of a “60 Minutes” report that said Bush administration subsidies helped move the plant’s production to El Salvador.

The resulting ad opens with a Reaganesque proclamation—"It's morning in Decaturville, Tennessee, but for 650 people who once worked here, there are no jobs"—and goes on to note that the United States had lost 117,000 textile jobs. Since the ad aired, nearly 400,000 additional textile jobs have gone away nationally, along with more than 700,000 jobs in apparel manufacturing. Since Bill Clinton took office, the two sectors have lost a combined 80 percent of their jobs.

Decatur County lost all its garment-making. After the sportswear plant closed, three of its former employees bought its equipment for $75,000, then opened a new facility called Triangle Sportswear, with 50 employees. One of the three was Collins Pratt, who started at the plant turning sewed clothes right-side out and worked his way up to become plant manager. Through a series of events that he attributes to the Lord's grace, Pratt and his co-owners won several contracts and were making money, making clothes.

Then Clinton signed the North American Free Trade Agreement. Suppliers began asking Pratt if he could beat price quotes from Mexican factories. Within a decade, Triangle shut down, along with the other remaining plants in the county.

Clinton, Pratt said, "didn't do what he said he was going to do. He said he was going to stop NAFTA." Giving a man a job, he added, is like the old saying — you're teaching him to fish, so he can eat for life. "What our country did, they took away our fishing ponds."

The 1990s were nevertheless good for Pratt financially: He invested in a truck-and-trailer business that flourished. Even with its lost manufacturing jobs, Decatur County's unemployment rate fell to 4.4 percent at the end of that decade.

"The majority of people will tell you those were some of the best years they had," said Athalia Taylor, the town librarian, who worked six years at the plant before it closed, then went into nursing and eventually earned a college degree.

Taylor, the Chamber of Commerce president, longs for a couple hundred acres of industrial park, wired for power and piped for sewage, to attract a supplier for one of the big auto plants in the state. He said Decaturville residents ask for something simpler. "Please, just get us a Sonic" drive-in restaurant, they tell him. "A Sonic."

County leaders say their best hopes for economic expansion lie along the Tennessee River, where a tourism industry is growing as more people buy weekend getaway and retirement homes, and in the University of Tennessee at Martin branch campus that opened in Parsons a few years back. Only 1 in 7 adults in Decatur County holds a bachelor's degree or higher; prospective employers are always asking, "Where is your educated workforce?" said Tim David Boaz, the mayor of Parsons.

There are a few small manufacturers still scattered around, including one that makes freezers and one that makes pressure washers. There is no sign of the old sportswear plant. It was knocked down several years ago. In its place sits a fortress of brick and wire: the new county jail.
Gibson County residents receive UT Martin awards

GIBSON COUNTY RESIDENTS RECEIVE UT MARTIN AWARDS – Two local residents were recognized during an awards banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Collin Sutton (right), of Milan, received the award for academic promise in geology. William Abrams (left), of Rutherford, received the W. A. Tarr Award, the Geology Student Leadership Award and the Geology Student Service Award. They are both pictured with Dr. Jason Roberts, assistant professor of animal science.

LOCAL RESIDENT GRADUATES FROM UT MARTIN – Eric Ivy, of Milan, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2.
Milan grad named CEO/CFO of Jones Family Companies

The Jones Family of Companies named the first non-Jones family member, Richard Ayers, Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Global Management Accountant, as CEO/CFO for the first time in history.

A graduate of Milan High School, Mr. Ayers served two terms as President of the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce and currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the University School of Jackson and has remained a faithful member to his community and to the Jones Companies for almost 30 years.

"Even though he doesn't have the Jones last name, Richard has not only held true to our founders core values in his 28-year commitment to the Jones family of businesses, Richard lives these values like a member of the family," Ralph Jones, III, recently appointed Executive Chairman of the Jones Companies, said.

In the spring of 2014, Jones, then President/CEO, and Ayers, then Managing Director and CFO, began a process of realigning the corporate structure to position both operations for future growth, sustained success and to ensure longevity for Jones Companies, Ltd.; a leading supplier of products to the floor-cleaning industry and Jones Fiber Products, Inc. [JFP], a market leading product innovator for the bedding and furniture industries.

According to Jones, the first move in the strategic plan involved naming Ayers as CEO/CFO. With a B.S. degree in Business Administration and a major in accounting from the University of Tennessee at Martin, Ayers has been a loyal leader in all aspects of the Jones Companies.

Before coming to Jones, Ayers worked 13 years in public accounting with national and regional CPA firms and has additionally held positions with several professional organizations including the Tennessee Society of CPAs and the Society's Memorial and Education Foundation as well as a member of the American Institute of CPA's. Ayers is also on the Jackson State Community College Foundation Board of Trustees, served as the Board's chair, and is on the Budget, Investment, and Finance Committee.

In the bedding industry currently, Mr. Ayers serves on the International Sleep Products Association Board of Trustees. He is a past President of the National Cotton Batting Institute and previously served two terms as the Institute's Vice-President.

With his years of experience and leadership, Ayers will now work collectively with the Senior Leadership Team to pursue the new strategic objectives of the company. "As the keeper of the values representing the owners, Richard has my utmost confidence that his guidance will sustain our corporate success and he has our full support to achieve the goals set before him," Jones says.

Richard Ayers

STEMulation Camps Enrolling for Rising Sixth-Ninth Graders

MARTIN — Students that will be in the sixth through ninth grades in the fall of 2015 are invited to participate in one of two STEMulation camps hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin. STEM camps focus on introducing science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts to school-aged children.

STEMulation Camp 2015 — A Summer of STEMulating Science is open to students who will be in the sixth through eighth grades. The camp is scheduled for 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., June 1-5, on the main UT Martin campus. Participants will work individually and in teams through a series of hands-on activities, including solar vehicle construction, rocketry, T-bot hydraulic arms, video game design, webquest design and exploratory activities.

The Skyhawk STEM Camp 2015 is a new event designed for rising ninth grade students. It is scheduled for 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., June 8-12, also on the main UT Martin campus. Students will be able to explore major topics taught in high school physical science classes and get a head start on important concepts. Camp activities will focus on the same topics presented at STEMulation Camp 2015.

Pre-registration is required and slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is $195 per student and includes a camp T-shirt and all activity supplies.

Both STEMulation camps are under the direction of Dr. Louis Glover, assistant professor, UT Martin Department of Educational Studies. Glover joined the UT Martin faculty in 2011 after serving as a secondary mathematics and science instructor in Dallas, Texas. Select pre-service education majors from UT Martin will assist Glover with camp activities.

For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecs/courses/children/stemulation_camp.php.
Local Residents Receive Degrees from UT-Martin

MARTIN — Several Carroll 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 UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Atwood - Britney Nicole Chandler, Stephen Marshall Miller;
- Brueton - Elijah Dylan Castoe, Julie Michelle Kelley, Victoria Nicole Young;
- Buena Vista - Ryan Averitt Guinn;
- Hollow Rock - Ryan Averitt Guinn;
- Huntingdon - Joshua D. Covington, Patty Laurine Cupples, Ashlee Nicole Porter, Jeanne M. Prince;
- Trezevant - Andrea Taylor Argo, Tessa Amber Burnsine, Morgan Danae Gray, Lindsey Kay Springer;
- Yuma - Felicia Dawn Wood.

The student receiving a graduate degree was:
- Cedar Grove - Virginia Rose Hughes.

AWARD PRESENTED — Mary Vowell, of James Buckley Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, recently presented the ROTC award to Cadet Cory Riley at the United States Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps Dining Out and Awards Ceremony, held at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Cadet Riley, an interdisciplinary studies major, from Alamo. Cadet Riley will be commissioned as a 2LT this month and will serve in the Tennessee Army National Guard. The James Buckley Chapter is honored each year to present the ROTC award to a worthy student.

CADET HONORED — Cadet Chelsea Dodd (right) was recently presented a certificate award from CPT Troy C. Shoemaker, assistant professor of military science at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She is wearing her Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Colonies ROTC medal she was presented at Union University. Cadet Dodd attends the ROTC program at UTM but was unable to attend the United States Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps Awards Ceremony. This award is given to an outstanding female cadet who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities, and has a B or above in military science. The Colonel Gideon Macon Chapter of Paris is very honored to present this award to Cadet Chelsea Dodd.
**VET HEALTH TECH** — Katelyn Morris (center), a Gleason resident, completed the coursework for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s veterinary health technology program and was honored during a pinning ceremony May 1. She will complete a required internship during the summer and graduate in December. Morris is pictured with Erica Carroll (left) and Amanda Waldon, licensed veterinary technicians and laboratory instructors for the program.

**VET HEALTH TECH** — Rachel Steinfeldt (left), a Greenfield resident, completed the coursework for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s veterinary health technology program and was honored during a pinning ceremony May 1. She received the Dr. Marie Olsen Award. Olsen was the 11th female veterinarian in the United States and is credited with several inventions, including isolation wards. Award recipients are chosen because they embody the characteristics of dedication and perseverance displayed by Olsen. Steinfeldt will complete a required internship during the summer and graduate in December. She is pictured with Amanda Waldon, licensed veterinary technician and laboratory instructor for the program.

**VET HEALTH TECH** — Elizabeth Terrell (left), a Gleason resident, completed the coursework for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s veterinary health technology program and was honored during a pinning ceremony May 1. She received the Academic Achievement Award for having the highest GPA of the program’s 2015 graduating class. Terrell will complete a required internship during the summer and graduate in December. She is pictured with Renee Stubblefield, graduate teaching assistant.
OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES — Chancellor Tom Rakes (center) recognized an outstanding exempt and non-exempt staff member at the clerical coffee in April. The spring 2015 award-winners are Jerry Forsythe, maintenance assistant, UT Martin Parsons Center (left), and Amy Belew, of Martin, interim assistant chief information officer and interim director of systems administration, distance learning and security, Office of Information Technology Services.

COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS — Maegan Smith Jolley (right), of Dresden, received the Media Design Award during a University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet held April 9. She was also recognized for her outstanding service as president of the Media Design Club. The Media Design Award is given to an outstanding media design student, as selected by the department faculty. Jolley is a senior communications major completing the media design sequence. She is pictured with Dr. Tracey Rutledge, assistant professor of communication.
Scholarship established in memory of county educator

The Carolyn White Scholarship will be awarded to a Westview senior who will attend UT Martin.

A scholarship has been established in memory of a longtime Weakley County educator by the Westview High School Class of 1983. The Carolyn White Scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Westview senior who will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin and major in history or political science.

White taught history for 28 years and was vice principal during the final seven years of her Westview career. Julia Brundige, one of White’s daughters and a Martin resident, credited Alicia Field Pinto for her role in establishing the scholarship. Pinto is also a Martin resident and a member of the Westview class of 1983.

“I guess the greatest thing she taught me and her classes is that learning can be fun,” Brundige said in a statement about her mother. “And the definition of an educated person is one that can look at both sides of an issue and remain calm.” She recalled that her mother gave “warts” to students who misbehaved, but she loved her students “warts and all.”

Gifts to the scholarship can be made online to UT Martin Advancement Services at utmforever.com or by calling 881-7620.

The Westview High School Class of 1983 has established a scholarship in memory of Carolyn White, longtime Weakley County educator. Pictured are (from left) Julia Brundige, daughter of Carolyn White; Bonnie Brundige Moore, Brundige’s daughter and White’s granddaughter; and Alicia Field Pinto, scholarship organizer and Westview class of 1983 member.

INCOMING FRESHMAN AWARD

Christopher Ables (left), of Martin, received a scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications during an awards banquet held April 9. Ables is a senior at Westview High School and will attend UT Martin as a communications major in the fall 2015 semester. He is the son of Chuck and Julie Ables. Ables is pictured with Dr. Chara Van Horn, assistant professor of communications.
Robotics camp

Children ages five to 14 are invited to enroll in a summer robotics camp 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.

The WeDo Robotics Camp is designed for children ages five to seven who have already completed kindergarten. Participants will design, build and control a motorized robot using sensors to complete specific challenges. This camp is scheduled for 9-11 a.m., June 15-19. The NXT Robotics Camp is for ages eight to 14 and will incorporate the LEGO Mindstorms Education NXT Software into the creation of programmable robots. This camp is scheduled for 1-4 p.m., June 15-19.

The Advanced NXT Robotics Camp is for students age eight to 14 who are interested in more complicated robotics challenges. Participants will build and program robots to perform various tasks, such as racing other robots, navigating mazes, gathering and moving items, and solving puzzles. The emphasis of this course will be understanding the engineering design of both the robot itself and the program that controls it. The advanced camp is scheduled for 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday and Tuesday, and 9 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, June 22-24.

All the 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.

University of Tennessee at Martin names Horseheads student to chancellor’s honor roll

Tammi Jo A. Swearingen, of Horseheads, recently was named to the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring chancellor’s honor roll.

By Staff Reports

Posted May 20, 2015 at 6:30 PM

Tammi Jo A. Swearingen, of Horseheads, recently was named to the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring chancellor’s honor roll.

To be eligible for chancellor’s honor roll recognition, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve certain academic factors.

For more information, visit www.utm.edu.

Dr. Robert M. Smith to Serve as Interim Chancellor at UT Martin

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

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

UT President Joe DiPietro formally announced Smith’s appointment and introduced him to the UT Martin community in a visit to the campus on Friday, May 1.
15th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony Set For May 22

Lt. Col. Steve Elliott will be the guest speaker for the University of Tennessee at Martin Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony set for 9 a.m., Friday, May 22, in front of the Hall-Moody Administration Building located on University Street. The event will be moved in case of inclement weather to the Student Life Center next to Graham Stadium. The public is invited to attend.

This will mark the university’s 15th annual Memorial Day Commemoration and the second year Elliott has spoken at the ceremony.

Elliott, who was raised in Alabama, graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1993 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant of field artillery. He joined the Army National Guard after five years of active service at Ft. Stewart, Ga., and began graduate school at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

He completed his Ph.D. in mathematics and became an assistant professor at UT Martin in 2005. Since then, he has deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom and to Djibouti for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Elliott currently commands the 1st Battalion, 238th Field Artillery, and he continues to teach mathematics at UT Martin. He and his wife, Holly, have two sons: Cannon, 7, and Conner, 2. The family lives in Martin.

Cpt. Troy Shoemaker, UT Martin Department of Military Science and Leadership, will serve as the master of ceremonies. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will welcome guests.

Dr. Roberto Mancusi, assistant professor of music, will perform the national anthem. Dr. Jerry Gresham, a former U.S. Army captain, Vietnam War veteran and UT Martin professor emeritus of animal science, will offer the invocation. U.S. Army and World War II veteran Joe Walker, of Martin, will offer the benediction. Walker is a retired UT Martin housing employee.

The UT Martin Department of Public Safety and Martin Police Department will present a 21-gun salute. The UT Martin ROTC Battalion will provide taps to conclude the program.

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CRENSHAW TAKES PLEDGE – Cal Crenshaw (left) of Trenton took the Florence Nightingale Pledge during a pinning ceremony May 1 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The pledge is taken by students entering the nursing profession and holds each candidate to a high standard of professional care in the health-care industry. Crenshaw received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree during the university’s commencement exercises May 2. He is pictured with Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor and chair, Department of Nursing.
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).

Students named to the honor roll are:

**Humboldt Chronicle, Wednesday, May 20, 2015**

**UT Martin names local students to spring chancellor’s honor roll**

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the 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).

Students named to the honor roll are:

**Humboldt -**

Bailey N. Alexander, honors; Luke H. Brittain, high honors; Logan Farley, honors; Robert L. Fish, high honors; Jonathan H. Hefley, highest honors; Douglass G. Hunderup, highest honors; Alexis R. Johnson, honors; Austin S. Koffman, high honors; Isabella G. Lizney, honors; Joshua M. Matthis, highest honors; Peyton Nee, high honors; Amber J. Pearson, honors; Allen J. Perry, high honors; Dustin C. Thacker, honors; Maya M. Thornton, honors; Shelby G. Vasquez, honors; William T. Wright, highest honors.

**Medina -**

Noah S. Allen, high honors; Mason T. Boyd, honors; Summer A. Bradley, honors; Anthony C. Brown, highest honors; Dylan Brown, highest honors; Casey A. Dunavan, high honors; Jacob T. Henderson, honors; Jason R. Kail, high honors; Heather L. Morris, high honors; Drake C. Owens, high honors; Marshall W. Pearson, honors; Joseph M. Pedigo, honors; Emily M. Poole, highest honors; Hayden M. Presson, high honors; Sara J. Ragain, honors; Anna B. Santaniello, high honors; Cassidy N. Sheehan, honors; Elizabeth C. Trotter, honors; Kathryn L. Woods, honors.

**Three Way -**

Lucas J. Mercker, high honors.

**Gibson -**

Cody C. Black, honors; Hannah R. Houck, highest honors.

**ACT prep class offered**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer a one-day ACT prep class from 8 a.m.-noon, June 6, at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

This comprehensive one-day course covers the wide range of subjects tested during the ACT, including mathematical skills, grammar usage and reading comprehension, and is designed to help students improve performance and boost their scores. Alex Beene, college and ACT advisor for Fayette County Schools, will instruct the course just in time for the June 13 testing date.

There is registration fee per student. For more information, please visit [http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php](http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php) or call the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.
ALFORD, GILES COMPLETES UTM VETERINARY HEALTH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM:
Kathleen Alford (center left picture), and Autumn Giles (center right picture), both Dyersburg residents, completed the coursework for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s veterinary health technology program and was honored during a pinning ceremony May 1. They will complete a required internship during the summer and graduate in December. They are pictured with Erica Carroll (left) and Amanda Waldon, licensed veterinary technicians and laboratory instructors for the program.

Two receive UTM awards
Two local residents were recognized during an awards banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Lindsey Bowie of Halls, top photo, received the Leslie Duke Outstanding Junior in Park Administration Award. She is pictured with Dr. Jason Roberts, assistant professor of animal science. Kiah Ewer of Ripley, bottom photo, received the Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation Student Award. He is pictured with Roberts, left, and Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
**Students honored for math**

A South Fulton student and two Union City students won overall honors in their grade levels in the 2015 Middle School/Junior High School Mathematics Contest recently hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

A total of 260 students in grades 6-8 sat for the competition exams. They were joined by 30 teachers, sponsors and parents.

Altogether, they represented 16 public and private schools in West Tennessee. Milan Middle School took home first place in both the sixth- and seventh-grade categories, while W.O. Inman Middle School in Paris won top honors in the eighth-grade category.

Local students recognized as being among the top 10 overall in their grade levels were Jonathan Morris from South Fulton Middle School, who tied for seventh place in sixth grade; Jacob Virgin from Union City Middle School, who placed ninth in eighth grade; and Austin Atwill, also from UCMS, who tied for 10th place in eighth grade.

**Robotseducation offered for younger-age students**

Children ages 5 to 14 are invited to enroll in a summer robotics camp 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.

The WeDo Robotics Camp is designed for children ages 5 to 7 who have already completed kindergarten. Participants will design, build, and control a motorized robot using sensors to complete specific challenges. This camp is scheduled for 9-11 a.m. daily June 15-19.

The NXT Robotics Camp is for ages 8 to 14 and will incorporate the LEGO Mindstorms Education NXT Software into the creation of programmable robots. This camp is scheduled for 1-4 p.m. daily June 15-19.

The Advanced NXT Robotics Camp is for students ages 8 to 14 who are interested in more complicated robotics challenges. Participants will build and program robots to perform various tasks, such as racing other robots, navigating minefields, gathering and moving items, and solving puzzles. The emphasis of this course will be understanding the engineering design of both the robot itself and the program that controls it.

The advanced camp is scheduled for June 22-24, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and 9 a.m.-noon Wednesday of that week.

All the 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/ecos/courses/children/robotics.php.

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**Locals among UTM grads**

Olivia Gaines of Ripley, Theresa Ong of Cordova, and Brad Moss of Big Sandy graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 2. Dr. John Barker, chief accountability officer for Chicago Public Schools, served as the spring 2015 commencement speaker.
STAR STUDENT – Luz Carroll of Union City received the Outstanding Secondary Education Spanish Student Award at the recent annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

STUDENT SUCCESS – Vanessa Barker of Union City received the Outstanding Integrated Studies PreK-3 Student Award at the annual Honors Day celebration recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

EARNED AWARD – Mikaela Hardy of South Fulton received the George and Ruth Horton Curricula Award for Pre-Health during the annual Honors Day celebration recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

RECOGNIZED – David Crum of Kenton received the Geography Award during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

SF HONOREE – Kristen Prince of South Fulton received the Carol McElvain Memorial Award recently during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

AWARD GIVEN – Rebecca Bloodworth of Hornbeak received the Outstanding Physics Student Award during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently.

KENDALL HONORED – Benjamin Kendall of Troy recently received the Outstanding Sophomore Engineering Award at the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
STEM camp enrollment under way at UT Martin

Students who will be in the sixth through ninth grades in the fall of 2015 are invited to participate in one of two STEMulation camps being hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

STEM camps focus on introducing science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts to school-aged children.

"STEMulation Camp 2015 — A Summer of STEMulating Science" is open to students who will be in the sixth through eighth grades. The camp is scheduled for 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily June 1-5 on the main UT Martin campus.

Participants will work individually and in teams through a series of hands-on activities, including solar vehicle construction, rocketry, T-bot hydraulic arms, video game design, webquest design and exploratory activities.

“Skyhawk STEM Camp 2015” is a new event designed for rising ninth-grade students. It is scheduled for 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily June 8-12, also on the main UT Martin campus.

Students will be able to explore major topics taught in high school physics classes and get a head start on important concepts. Camp activities will focus on the same topics presented at STEMulation Camp 2015.

Pre-registration is required and slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

The cost is $195 per student and includes a camp T-shirt and all activity supplies.

Both of the STEMulation camps are under the direction of Dr. Louis Glover, assistant professor in the UT Martin Department of Educational Studies. He joined the UT Martin faculty in 2011 after serving as a secondary mathematics and science instructor in Dallas.

Select pre-service education majors from UT Martin will assist Glover with camp activities.

For more information or to register, go online to www.utm.edu/dePartments/ecos/courses/children/STEMulation_camp.php.

Reading clinic sessions set

Students in grades 2 through 12 who need extra support and practice in reading can enroll in a summer session through the University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center.

The session is set for June 1-24.

Students will be individually tested to determine their phonics and reading comprehension levels before being placed into a course of study designed to build skills and fill gaps.

Sessions are scheduled on either a once-per-week or four-times-per-week rotation for one hour per meeting.

Students may choose a Monday/Wednesday, Tuesday/Thursday, Monday/Thursday or four-day meeting schedule.

Pre-registration is required. The fee is $100 for two meetings per week or $200 for four meetings per week.

Students must also purchase a $25 workbook.

For more information or to schedule a testing appointment, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082.

Enrollment open for 2015 Kid College

Enrollment is now open for the Kid College summer program hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin at Paris Elementary School.

The program is scheduled June 15-19. Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration can be completed by visiting UTM’s website at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/kidcollege.php.

Kid College classes are available for children who will be entering kindergarten in the fall through those who will be in the fifth grade. Children may enroll in up to five courses based on grade level.

Cost for the first course is $30 each child with additional courses costing $25 each. This fee includes a Kid College T-shirt. Many courses have additional supply fees.

Courses for students in kindergarten through the second grade include: Space Camp: Mission to the Moon, Trash to Treasure, Hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), LegoKidz Spanish, Lego Camp, Science Adventures, and Superheroes of Summer.

Courses for children in the third-fifth grades include: Sketch Studio, Discover the Night Sky, Dazzling Divas, Fitness is Fun, karate, and Hands-on STEAM.
The University of Tennessee-Martin will hold their 15th annual Memorial Day Commemoration ceremony tomorrow.

The event will take place at the Hall-Moody Administration Building, on University Street, starting at 9:00.

UT-Martin mathematics teacher Lt. Colonel Steve Elliott will be the featured guest speaker at the ceremony.

Beside his teaching duties, Lt. Col. Elliott commands the 1st Battalion, 238th Field Artillery.

During the program, the campus Department of Public Safety and Martin Police Department will present the 21 gun salute, the UT-Martin ROTC Battalion providing taps.

UTM MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION CEREMONY SET FOR MAY 22

MARTIN, Tenn. — Lt. Col. Steve Elliott will be the guest speaker for the University of Tennessee at Martin Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony set for 9 a.m., Friday, May 22, in front of the Hall-Moody Administration Building located on University Street. The public is invited to attend.

Kid college enrolling now at the UT Martin McNairy County/Selmer Center

The annual Kid College summer program, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin, is scheduled for 8:30-11:45 a.m., June 22-26, at the UT Martin McNairy County/Selmer Center. The session is enrolling now on a first-come, first-served basis and will fill up, so early registration is encouraged.

Kid College is open to children who will be in kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall of 2015. This year’s theme is “Picture Yourself at Kid College” and children will rotate through a series of classes.

Course topics include mad science, which will focus on scientific wonders like volcanoes, outer space, dinosaurs and rockets; world adventures, which will expose students to the activities and customs of five foreign countries; and fun with photography, in which students will participate in a scavenger hunt, light painting and observing the world from the viewpoint of bugs.

Everyone is encouraged to wear their Kid College T-shirts on Wednesday for “Selfie Day.” The registration fee is $85 per student and includes a Kid College T-shirt and all class supplies.

Registration is now open and parents are encouraged to register early. For more information or to register, visit the Selmer tab at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/kidcollege.php.
Colin Bennett (center), of Gleason, participated in the Order of the Engineer ceremony at the University of Tennessee at Martin before commencement exercises May 2. The Order of the Engineer ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Bennett received a Bachelor of Science in engineering degree during spring commencement. He is pictured with Dr. Ed Wheeler (left), professor and chair, Department of Engineering, and Dr. Richard Helgeson, professor and dean, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

Eric Wilson (center), of Martin, participated in the Order of the Engineer ceremony at the University of Tennessee at Martin before commencement exercises May 2. The Order of the Engineer ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Wilson received a Bachelor of Science in engineering degree during spring commencement. He is pictured with Dr. Ed Wheeler (left), professor and chair, Department of Engineering, and Dr. Richard Helgeson, professor and dean, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

Allison Maxey, of Martin, received the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Student Group Senior Award. She is pictured with Herndon (left) and Winters (right).

Laura Croom, of Greenfield, received an Outstanding Agricultural Student Award. She is pictured with Derek Giffin (left), of Union City, who received the same distinction, and Dr. Jerald Ogg, professor and vice chancellor for academic affairs.
Agriculture and Applied Sciences

Several Weakley County residents were recognized during an awards banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. The awards given included:

Brandt Gibson, of Martin, received the Geology Student Research Award. He is pictured with Dr. Jason Roberts (left), assistant professor of animal science, and Winters (right).

Katie Penick, of Martin, received the Outstanding Pre-Professional Student Award. She is pictured with Roberts (left) and Winters (right).

Sarah Fulcher, of Martin, received the Outstanding Interior Design Student Award. She is pictured with Dr. Marti Herndon, professor of child and family studies, and Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Mike Davis, of Palmersville, received the Outstanding Gerontology Student Award and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Student Group Outstanding Member Award. He is pictured with Herndon (left) and Winters (right).

COMMEMORATION

Lt. Col. Steve Elliott will be the guest speaker Friday at UT Martin’s 15th annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at 9 a.m. in front of the Hall-Moody Administration Building. Elliott commands the 1st Battalion, 238th Field Artillery and is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Djibouti.
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).

**Adamsville**
- Ryan C. Burlesco, Honors
- Britney J. Dowdell, High Honors
- Christopher D. Gattis, Honors
- Caroline H. Gray, Honors
- Sarah M. Johnson, Highest Honors
- James K. McDaniel, Honors
- Tammy R. Moraga, Highest Honors
- Benjamin T. White, Honors
- Brandon L. White, Highest Honors
- Brandi N. Willingham, High Honors

**Bethel Springs**
- Elizabeth P. Beene, Honors
- Kaitlyn B. Boggs, Highest Honors
- Devin R. Holt, Highest Honors
- Clayton D. Isbell, High Honors

**Romers**
- Ashley C. Jolly, Highest Honors
- Robin Chelsea M. Kiestler, Highest Honors
- Christopher A. Lambert, Highest Honors
- Courtney B. Lobb, High Honors
- Mary J. Moffitt, High Honors
- Jennifer S. Naillon, Highest Honors
- Cassandra N. Rogers, High Honors
- Darrell W. Weatherford, High Honors

**Pocahontas**
- Danielle R. Fuller, Highest Honors

**Ramer**
- Emily L. Haendel, Highest Honors
- Ashley A. Hollingsworth, Highest Honors
- Cailyn M. King, Honors
- Dylan C. Richard, Honors
- Daniel A. Walker, Highest Honors

**Selmer**
- Darby C. Boyd, Highest Honors
- Bryan E. Burks, Highest Honors
- Hannah L. Carroll, Honors
- Brady H. Dancer, Honors
- Justin C. Fortune, Honors
- Brooklyn P. Holland, High Honors
- Elizabeth B. Holland, Highest Honors
- Kelsey L. Hutson, Honors
- Meredith N. Jaggars, High Honors
- Hannah D. Johnson, Highest Honors
- Morgan E. Kinchen, Highest Honors
- Jennifer L. King, High Honors
- Zachary R. King, Honors
- Candace D. Kirby, High Honors
- Joseph R. Landreth, Honors
- Jami L. Miller, High Honors
- Clinton J. Murby, Highest Honors
- Erika M. Murray, Honors
- Amber S. Nixon, Honors
- Lauren E. Reed, High Honors
- Cassidy B. Shambour, Highest Honors
- Christopher T. Smalley, Honors
- Teresa A. Smith, Highest Honors
- Hunter J. Steele, Honors
- Lacey I. Tanner, Honors
- Nathanial C. West, High Honors
- Kristen N. Wilkins, Highest Honors
- Kimberly. N. Williams, Honors
- Averi L. Yalda, Honors

**Stantonville**
- Anna M. Cooper, Highest Honors
- Isaac Lynn, Stantonville, Highest Honors
- Melanie Pickens, Stantonville, High Honors
- UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains its excellent reputation for programs, quality undergraduate programs, beautiful campus and caring professors.

**The Jackson Sun**

Memorial Day ceremony at UT Martin

Lt. Col. Steve Elliott will be the guest speaker for the University of Tennessee at Martin's Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony set for 9 a.m. Friday in front of the Hall-Moody Administration Building. This will mark the university's 15th annual Memorial Day Commemoration, and the second year Elliott has spoken at the ceremony.

Elliott completed his Ph.D. in mathematics and became an assistant professor at UT Martin in 2005. Since then, he has deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom and to Djibouti for Operation Enduring Freedom. Elliott currently commands the 1st Battalion, 238th Field Artillery, and he continues to teach mathematics at UT Martin. He and his wife, Holly, have two sons: Cannon, 7, and Conner, 2. The family lives in Martin.

Cpt. Troy Shoemaker, of the UT Martin Department of Military Science and Leadership, will serve as the master of ceremonies. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes will welcome guests.

Dr. Roberto Mancusi, assistant professor of music, will perform the national anthem. Dr. Jerry Gresham, a former U.S. Army captain, Vietnam War veteran, and UT Martin professor emeritus of animal science, will offer the invocation.

For more information, call (731) 881-7615.
Journey to graduation full of twists and turns

Randy Moomaw, Nashville 8 a.m. CDT May 21, 2015

For Elizabeth Haan, the journey to graduating with honors from Cheatham County Central High School has offered more than its fair share of twists, turns, detours and sidetracks.

In fact, she made the last leg of her journey to CCCHS from Maryville, Tenn., in the middle of her junior year.

What makes her transition all the more remarkable is that Haan has Asperger's syndrome, a condition that is part of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Haan does not remember much about the early years of being misdiagnosed, visits with psychiatrists, psychologists and placed on a number of medications that proved very frustrating and discouraging for her mother, Toni Carr.

The mother and daughter moved to Middle Tennessee in 2010 when Haan's older sister was being deployed to Afghanistan. The two moved in to watch her sister's house.

It was a visit to a new psychologist, who questioned the initial diagnosis of pediatric bipolar disorder.

"He met with her for maybe 20 minutes and he said she may have bipolar, but I really think it's something on the autistic spectrum," Carr said of the doctor's assessment of her daughter.

It wasn't long before Haan received the diagnosis of Asperger's.

With the diagnosis, Carr began to notice a change in her daughter that included clear signs of a love for learning.

Carr found teachers that Haan had in Tennessee to be more caring and supportive and encouraging than what she had faced in the past.

Haan attended Clarksville Middle School and Clarksville High School, where she was making some progress academically, but there were challenges.

"At middle school, it was like you get lost in a crowd and at high school you get lost easily," Haan said. "When I was in school in Hopkinsville, Ky., special needs was one room with brick and no window. Even though the teacher painted the bricks sky blue with a fake window."

She was also bullied, starting with her first day at the middle school in Clarksville.

During her sophomore year, Haan and her mother moved to Maryville, a move that proved to be a huge step for her in making progress academically and even socially.

She found the students at Maryville to be very accepting and loving.

"I was not an outcast, and it helped me to overcome the fear of being bullied again," she said.

Then, her mother landed a job in Nashville that brought the two to Cheatham County.

Teacher support

She said her experience at CCCHS has been very positive due to the support and encouragement of several of her teachers.

"I learned confidence and patience," she said.

The only bump in the road was being bullied on the school bus, which led to her taking initiative to request a transfer to the smaller special needs bus which has proven positive.

Her favorite teacher at CCCHS is James Lavery.

"I have him for European history," she said with a smile. "I love the teacher-student interaction. It's serious and then there's laughter."
Journey to graduation full of twists and turns
she also appreciates her English teacher, Jason Black.

"He's very down to earth and cares about his students with understanding," she said. "He takes the extra step to help you understand, even the most basic things."

She also appreciates teacher and athletic director Jeremy Boyd's efforts to help her with a subject she's not too happy about — math.

"He takes things step by step," she said, adding that he offers several examples of a problem to reinforce the solution.

Haan loves books and also has a passion for writing.

She has been accepted at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she plans to major in English and Library science with a minor in ancient history.

CCCHS guidance counselor Beth Campbell has been especially impressed by Haan.

"Her biggest achievement to me is her attitude toward what makes her stand out from her peers," Campbell said. "She has found the best characteristics of her disorder and used them to her benefit, like structure, organization, time management and focus on detail."

Some traits that are typical of Asperger's syndrome, such as attention to detail and focused interests, can increase chances of university and career success.

It is believed that several historical figures have had symptoms of Asperger's, including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Albert Einstein, Marie Curie and Thomas Jefferson.

www.heraldextra.com  5/22/2015

University news

University of Tennessee at Martin – Summer R. Hopper of Santaquin was named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll for the spring semester. She achieved highest honors with a grade point average between 3.8 and 4.0.


UT Martin ROTC program remains open

By WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
By news@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: May 22, 2015 at 8:34 PM CDT
(Story Updated: May 25, 2015 at 11:55 AM CDT)

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin's ROTC, known as Skyhawk Battalion, will remain open.

In 2013, WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News first told you the UT Martin ROTC program was one of 13 student programs notified in fall 2013 of possible closure in 2015.

Leaders at UTM said a recent agreement also adds Murray State University in Murray, Ky., to the program, strengthening the relationship between these institutions and allowing Skyhawk Battalion to recruit the best and brightest cadets from these areas.

The good news came in a notification from the United States Army.
UTM history professor receives prestigious award

A UT-Martin associate professor of history has been named the recipient of the 2015 Love of Learning Award from the National Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Dr. Richard Garlitz, of Martin, is the first UTM faculty member to receive the award.

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, Maryland, for his upcoming book which examines 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. The book will also offer an analysis of why that alliance failed.

Portland resident receives UT Martin award

Jacki Cook, of Portland, was recognized during an awards banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Cook received the Outstanding Animal Science Student Award. She is pictured with Dr. Jason Roberts, assistant professor of animal science.

Schools recognize local students' academic achievements

Gilbert woman on college honor roll

Marne Helbing of Gilbert is listed on the highest honor roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the spring semester.

She earned a GPA between 3.8 and 4.0 to make the list.
Matthew Chesnut a Spring Hill native, received a scholarship from the Tennessee Veterinary Technician's Association for the fall 2015 semester. Chesnut is scheduled to finish his coursework in December and complete a required internship in spring 2016.

Sabrina Pruitt of Hampshire received the Outstanding Freshman in Agriculture Award at a banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

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.

- Shelby N. Dial, Columbia, highest honors
- Jonathan C. Hahn, Columbia, honors
- Kathryn A. Hahn, Columbia, high honors
- Julie M. Marshall, Columbia, high honors
- Sierra L. Phillips, Columbia, highest honors
- Mackenzie K. Potts, Columbia, highest honors
- Weston A. Stofel, Columbia, honors
- Lindsey N. Thurman, Columbia, honors
- James T. Ring, Culleoka, highest honors
- Kodi L. Rollins, Culleoka, high honors
- Jacy E. Thrasher, Culleoka, high honors
- Rachael M. Wotlers, Culleoka, high honors
- Sabrina N. Pruitt, Hampshire, highest honors
- Matthew D. Chesnut, Martin, high honors
- Erica D. White, Martin, honors
- Krista M. Shaw, Mount Pleasant, highest honors
- Samuel W. Savage, Mt Pleasant, high honors
- Timothy R. Brady, Santa Fe, high honors
- Christy E. Locke, Spring Hill, high honors
- Dalton R. Smith, Spring Hill, honors
- Thomas G. Hopkins, Williamsport, high honors
- Tanna R. Norman, Williamsport, highest honors

Enroll in UT Martin's Reading Clinic

Students in grades two through 12 who need extra support and practice in reading can enroll in a summer session through the University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center from June 1 to June 24.

Students will be individually tested to determine their phonics and reading comprehension levels before being placed into a course of study designed to build skills and fill gaps.

Sessions are scheduled to meet either two times a week or four times a week for one hour per meeting. Students may choose a Monday and Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday, Monday and Thursday or a four-day meeting schedule.

Pre-registration is required. The fee is $100 for two meetings per week, or $200 for four meetings per week.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082.

Robotics camp for young engineers

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

The WeDo Robotics Camp

See BRIEFS, Page A8

Briefs

Continued from Page A5

is designed for children ages five to seven who have already completed kindergarten.

Participants will design, build and control a motorized robot using sensors to complete specific challenges. This camp is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on June 15 through June 19.

The NXT Robotics Camp is for ages eight to 14 and will incorporate the LEGO Mindstorms Education NXT Software into the creation of programmable robots. This camp is scheduled for 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on June 15 through June 19.

The Advanced NXT Robotics Camp is for students age eight to 14 who are interested in more complicated robotics challenges.

Participants will build and program robots to perform various tasks, such as racing other robots, navigating minefields, gathering and moving items, and solving puzzles.

The advanced camp is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, and 9 a.m. to noon from June 22 to June 24.

All the 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 t-shirt. For more information, visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/robotics.php.
UT Martin students win big at TN Collegiate AP awards

Staff members from the University of Tennessee at Martin campus radio station, WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," brought home seven awards from the Tennessee Associated Press Collegiate Journalism Awards Competition. Campus station WUTM took first place in the best radio sports reporting category for a collection of submitted stories, including women’s soccer, women’s basketball and football reports.

Chuck Hammer and Quinton Stevens, a senior from Bernie, Mo., won second place in the best radio sports coverage for a broadcast of a home baseball game between UT Martin and Missouri State University.

In the latter category, Stevens submitted a story covering the impeachment of a student government association executive council member.

"In the profession of journalism, the Associated Press is held up as the gold standard. The students did excellent work this year and were recognized by AP for it," said Dr. Richard Robinson, UT Martin associate professor of communications and faculty advisor for WUTM.

"I believe this indicates that the communications department at UT Martin is teaching our students what they need to know to compete in today’s workplace."

These awards come on the heels of WUTM’s outstanding performance at both the Southeastern Journalism Conference and the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference earlier this year.

"WUTM has won numerous awards during the last decade. ... We go head to head with much larger programs and still do very well. The AP’s standard of excellence speaks for itself in our profession," said Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chair in the Department of Communications. "I’m proud of the students and of Dr. Robinson for his vision and mentoring them."

STUDENTS WIN — Staff members from the University of Tennessee at Martin campus radio station brought home seven awards from the Tennessee Associated Press Collegiate Journalism Awards Competition in Nashville. On hand at the awards presentation were (from left, front) Julia Ewoldt, a freshman from Savannah; Toshya Leonard, a senior from Newbern; Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge; Tori Seng, a junior from Union City; (back) Blake Stevens, a senior from Brighton; Kayla Harmon, a junior from Lewisburg; Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty advisor; and Chuck Hammer, a junior from Martin.
The UT-Martin ROTC, known as Skyhawk Battalion, will remain open, following recent notification from the US Army. The UTM ROTC program was one of 13 student programs notified in fall 2013 of possible closure this year.

An ROTC unit was first established at the university in 1952, followed by the start of a four-year ROTC program in 1964. The program has commissioned 671 cadets as second lieutenants in the regular Army, U.S. Army Reserve and Tennessee Army National Guard since its beginnings.

The UTM military science program, of which ROTC is a part, includes Bethel University; Freed-Hardeman University; Jackson State Community College; Lane College, and Union University.

A recent agreement also adds Murray State University to the program, strengthening the relationship between these institutions and allowing Skyhawk Battalion to recruit the best and brightest cadets from these areas.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Tuesday, May 26, 2015

COMPLETES PROGRAM — Juan Aguirre (center), a Union City resident, completed the coursework for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s veterinary health technology program and was honored during a pinning ceremony recently. He will complete a required internship during the summer and graduate in December. Aguirre is pictured with Erica Carroll (left) and Amanda Waldon, licensed veterinary technicians and laboratory instructors for the program.
UT-M Names Local Students to Chancellor’s Honor Roll

MARTIN — 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).


High Honors: Myriah B. Young of Atwood; Andrew P. Barnhart and April R. Stepp, both of Bruceton; Mallory A. Autry, Madison C. Boyd, Joshua D. Covington, Megan J. Jarrett, Amelia W. Jordan, Heath W. McAlexander, Allison L. McClure, Morgan T. McCracken, and Caroline E. Williams, all of Huntingdon; and Shawna L. Cox, Alexandra K. Crosser, Kendra L. Gilmore, Mary K. Haywood, Michael T. Keenan, Rocio Mejorado, Katelyn D. Ridley, Terriann S. Schukert, and Emily B. Seaton, all of McKenzie.

Honors: Morgan T. Dunlap, Jessica M. Hollingsworth, and Abigail P. Pierce, all of Bruce-
ton; Lindsey A. Bell and Ariel R. Doyle, both of Cedar Grove; Kayla P. Lane of Hollow Rock; Brianna Bartholomew, Katherine G. Carter, Savannah C. Dodson, Lauren D. Hixon, Leah M. Martin, Hannah B. Reaves, Madison E. Sneed, and Ashley C. Webb, all of Hunting-
don; James F. Arnold, Justin S. Bush, Katie A. Chadwick, and Brianna N. Douglas, all of McKenzie; Garrett L. Wright of Trezevant; and Felicia D. Wood of Yuma.

Regional Entrepreneurs Graduate From Small Business Basics Boot Camp

MARTIN — Thirteen West Tennessee entrepreneurs participated in the Small Business Basics Boot Camp hosted in April by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center and the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center.

The boot camp is a four-week program designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship. Participants were exposed to a variety of topics, including writing a business plan, financing a business, banking practices, marketing strategies and pitching a business loan. The goal of the course is to help new entrepreneurs begin their small business ventures or for new, existing businesses to obtain new skills for success.

Landy Fuqua, REED Center director, instructs the course with the help of special topic speakers. This year’s guests included Beau Pemberton, an attorney from Dresden, who spoke on legal matters for the small business owner; Darlene Adkins, lecturer of accounting at UT Martin, who spoke on best accounting practices; and Hollie Holt, a certified business counselor at the REED Center, who spoke on best marketing practices, including the use of social media.

“Anyone wanting to start or thinking about starting a business should invest in all of the courses that the REED Center/TSBDC has to offer,” said Joyce Klides, of Martin.

“The Small Business Boot Camp taught me so many things that I didn’t know before about starting a business. It has changed my perspective on the business world,” added Brittany Martin, of McKenzie.

Participants graduating from the course April 28 at the final class meeting (l-r): (front row) Carlene Rivers, of Martin; Chole’ Stout, of Dresden; Stacey Sain, of Paris; Brittany Martin, of McKenzie; Joyce Klides, of Martin; (back row) Roy Corley, of Jackson; Kirk Hamilton, of Ramer; Brian Hawkins, of Jackson; Jason Martin, of McKenzie; Travis Brock, of Martin; and Fuqua. Not pictured are Oscar Hurtado, of Martin, and Nicki Zolfaghari-Bek, of Paris.
Mathenia Receives Award at UT-M

MARTIN (May 18) — Chelsea Mathenia (center), of McKenzie, received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Family and Consumer Sciences Award at a banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. She is pictured with Dr. Marti Herndon (left), professor of child and family studies, and Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Chadwick Completes UT-M Vet Health Tech Program

MARTIN (May 13) — Katie Chadwick (center), a McKenzie resident, completed the coursework for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s veterinary health technology program and was honored during a pinning ceremony May 1. She will complete a required internship during the summer and graduate in December. Chadwick is pictured with Erica Carroll (left) and Amanda Waldon, licensed veterinary technicians and laboratory instructors for the program.

http://www.lebanondemocrat.com/

School News for May 26, 2015

STAFF REPORTS WILSON COUNTY

MAY 26, 2015

UT Martin announces local graduates

Several Wilson 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 UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were: Katelyn Ashley Byrd, Devin Michelle Sabaski and Taylor Elaine Wade, all of Lebanon and Jacob Aaron Everett, Jackson Spencer Redditt and Matthew Benton Stewart, all of Mt. Juliet.
Local residents receive University of Tennessee at Martin Awards

Two local residents were recognized during an awards banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Emily Stutts, pictured left, of Adamsville, received the Outstanding Freshman in Family and Consumer Science Award. She is pictured with Dr. Marti Herndon (left), professor of child and family studies, and Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Bryanna Huggins, pictured right, of Bethel Springs, received an award for academic promise in geology. She is pictured with Dr. Jason Roberts (left), assistant professor of animal science, and Winters.
UT Martin names local students to Spring Semester Honor Roll

By Bud Grimes
UT-M, University Relations

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. 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).

Ryan C. Burleson, Adamsville, Honors
Britney J. Dowdell, Adamsville, High Honors
Christopher D. Gattis, Adamsville, Honors
Caroline H. Gray, Adamsville, Honors
Sarah M. Johnson, Adamsville, Highest Honors
James K. McDaniel, Adamsville, Honors
Tammy R. Moraga, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Benjamin T. White, Adamsville, Honors
Brandon L. White, Adamsville, Highest Honors
Brandy N. Willingham, Adamsville, High Honors
Elizabeth P. Beene, Bethel Springs, High Honors
Kaitlyn S. Boggs, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
Devlin R. Holt, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
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Ashley C. Jolly, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
Robin Chelsea M. Kiestler, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors

Christopher A. Lambert, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
Courtney B. Lobb, Bethel Springs, High Honors
Mary J. Moffitt, Bethel Springs, High Honors
Jennifer S. Naillon, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
Cassandra N. Rogers, Bethel Springs, High Honors
Darryl W. Weatherford, Bethel Springs, High Honors
Randi S. Belton, Martin, Honors
Allison P. Coleman, Martin, Highest Honors
Karlee A. Jackson-Carney, Martin, Highest Honors
Ana M. Whitten, Martin, High Honors
China L. Horton, Michie, Honors
Jacob C. Littlejohn, Michie, Highest Honors
Alyce D. Massengill, Michie, Highest Honors
Barbara M. Signorelli, Michie, High Honors
Jeffrey A. Morey, Morris Chapel, High Honors
Danielle R. Puller, Pocahontas, Highest Honors
Emily L. Haendel, Ramer, Highest Honors
Ashley A. Hollingsworth, Ramer, Highest Honors
Caitlyn M. King, Ramer, Honors
Dylan C. Richard, Ramer, Honors
Daniel A. Walker, Ramer, Highest Honors
Ashley N. Mathews, Savannah, Highest Honors
Darby C. Boyd, Selmer, Highest Honors
Bryan E. Burks, Selmer, Highest Honors
Jennifer L. Carroll, Selmer, Highest Honors
Brady H. Dancer, Selmer, Honors
Justin C. Fortune, Selmer, Honors
Brooklyn P. Holland, Selmer, Highest Honors
Elizabeth B. Holland, Selmer, Highest Honors
Kelsey L. Hutson, Selmer, Honors

Meredith N. Jaggers, Selmer, High Honors
Hannah D. Johnson, Selmer, High Honors
Morgan E. Kinchen, Selmer, Highest Honors
Jennifer L. King, Selmer, High Honors
Zachary R. King, Selmer, Honors
Candace D. Kirby, Selmer, High Honors
Joseph R. Landreth, Selmer, Honors
Jami L. Miller, Selmer, High Honors
Clinton J. Murby, Selmer, Highest Honors
Erika M. Murray, Selmer, Honors
Amber S. Nixon, Selmer, Honors
Lauren E. Reed, Selmer, High Honors
Cassidy B. Shambeau, Selmer, Highest Honors
Christopher T. Smalley, Selmer, Honors
Teresa A. Smith, Selmer, Highest Honors
Hunter J. Steele, Selmer, Honors
Lacey T. Tanner, Selmer, Honors
Nathaniel C. West, Selmer, High Honors
Kristen N. Wilkins, Selmer, Highest Honors
Kimberly N. Williams, Selmer, Honors
Averi L. Yalda, Selmer, Honors
Anna M. Cooper, Stantonville, Highest Honors
Isaac Lynn, Stantonville, Highest Honors
Melanie Pickens, Stantonville, High Honors

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

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Included are:

**Trenton:** Jessie B. Avery, Highest Honors; Zachery J. Barker, Highest Honors; Teagan S. Bartholomew, Honors; Allison N. Breece, Highest Honors; Holly B. Cole, High Honors; Taylor P. Coomer, Highest Honors; Holly L. Dunnagan, Highest Honors; Olivia L. Fernandez, Highest Honors; Kennedy E. Garner, Honors; Brent A. Hopper, Highest Honors; Jordan P. Mathis, Honor; Lacy J. McCaig, Highest Honors; Robert C. Rayburn, Honors; Billy G. Reeves, Highest Honors; Lisa K. Seiber, Highest Honors; Jan M. Smith, High Honors; Callie L. Summers, High Honors; Johnathan D. Temple, Highest Honors; Amber D. Tinsley, High Honors; Abigail R. Tucker, Highest Honors; Amber N. Wallsmith, Highest Honors; Michael S. Wofford, Honors;

**Bradford:** Madison K. Adams, Bradford, Highest Honors; Katherine L. Cardwell, Honors; Chrystyna M. Childress, Highest Honors; Mark Connell, Highest Honors; Bethany C. Crockett, Highest Honors; Kendall P. Daniels, Highest Honors; Elisabeth C. Dowlan, Honors; Grant D. Hampton, Honors; Jeremy B. Reynolds, High Honors; Andrew C. Walter, High Honors; Cate M. Walter, Honors;

**Dyer:** Zach W. Brutetta, Highest Honors; Chelsea K. Joyce, High Honors; Jennifer N. O’Brien, High Honors; Cory E. Oliver, High Honors; Kelley A. Parks, High Honors; Lawson T. Parks, High Honors; Michael D. Record, Honors; Danielle E. Rickman, Honors; Amber F. Simmons, High Honors; Marilyn A. Vaughn, High Honors;

**Rutherford:** William Q. Abrams, High Honors; Miranda K. Barron, High Honors; Markee D. Brown, Honors; Cassidy A. Caldwell, High Honors; Haley R. Davis, Highest Honors; Shelby N. Dotson, High Honors; Taylor B. Fuqua, Highest Honors; Jessica L. Lagrone, Highest Honors; Charles M. Morris, Honors;

**Kenton:** Chase J. Chambers, Honors; James T. Eskew, Honors; Matthew J. Littleton, High Honors; Shelley K. Simpson, Highest Honors; Danielle N. Spencer, Honors; Cynthia D. Tilghman, Highest Honors; Morgan L. Whitworth, Highest Honors;

**Gibson:** Cody C. Black, Honors; Hannah R. Houck, Highest Honors;

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

**GRADUATE —** Hannah L. Wallsmith, a 2010 graduate of Peabody High School, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin May 2 with a Bachelor of Geoscience with a concentration in Meteorology with an emphasis in Communications. She also received a Geographical Information System (G.I.S.) certification. She is the daughter of Doug Wallsmith and Leigh Butler of Trenton.
Murray State partnership added
UTM’s ROTC program will remain open after all

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reserve Officers’ Training Corps — known as Skyhawk Battalion — will remain open following recent notification from the U.S. Army.

The UT Martin ROTC program was one of 13 student programs notified in fall 2013 of possible closure in 2015.

“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.”

An ROTC unit was first established at the university in 1952, followed by the start of a four-year ROTC program in 1964.

The program has commissioned 671 cadets as second lieutenants in the regular Army, U.S. Army Reserve and Tennessee Army National Guard since its beginning.

The UT Martin military science program, of which ROTC is a part, includes Bethel University in McKenzie; Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson; and Jackson State Community College, Lane College and Union University, all in Jackson. A recent agreement also adds Murray (Ky.) State University to the program, strengthening the relationship between these institutions and allowing Skyhawk Battalion to recruit the best and brightest cadets from these areas.

The UT Martin program will also welcome a new non-tenure track professor of military science in the coming months. Lt. Col. Lowell E. Howard Jr. will join the university faculty this summer. He follows Lt. Col. Michael W. Johnson, who has led the battalion since 2012.

“ROTC has a long tradition at UT Martin and we’re proud to have them as part of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences,” said Dr. Todd Winters, dean.

“Military training and agriculture education were original parts of the land grant mission, therefore it makes sense that (the Department of Military Science and Leadership) is part of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. The addition of Murray State as one of our affiliates will ensure that ROTC at UT Martin will remain a fixture on campus for a long time.”

The UT Office of Government Relations and Advocacy facilitated interactions through the military command structure to appeal the original closure decision. This assistance, combined with the support and encouragement of high-ranking program alumni, played a valuable role in safeguarding the future of the Skyhawk Battalion. Among those were retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John Castellaw and retired Army Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin, both UT Martin graduates.

“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.”

“UT Martin is fortunate to have extended support from the Department of the Army to ensure the Skyhawk pipeline of outstanding officers is not only flowing but expanding,” Rakes added.

The program will be re-evaluated in January 2016, but university officials believe the program’s annual mission level can be met or exceeded.

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At the college level

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

University Scholar Awards were presented to local students Zachary Parker, son of Luke and Kathleen Parker of Union City, and Rebecca Robb, daughter of Robert and Patricia Robb of Troy. Zackary Aaron Williamson, son of Jim and Amy Williamson of Union City, received the Ed Townsend Memorial Award.

All three of the students will be freshmen at UT Martin in the fall, according to a university spokesman.
UTM names local students to Spring semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the 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.

Dyersburg:
- Colton G. Addison, Honors
- Kathleen N. Alford, High Honors
- Robin N. Alford, Highest Honors
- Louis T. Anderson, Honors
- Jacob M. Armstrong, High Honors
- Brandy N. Behrens, Highest Honors
- Abbiegail L. Bingham, Highest Honors
- James C. Bullard, Honors
- Taylor B. Burch, High Honors
- Drew S. Cagle, Honors
- Frankie J. Carroll, Highest Honors
- Alexander D. Clark, Honors
- Rebecca J. Clayton, Highest Honors
- Forrest N. Coleman, Highest Honors
- Elizabeth M. Curtis, Honors
- Holly N. Elgin, Honors
- Hunter R. Fair, Honors
- Candace N. Flatt, Highest Honors
- Kendall B. Fowler, Highest Honors
- Julia D. Frye, High Honors
- Paul Galewski, Honors
- Jessica J. Gardner, Honors
- Autumn M. Giles, High Honors
- Ashton N. Goff, High Honors
- Tiffany N. Halliburton, Honors
- Allison D. Hayes, High Honors
- Harold J. Hildreth, Highest Honors
- Jessica L. Hilliard, Honors
- Paul H. Jordan, High Honors
- Eric C. Kennedy, Highest Honors
- Jessica H. Kimbrell, Highest Honors
- Zachary S. Little, High Honors
- Maryanna W. McClure, High Honors
- Marilyn Munoz, Honors
- Lauran S. Olds, High Honors
- Kyle E. Paschal, Honors
- Mary E. Peckenpaugh, Honors
- Joshua F. Pickens, Highest Honors
- Kayla M. Pickens, High Honors
- Sarah B. Pike, Highest Honors
- Joeslina A. Romero, Honors
- Ginny L. Roper, Highest Honors
- Christy L. Serling, Highest Honors
- Kelsey M. Slaughter, High Honors
- Corey A. Smith, Honors
- Jaclyn V. Stafford, Highest Honors
- Tucker L. Stroup, Highest Honors
- Drew F. Surratt, High Honors
- Samuel W. Webb, Honors
- Michael P. Whitman, High Honors
- Taylor C. Whittle, Highest Honors
- Jaye W. Williams, High Honors
- Joshua D. Williams, High Honors
- Matthew B. Wolf, High Honors

Finley:
- Brandon C. Asher, Honors
- Kaitlyn F. Davidson, Honors
- Emily A. Lacy, Highest Honors
- Jared M. Peckenpaugh, High Honors

Friendship:
- John D. Williams, High Honors

Halls:
- Hannah N. Langley, Highest Honors

Newbern:
- Amber N. Alsup, Honors
- Cody A. Austin, Highest Honors
- Zachary T. Burchfiel, Honors
- Taylor L. Hassell, Highest Honors
- Samantha D. Hinon, Highest Honors
- Hillary D. Lemons, High Honors
- Heath A. McLean, Honors
- Lillian B. Murray, High Honors
- Jamie M. Shelby, High Honors
- Chandler J. Sheppard, Honors
- Garrett B. Walker, High Honors
- Mackenzie L. Walker, High Honors
- Keaton J. Wheeler, High Honors

Ridgely:
- Sara C. Hayes, High Honors

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).
BULLARD PARTICIPATES IN UTM ORDER OF THE ENGINEER CEREMONY

Cory Bullard (center), of Dyersburg, participated in the Order of the Engineer ceremony at the University of Tennessee at Martin before commencement exercises May 2. The Order of the Engineer ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Bullard received a Bachelor of Science in engineering degree during spring commencement. He is pictured with Dr. Ed Wheeler (left), professor and chair, Department of Engineering, and Dr. Richard Helgeson, professor and dean, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

CARLTON RECEIVES UTM AWARD: Kaitlyn Carlton (center), of Newbern, received the Outstanding Freshman in Family and Consumer Sciences Award at a banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. She is pictured with Dr. Marti Herndon (left), professor of child and family studies, and Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
Local Residents Graduate Small Business Boot Camp

Thirteen West Tennessee entrepreneurs participated in the Small Business Basics Boot Camp hosted by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center and the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center during the month of April. Participants graduated from the course April 28 and are pictured at the final class meeting. Members of the class included (l-r, front row) Carlene Rivers, of Martin; Chole’ Stout, of Dresden; Stacey Sain, of Paris; Brittany Martin, of McKenzie; Joyce Kildes, of Martin; (back row) Roy Corley, of Jackson; Kirk Hamlin, of Ramer; Brian Hawkins, of Jackson; Jason Martin, of McKenzie; Travis Brock, of Martin; and Fuqua. Not pictured are Oscar Hurtado, of Martin, and Nicki Zolfagharbik, of Paris.
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.

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Those from Fulton included Terrence L. Bishop, High Honors.

Those from South Fulton included Taylor H. Allen, Highest Honors; Marina G. Barclay, High Honors; Brittany D. Benjamin, High Honors; Ashleigh M. Burton, High Honors; James R. Cox, Honors; Saralynn Eaves, High Honors; John P. Fowler, Honors; Seth D. Frieds, High Honors; Summer D. Frieds, High Honors; Mikaela M. Hardy, Highest Honors; Whitney H. Johnson, Highest Honors; Mark S. Maloney, High Honors; Emily D. McCartney, Highest Honors; James R. Moore, Highest Honors; Lauren H. Nabors, Honors; Victoria C. Perez, High Honors; Lennita F. Pierce, Highest Honors; Kristen N. Prince, High Honors; Beau A. Rinker, Highest Honors; Ryan C. Roark, High Honors;

Kimberly D. Schwartz, Highest Honors; Zack S. Vaughn, Honors; and Rachel J. White, Highest Honors.

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

http://www.newsobserver.com/
http://www.raleightimes.com/

Heather Butler returns to UT Martin, joins coaching staff

By - Associated Press - Wednesday, May 27, 2015

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) - Heather Butler, the leading scorer in UT Martin history, is returning to her alma mater as part of the Skyhawks' coaching staff.

In a university release Wednesday announcing Butler's addition, UT Martin coach Kevin McMillan said "we are happy to jump-start her coaching career while finding someone who knows our system and program from the inside and out."

Butler completed her college playing career in 2014 after leading UT Martin to NCAA Tournament appearances each of her four seasons. Butler scored 2,865 career points, an Ohio Valley Conference record.

Butler made 392 career 3-pointers at UT Martin and shared the NCAA Division I record in that category with former Kansas State player Laurie Koehn until their mark was broken this past season by Connecticut's Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis.

http://www.thenewstribune.com/
http://www.theredpublic.com/
http://www.washingtontimes.com/
Butler back at UTM as asst. coach

CRAIG THOMAS
cthomas28@jacksonsun.com

Heather Butler is returning to West Tennessee.

The Gibson County High School and UT Martin star will join coach Kevin McMillan's staff as an assistant coach for the UTM women's basketball team, the school announced Wednesday.

Butler played briefly for the San Antonio Stars of the WNBA and also a professional team in Poland since completing her eligibility for the Skyhawks in the 2014 season. She is the first player from the Ohio Valley Conference to play in the WNBA.

The 5-5 guard from Medina is the all-time leading scorer in the OVC, and her 2,865 points are 16th most in NCAA history. She was an all-conference player all four years at UT Martin, helping lead the Skyhawks to OVC tournament titles and NCAA tournament appearances each season.

Butler played for McMillan and current UTM assistant David Russell at Gibson County High, helping the Lady Pioneers win the 2009 and 2010 Class AA state championships.

Other assistants on McMillan's staff include David Hart and academic coordinator Stacie Evans.

Last year, UT Martin went undefeated in regular season conference play and won two OVC tournament games before losing to Tennessee State 64-60 in overtime of the conference championship game in Nashville. UTM then lost to Ole Miss in the first round of the WNIT.

Among the Skyhawks' returnees for next year are rising junior forward Asia Jones, the reigning OVC Player of the Year, senior guard Katie Schubert and junior guard Jessy Ward.

Three incoming freshmen from West Tennessee are Madison Academic post Dakota Smith, Middleton forward Deja Faulkner and Dyersburg guard Myah Taylor.

UT Martin online MBA Program Ranks in U.S. News Top-20 for veterans

Written by Noland Cook

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - The 2015 Best Online Programs for Veterans list published May 19 by U.S. News & World Report has The University of Tennessee at Martin's online MBA program ranked 16.

The veteran-specific rankings have been published for a third year in U.S. News with this being the first year in which MBA programs have been categorized separately.

The program to be included must have first ranked in the top 75 percent on the overall 2015 Best Online Programs list published earlier this year.

UT Martin was 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," Brian Kelly said, 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."

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

"We find the MBA online format works well with the discipline level of veterans," Dr. Ross Dickens, Dean, College of Business and Global Affairs said, "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 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).

Kaley J. Blankenship, Beech Bluff, TN, Highest Honors
Kristen N. Welch, Beech Bluff, TN, High Honors
Madison L. Lewis, Denmark, TN, High Honors
Bree A. Buckholtz, Humboldt, TN, Highest Honors
Kaela P. Grooms, Humboldt, TN, High Honors
Victoria S. Perry, Humboldt, TN, High Honors
Audrey L. Akin, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Ashley L. Beard, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Doris K. Bobbitt, Jackson, TN, Honors
Rachel C. Bunce, Jackson, TN Highest Honors
Janisha S. Buntyn, Jackson, TN, Honors
Stephanie N. Butler, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Christopher D. Carmichael, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Bethany S. Carnal, Jackson, TN, Honors
Melanie Chase, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Alicia R. Cooper, Jackson, TN, Honors
Brandi L. Crawford, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Laura G. Crosett, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Benjamin I. Davenport, Jackson, TN, Honors
Luke W. Davenport, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Heather N. Davis, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Lisa R. DeBerry, Jackson, TN, Honors
Morgan R. Diamond, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
William T. Diamond, Jackson, TN, Honors
Lauren M. Dollahite, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
John R. Englert, Jackson, TN, Honors
Ciera E. Fielding, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Katie Flynn, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Emily E. Gilbertson, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Hannah N. Golden, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Kierra L. Hart, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Kendall K. Jackson, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Victoria I. Lansdale, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Katelyn E. Long, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Taylor J. Mansfield, Jackson, TN, Honors
Rachel N. McBroom, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Jacob L. Miller, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Alexander L. Molbert, Jackson, TN, Honors
Lauren A. Moore, Jackson, TN, Honors
Tarason L. Moore, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Erika G. Murillo, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Kasumi Nakajima, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Chadney J. Overstreet, Jackson, TN, Honors
Janki A. Patel, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Sharon Rayder, Jackson, TN High Honors
Amber E. Rea, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Jacob L. Reeves, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Andrea M. Richardson, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Alana B. Riley, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Kori J. Rogers, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Anna E. Ross, Jackson, TN, Honors
Mareb H. Saleh, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Daniel A. Springer, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Kaleigh D. Strickland, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Michaela C. Strickland, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Angela P. Tamayo, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Alex M. Taylor, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Todd J. Thomas, Jackson, TN, Honors
Warner A. Thomas, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Julea G. Tignor, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Jeffrey L. Walker, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Alexandria M. Warmath, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Aeriel Watkins, Jackson, TN, High Honors
May B. Wheeler, Jackson, TN, Highest Honors
Kathlene M. White, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Krista B. Wood, Jackson, TN, High Honors
Morgan B. Woodard,
Two local residents were recognized during an awards banquet for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Emily Stutts, of Adamsville, received the Outstanding Freshman in Family and Consumer Science Award. She is pictured with Dr. Marti Herndon (left), professor of child and family studies, and Dr. Todd Winters, professor and dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Bryanna Huggins, of Bethel Springs, received an award for academic promise in geology. She is pictured with Dr. Jason Roberts (left), assistant professor of animal science, and Winters.
McNairy County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Two McNairy 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.

Julie Renee Smith, of Ramer, daughter of Mark Smith and Sherry Smith, will be a junior. She received the Matt Barnes Scholarship. Emily Camille Stutts, daughter of Janie Stutts, of Adamsville, will be a sophomore. She received the Mary Rachel Armstrong 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.

Kid college enrolling now at the UT Martin McNairy County/Selmer Center

The annual Kid College summer program, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin, is scheduled for 8:30-11:45 a.m., June 22-26, at the UT Martin McNairy County/Selmer Center. The session is enrolling now on a first-come, first-served basis and will fill up, so early registration is encouraged.

Kid College is open to children who will be in kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall of 2015. This year's theme is "Picture Yourself at Kid College" and children will rotate through a series of classes.

Course topics include mad science, which will focus on scientific wonders like volcanoes, outer space, dinosaurs and rockets; world adventures, which will expose students to the activities and customs of five foreign countries; and fun with photography, in which students will participate in a scavenger hunt, light painting and observing the world from the viewpoint of bugs.

Everyone is encouraged to wear their Kid College T-shirts on Wednesday for "Selfie Day." The registration fee is $85 per student and includes a Kid College T-shirt and all class supplies.

Registration is now open and parents are encouraged to register early. For more information or to register, visit the Selmer tab at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/kidcollege.php.
SCHOLARSHIP GIVEN — Holly Seng (right) of Union City received a scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications during a recent awards banquet. Miss Seng graduated last weekend as valedictorian from Union City High School and will attend UT Martin as a communications major in the fall. She is the daughter of Victoria Seng and Dr. Lee Seng. Her scholarship was presented by Dr. Chara Van Horn, assistant professor of communications.

RECEIVES AWARDS — Tori Seng of Union City received the M. Sue Kahle Excellence in Leadership Award, the Stewart Byars Excellence in Radio Production Award and a rising junior scholarship during a University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet recently. She was also recognized for outstanding service as president of the Women in Communications organization. The M. Sue Kahle award is given to a student who displays excellence in leadership skills, both in and out of the classroom. The Stewart Byars award, funded by former UT Martin Department of Communications faculty members Misty Menees (not pictured) and Chris Brinkley (left), is given to a student who excels in radio production. Miss Seng is a sophomore communications major completing the broadcasting sequence.

UC HONOREE — Lyndsey Hayslett (right) of Union City received the Pacer Perseverance Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications during an awards banquet recently. Ms. Hayslett is a junior communications major completing the public relations sequence. She was joined at the event by Tomi Parrish, instructor of communications.

SENIOR SUCCESS — Ashley Marshall of Union City recently received a Chairman’s Outstanding Senior Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications during an awards banquet. Ms. Marshall is a communications major completing the news editorial sequence. She was congratulated by Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chair of the Department of Communications.