UT Martin museum exhibit commemorates 50th anniversary of Tennessee sit-ins

Special to the State Gazette

MARTIN, Tenn. - An intimate look at the role Tennessee students played in shaping the modern Civil Rights Movement is explored in "We Shall Not Be Moved: The 50th Anniversary of Tennessee’s Civil Rights Sit-Ins" – an exhibit featured at the J. Houston Gordon Museum at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The exhibit, on display from Feb. 1–March 14, features artifacts, photographic images, and audiovisual media related to the nonviolent direct-action campaign to end racial segregation at lunch counters in downtown Nashville which occurred from Feb. 13 to May 10, 1960.

Fifty years ago, a handful of Nashville college students from Fisk University, Tennessee A&I (later Tennessee State) and American Baptist Theological Seminary, along with religious leaders Kelly Miller Smith and James Lawson, began sit-in campaigns which sparked the formation of a mass sit-in movement throughout Tennessee and the rest of the South.

The exhibit, produced by the Tennessee State Museum, includes historical signage, a letter from a sit-in participant describing a protest, biographical posters, original news footage taken in Nashville during 1960, and other items related to the sit-ins.

The museum, located in UT Martin’s Paul Meek Library, is open to the public, Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call 731-881-7094.

UTM Ripley Center offers Internet basics course

The University of Tennessee Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is sponsoring an Internet basics course. The course will be offered from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday at the UT Martin Ripley Center.

Tangelia Payne-Yarbough will teach the course, according to a news release. The course is an opportunity to learn how to navigate through the Internet, create an email account, use Internet etiquette in sending emails, attach documents to an email message, incorporate text in the body of an email, create folders for individual documents, store important documents for future use and delete items that are no longer needed.

The registration fee to attend is $50 per person. To register, call ECOS at (731) 881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
UT Martin Parsons Center offers ACT preparation course

The University of Tennessee Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education is sponsoring an ACT preparation course.

The course will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays from Feb. 8 through March 22, plus one after-school session on March 31, at the UT Martin Parsons Center. Mary Woodall will teach the course, according to a news release.

The course will begin with students taking an off-record ACT test. The instructor then will provide feedback in specific areas. Participants will learn how to complete test problems based on question frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test-taking strategies.

At the end of the program, participants will take another off-record ACT exam. The instructor will meet one-on-one to provide a final study preparation for the real exam after receiving post-test data.

The registration fee is $225 and includes two textbooks, two official, retired ACT tests and a diagnostic report. No. 2 pencils will be required. A calculator is not necessary, but if a participant chooses to use one, it must be a calculator permitted by ACT. To verify that a specific calculator is permitted, visit http://www.actstudent.org/faq/calculator.html.

For more information and to register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
Tuition would be free under Haslam’s plan

Let’s hear it for our governor’s bold plan to waive all tuition and fees at state community colleges and technology centers.

If our state legislature approves — and it should — Tennessee would be the only state in the nation offering free education to every high school graduate.

Nothing is totally free, and this package would be financed through the state lottery by reducing Hope scholarships to incoming students at four-year colleges by $1,000 for the first two years.

Two-year institutions would gain

That would likely reduce enrollment at four-year institutions like the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The goal, though, is a net increase in the number of students who continue their education after high school.

Gov. Bill Haslam focused on education in his annual State of the State address to the legislature Monday.

Besides the new program, which he called Tennessee Promise, he called for spending more to encourage adults to go back to school, data research to find adults who have unfinished college degrees, and new buildings at Columbia and Volunteer state community colleges.

Haslam a year ago announced a goal he calls Drive for 55, to raise the proportion of Tennessee residents with a college degree or advanced certificate to 55 percent by 2025. The current level is 32 percent.

His proposal for Hope scholarships is not only to reduce grants to college freshmen and sophomores from $4,000 to $3,000 a year, but also to raise the grants for juniors and seniors to $5,000.

If the package is approved, we can only imagine the impact of being able to study without tuition or fees at schools like the Tennessee Technology Center here in Paris.

It’s easy to envision a shift in enrollment from four-year to two-year institutions, and the governor didn’t mention what costs might be involved in that kind of change.

http://wemt.com

1960’s Sit-In Highlighted at UT-Martin

February 4th, 2014 - By Charles Choate

The campus of UT-Martin is the setting of an exhibit featuring the role Tennessee students played in shaping the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Thru March 14th, the exhibit titled “We Shall Not be Moved: The 50th Anniversary of Tennessee’s Civil Rights Sit-Ins” is being featured at the J. Houston Gordon Museum inside the Paul Meek Library.

Those attending can view artifacts, photo images and audio visual media related to a non-violent campaign to end racial segregation at lunch counters in downtown Nashville from February thru May of 1960.

The movement began with a handful of college students from Fisk University, Tennessee A&I and American Baptist Theological Seminary, which sparked a mass movement throughout the state and the rest of the South.

The exhibit can be viewed from Monday thru Friday from 8:00 until 4:30.

UT Martin joined the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, as the only public Tennessee universities listed. This marks the second year that UT Martin earned the “Best Value” designation from The Princeton Review.

“Our faculty and staff work hard to ensure our students experience a safe, academically rigorous and socially inviting learning community, offering one of the best collegiate values in the nation,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin Chancellor. “In addition to being a best value, UT Martin is recognized as having the highest graduation rate among public universities west of the Tennessee River.”

Editors at The Princeton Review note, “UT Martin offers financial assistance to students based on need, academic achievement, character and leadership ability. Those with top academic credentials can compete for Honors Programs scholarships, and others who meet established academic criteria are eligible to receive the Tennessee Education Lottery HOPE Scholarship. There is also the respected University Scholars Program for qualified students. The administration is respected, and ‘takes student opinion into account when making campus changes.’”

According to The Princeton Review, schools that made the “Best Value Colleges for 2014” list are exceptional because they provide stellar academics at an affordable cost—either via a comparatively low sticker price or generous financial aid, or both.

The Princeton Review “Best Value Colleges” are based on data gathered from institutional and student opinion surveys conducted from fall 2012 through fall 2013. The surveys were conducted at 650 colleges and universities the Princeton Review considers the nation’s academically best undergraduate institutions. The selection process considers data on more than 30 factors in academics, cost of attendance and financial aid.

UTM museum exhibit commemorates 50th anniversary of Tennessee Sit-Ins

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The exhibit, which opened Saturday and runs through March 14, features artifacts, photographic images and audio-visual media related to the nonviolent direct action campaign to end racial segregation at lunch counters in downtown Nashville which occurred from Feb. 13 to May 10, 1960.

Fifty years ago, a handful of Nashville college students from Fisk University, Tennessee A&I (later Tennessee State) and American Baptist Theological Seminary, along with religious leaders Kelly Miller Smith and James Lawson, began sit-in campaigns which sparked the formation of a mass sit-in movement throughout Tennessee and the rest of the South.

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The University of Tennessee system is reacting to governor Haslam's plan to provide Tennessee high school graduates with two years of free tuition to a state community college or technical school.

Governor Bill Haslam unveiled the Tennessee Promise Monday night (http://www.wbir.com/story/news/local/education/2014/02/03/haslam-proposes-free-community-college/5193219/) at his fourth annual State of the State address.

Dr. Katie High, vice-president for Academic Affairs and Student Success with the UT system, said if the plan is approved, its impact could vary from campus to campus.

High said UT-Martin is currently at a position where it can take all of the freshman applicants it gets. She said if it has to compete with community colleges for students, the school could initially see its freshmen enrollment number drop.

High said such a situation can put a campus in a position where it has to re-evaluate its operations.

"Let's say if we lose 200 freshmen?" she said. "What happens to our housing situation, can we afford to lose 200 freshmen?"

High did say things on the Knoxville campus would likely be different. About 14,000 students apply to the campus each year, but there are only 4,200 seats available.

"So, even if some of those 4,200 who choose to come here, choose to go to community college, I'm going to assume there's going to be plenty of others who want to come [in their place]."

Either way, High said all UT campuses are in a good position to accept many of the upperclassmen transfer students who may come their way.

The governor also proposed changes to the Hope Scholarship in his State of the State address.

Under Haslam's plan, a student at a four-year school would only receive $3,000 their first two years in comparison to the $4,000 they receive now. Then, during a student's junior and senior years, that amount would bump up to a total of $5,000.

High said if that plays out, she envisions a scenario where the UT system could work to make up the difference for current Hope scholars impacted by a change.
MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) - The University of Tennessee at Martin is commemorating the role Tennessee students played in shaping the modern civil rights movement with an exhibit on the Nashville lunch counter sit-ins.

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The exhibit is "We Shall Not Be Moved: The 50th Anniversary of Tennessee's Civil Rights Sit-Ins," produced by the Tennessee State Museum. It includes photographs, letters, posters and original news footage.

The exhibit shows at the J. Houston Gordon Museum through March 14.
UT Martin shows exhibit on lunch counter sit-ins

By news admin
Story Created: Feb 5, 2014 at 4:02 PM CST
(Story Updated: Feb 5, 2014 at 4:02 PM CST)

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MARTIN, Tenn. – Local officials and business leaders will hear presentations from hopeful county mayoral candidates during the 7th Annual Weakley County Legislative Breakfast set for 7 a.m. Friday, Feb. 7, in UT Martin's Boling University Center.

The Weakley County Economic Development Board, Weakley County General Sessions Judge Tommy Moore and Chuck Thomas III of AT&T will host the breakfast.

Weakley County Mayoral candidates Steve Blake, Jake Bynum, Randy Edwards and David Sudberry will speak. Each candidate has a five-minute time limit.


UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes is scheduled to attend the event, along with city and county officials and members of the media.

Ronnie Price, president and CEO of the Weakley County Economic Development Board, is scheduled to open the breakfast with some comments.
Mayoral candidates to speak at legislative breakfast

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LEGISLATIVE TALK — Congressman Stephen Fincher (center) speaks to the audience at last year’s legislative breakfast. Looking on are state Sen. John Stevens (left) and state Rep. Andy Holt. All three are scheduled to make remarks at this year’s breakfast, which takes place Friday. Also, Weakley County’s four mayoral candidates are scheduled to to speak.

UT Martin shows exhibit on lunch counter sit-ins

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Behind the scenes at the Super Bowl

Internship gives UTM students a taste of major sports event planning

By Josh Lemons
jlemons@jacksonsun.com

Football fans worldwide dream of one day attending a Super Bowl. For NFL fans, it is the pinnacle of the sport.

But few truly understand what goes on behind the scenes leading up to the world's most-viewed live sporting event.

Seven students from the University of Tennessee at Martin got just that opportunity last week.

Dr. Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sport management, recently came to UT Martin from York College of Pennsylvania, and he brought a Super Bowl internship with him to UTM.

Davis said he believes the internship is a great way for students to work alongside the top professionals in the business.

“I'm a huge believer in experience of learning,” Davis said. “I really believe that, especially in the sport industry, you have to see what it's like to run an event — what takes place on a mega event like the Super Bowl.”

Sam Curtis, a senior communications major and sport management minor from South Fulton, said he eventually wants to work for a sports organization and the trip gave him a glimpse into what it takes to run an event of that magnitude.

Curtis said the first time the students went to the stadium, it was midway through Super Bowl week. He said with all of the construction, decorations and preparation that were left, he couldn't believe the workers could get it all finished in time.

“It was almost surreal,” Curtis said. “I really believe that, especially in the sport industry, you have to see what it's like to run an event. It was like to run an event — what takes place on a mega event like the Super Bowl.”

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Dr. Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sport management at the University of Tennessee at Martin

“But when game day came, the group had a full day.

“Game day, they basically worked with NFL on Location, which is the big overarching hospitality arm of the NFL at the Super Bowl,” Davis said.

Before the group boarded a plane back for Tennessee, Davis arranged a tour of Drexel University. The tour, unknown to

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to Davis, turned into an impromptu speaking session in front of some of Drexel’s sport management students. He said this gave him an opportunity to see what his group got out of the experience.

“One of the Drexel students had a question, ‘What did you learn?’” Davis said. “One of the kids on the trip said, ‘I wanted to be involved in event planning. After working the Super Bowl, I still want to be involved in event planning, but I don’t want to work big events.’”

Davis said another of his students had a laugh when she heard her classmate’s response.

“There’s a chuckle from like three people down and one of the other girls goes, ‘That’s funny, because I want to work in event planning, too,'” Davis said. “And I realized after working the Super Bowl this is the level I want to work at.”

Josh Lemons, 425-9636

Through an internship, seven students from the University of Tennessee at Martin got the opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes leading up to the Super Bowl. From left: Juwan Turner, Sam Curtis, Allie Mulvaney, Reid Rickett, Rachel Robison, Jacob Harris and Darrin Howard. SUBMITTED PHOTO

“Surviving Technopolis: Essays on Finding Balance in Our New Man-Made Environments” (Pickwick, 2013) argues that technological society has no end in view other than bigger, faster, newer and more. While giving us many material benefits – at least in the short run – in its wake are spiritual loss, alienation and devastation.

The book contains essays analyzing technological change from the perspectives of Marshall McLuhan, Neil Postman, and C.S. Lewis. Hunt says some of our best wisdom in approaching Technopolis can be found in the voices of the Christian humanist tradition, which include G.K. Chesterton, J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis.

Hunt suggests we need to adopt a “third way” model, which focuses on three precepts: small is beautiful, the restoration of household economy, and a public sacramentalism that respects nature and nature’s God.

Hunt, born and raised in Clarksville, is an associate professor of communications at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His writings have appeared in Modern Age, Touchstone, The Christian Research Journal, and Explorations in Ecology.

“Covering topics from Marshall McLuhan to Middle Earth, this is a fascinating and eclectic example of Christian op-ed, polemic, cultural commentary and provocation,” says Carl R. Trueman, professor of historical theology and church history, Westminster Theological Seminary.
UT Martin Academic Speakers Program, Paul Meek Literary Speaker Series to host noted poet

February 10, 2014  Community, Featured, UT-Martin  No comments
MARTIN, Tenn. – Jeff Daniel Marion will be the guest speaker at UT Martin’s Paul Meek Library at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 13. Marion will be the next speaker in the Honors Program Academic Speakers series and he will serve as this year’s special guest in the Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series. The event is co-sponsored by Friends of the Paul Meek Library.

Marion will talk about the “journey a poem makes.”

A native of Rogersville, Marion taught English and creative writing at Carson-Newman University for more than 35 years until his retirement in 2002. There he was poet-in-residence, director of the Appalachian Center, and editor of Mossy Creek Reader.


In the 1970s and 80s, he worked as a poet-in-the-schools in North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee and for decades has lectured and conducted workshops on teaching and writing throughout the southern Appalachian region.

In 1975, Marion founded The Small Farm, a significant regional poetry journal, which he edited until 1980. In 1978, he received the first literary fellowship awarded by the Tennessee Arts Commission. For almost 10 years, he served as the poet-in-residence for the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities.

In 1993, he participated in the Distinguished Writers Reading Series sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and was the featured writer at Emory & Henry College’s 13th Literary Festival in 1995.

He presented the 1996 Palmer Memorial Lecture at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Ky., and in 1998, served as Copenhaver Scholar in Residence at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia.


In addition to his writing, he is a skilled photographer and printer. He operated Mill Springs Press on the Holston River for many years near New Market, where he produced chapbooks and broadsides from handset type on a Vandercook proof press.

In spring 2013, his work and career were celebrated at a literary festival in his honor at Carson-Newman University (Jefferson City) and in a tribute at Walters State Community College (Morristown). Marion lives in Knoxville with his wife, poet and editor Linda Parsons Marion.

“We are delighted that Danny Marion, an author, teacher and poet of great distinction, will be visiting UT Martin,” said Dr. Charles A. Julian, director of the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus.

While in Martin, Marion will meet with students at all levels and offer his expertise and guidance to young writers.

The event is free and open to the public.
Weakley County Legislative Breakfast

By BRAD GASKINS
News Editor

Local officials and business leaders gathered Friday morning for the Weakley County Legislative Breakfast in the Duncan Ballroom of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Boling University Center.

The seventh annual event was sponsored by the Weakley County Economic Development Board, the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce and the university’s Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center.

Program speakers included Ronnie Price, president/CEO of the Weakley County Economic Development Board; U.S. Rep. Stephen Fincher (R-8th District); 24th District state Sen. John Stevens (R-Huntingdon); and 76th District state Rep. Andy Holt (R-Dresden). The elected officials offered comments about wide-ranging topics covering education, school vouchers, the new Farm Bill and economic development.

Weakley County General Sessions Judge Tommy Moore encircled the event and provided plenty of comedic relief between speakers. He opened with a joke worthy of a late-night talk show monologue.

Noting the freezing temperature outside, Moore said, “It’s so cold that Miley Cyrus covered up her belly button. It is so cold that a flasher was caught this morning just describing himself to a woman. It was so cold this morning that lawyers had their hands in their own pockets.”

And with that, it was down to business.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes welcomed the group and thanked elected officials for their support of the university, noting, “state and federal support represents 30 percent of our budget.”

Rakes also commented on the recent closure of the ATO fraternity in the wake of a hazing incident. “I’m not pleased with what happened,” he said. “In fact, I’m embarrassed at what happened. He noted that UT Martin “has one of the strongest Greek systems in the state” and that its fraternities and sororities do much good throughout the community.

Price said Weakley County has benefited from the state’s Fast-Track Industrial Development Program and the state’s Fast-Track Economic Development Program.

“Another item that has come up since last fall that is important to us is support of Senate Bill 2076 and House Bill 1769, which changes the way railroads are taxed on diesel fuel to make the tax the same as tax paid by trucking companies.

Last year, Illinois Central Railroad won a lawsuit against the state’s department of revenue. The railroad argued discrimination because railroads are taxed at 7 percent of the cost of fuel versus 18.4 cents per gallon that trucking companies pay.

“The issue for Weakley County is that the tax pay for railroads is utilized by TDOT to fund payments on the short line railroad tracks and bridges. Until the lawsuit is settled and all the appeals are exhausted, TDOT has suspended using these funds for short line improvements. We in Weakley are one of 43 counties that are served by short line railroads. Resolving this issue is very important to our economic development.”

Price also encouraged the legislators to “keep up the good work” managing Tennessee’s finances.

Fincher, celebrating his 41st birthday, was asked to comment on the Farm Bill.

“It’s really going to revolutionize the way the ag industry does business,” he said. “This is shifting us from a subsidy program that we all knew to more of a crop insurance program.

“This, I think, will work for farmers. It will work for the country. What we have to keep in perspective here is what is the goal, or what is the intention, of the Farm Bill. This is not about farmers getting rich. This is not about one group of people or the other. It’s about making sure we have a safe and sustainable food supply, and that’s hopefully what this farm bill end up doing.”

He urged anyone with ties to the agriculture business to get involved and understand how the bill is going to work.

“It is super complicated. We spent the last three days with committee staffers going through every piece of it. I do think it will work, but it’s going to be complicated.”

Stevens was asked to give his view on Gov. Bill Haslam’s “Tennessee Promise” proposal earlier in the week. It would cover a full ride at two-year schools for any high school graduate, at a cost of $34 million per year.

Stevens, who has a degree from UT Martin, said he hadn’t seen specific details on Haslam’s
BREAKFAST
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plan, other than what was proposed during the State of the State address. Stevens said he has some concerns when considering the plan from UT Martin’s perspective.

“Are we going to see enrollments drop? Will it hurt the university because students will start off at Dyersburg State or Jackson State or some other community college? I have that concern,” Stevens said.

He said Haslam’s proposal could ultimately be a positive for UT Martin.

“I think we will see an overall increase in enrollment. If students get two years in, they will complete four years and they will complete it at a great institution like UTM — that’s my hope. I hope that’s the governor’s hope as well.

Regarding recruiting businesses to the state, Stevens said, “We need a better educated and trained workforce. That’s the one issue that holds us back.”

Regarding the short line railroad issue raised earlier by Price, Stevens said it is “a difficult issue” and “an important bill for West Tennessee.”

Stevens said one of his bills this legislative session closes a loophole in the limited liability partnership law.

“There’s people that organized businesses in other states simply because our limited liability partnership law didn’t provide what they thought it would.”

Another bill deals with the use of unmanned aerial vehicles. Agriculture has uses for drones.

“There really is no regulation of them. The Farm Bureau has a bill that I’m very pleased to carry for them that attempts to address that. It’s an attempt to try to be a common sense way to try to regulate something that protects individual rights. Also, we want to take advantage of technology.”

Holt said the biggest divide in the state legislature is not Republicans vs. Democrats. “It is rural versus urban legislators,” he said, adding it’s important for his constituents to know that he represents their interests and proposes legislation for their benefit.

Holt said he supports school vouchers and cited Adam Smith’s book “The Wealth of Nations” as the base for that view.

“People should have some choice about the education of their child,” Holt said. “The vast majority of us are products of public education. The vast majority of us are going to try to continue to have our children educated in public school forums. But I think that people should have the option to utilize their tax money if they choose a different educational outlook for their children, they should have the right to do that.”

“Public education is Weakley County is excellent. Teachers have done a good job. We have a great superintendent. They really have students’ best interests at heart. But that shouldn’t keep us from allowing individuals to have choice in whether they choose to educate their children in public school or some other type of school.”

Holt noted the voucher plan is limited to underperforming schools and there are none of those in Weakley County. Also, students must be at or below the poverty level.

There will be four constitutional amendments on the gubernatorial ballot in November, and Holt said it’s important to vote for No. 1 “if you would like to see our state move from a more liberal interpretation of the right to an abortion back to a neutral position that only grants the rights that were prescribed in Roe. V. Wade.”

He said Tennessee has become a “destination state” for those seeking abortions.

Others attending the breakfast were Landy Fuqua, REED Center director; Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations and executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program; and UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Nick Dunagan and his wife, Cathy.
LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST — Eighth District U.S. Rep. Stephen Fincher addresses the audience at the 7th Annual Weakley County Legislative Breakfast on Friday in the Duncan Ballroom of UT Martin’s Boling University Center. Also pictured are (from left) 24th District State Sen. John Stevens and 76th District State Rep. Andy Holt, who both also spoke during the event. Stevens and Holt hold UT Martin degrees. The Weakley County Economic Development Board, the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce and the university’s Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center and Tennessee Small Business Development Center sponsor the annual breakfast.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT — Ronnie Price, president/CEO of the Weakley County Economic Development Board, makes his comments at the Weakley County Legislative Breakfast.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES — Weakley County General Sessions Judge Tommy Moore served as emcee for the seventh annual Weakley County Legislative Breakfast on Friday in the Duncan Ballroom of UT Martin’s Boling University Center.
Bell Joins First State Bank as Commercial Loan Officer

By Kate Simone

Jonathan Bell has joined First State Bank as vice president/commercial loan officer. Bell, who has more than 13 years of experience in the banking industry, will provide banking services for businesses in Collierville and the surrounding area.

Hometown: Paris, Tenn.

Experience: Graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a business degree, with a concentration in accounting. Received my master's in accountancy from UT Martin. Received my CPA designation from the state of Tennessee, currently in inactive status. Have been in banking for 13 years, six years in commercial lending and seven years in commercial real estate lending.

Family: Wife, Paula; son, Jon Carter (2 years old); and a soon-to-be-born daughter, Katherine (due Feb. 18)

Favorite quote: "The path of the Lord will not lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you."

Favorite movie: "Hoosiers" and "Animal House"

The sports teams you root for: University of Tennessee (bleed orange), Tennessee Titans, Memphis Grizzlies, Atlanta Braves and the Nashville Predators

What's playing on your stereo right now? A mixture of music from country to rock to pop.

Activities you enjoy outside of work: Being with my family, attending football games and tailgating with my friends at Neyland Stadium, and anything outdoors.

What talent do you wish you had? I wish I could sing. I can't carry a tune to save my life!

Who has had the greatest influence on you and why? My parents and wife. My parents taught me the values and morals I have and taught me to treat everyone the same, regardless of position or status. My wife taught me to believe in myself and that I can achieve anything I set my mind to. I am privileged to have a family who supports me in every way possible and that I know will always be there for me when I need them.

What are your goals in your new role? My role will be to become the face of our Collierville market. My family lives in Collierville and I believe the area will continue to grow with the completion of 385. Also with the positioning of Interstate 69/269, I believe the area, including Fayette and DeSoto counties, will continue to grow. Collierville is built on mom-and-pop and family-oriented businesses, and First State wants to be the one-stop shop that families and businesses can grow with in all aspects of banking: personal, business, real estate and investing. We want to be the bank that Collierville citizens can count on.

If you could give one piece of advice to young people, what would it be? Always believe in yourself and always continue learning. I have been in banking 13 years and am still learning different things every day.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, February 12, 2014

UT Martin offering children's stage course

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a Kids on Stage course for ages 7-12.

The course will be offered from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays from this coming Saturday through April 5 on campus.

Melanie Hollis, lecturer of visual and theater arts, will instruct the class.

The course will introduce children to basic acting techniques. The instructor will use theatre games and exercises to explore character development, improvisation, concentration, voice and movement.

The class will culminate in a staged production for friends and family.

The registration fee is $50, plus a supply fee of $8 that is paid to the instructor at the first class meeting.

For more information or to register for the children's course, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/non-degree.php.
JAZZ BAND — Union City High School Jazz Band, under the direction of John Easley, will perform Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Union City Civic Auditorium as part of the 2013-14 concert series of the Community Concert Association of Union City/Obion County. The University of Tennessee at Martin Jazz Band will also perform.

UC, UTM jazz bands to perform

Members and patrons of Community Concert Association of Union City/Obion County will be able to enjoy some local jazz bands soon.

Union City High School Jazz Band and University of Tennessee at Martin Jazz Band will perform Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Union City Civic Auditorium.

Individual tickets will be made available to non-members for $10 for this concert.

The Union City High School Jazz Band was started in the early- to mid-1960s by longtime band director Marion Reithel.

UC, UTM...

(Continued from Page 1)

Reithel began the program as an extra curricular program that met a few times a week before school. The band immediately became a success and began to perform concerts as well as play for various community events.

In the late 1990s current Director of Bands John Easley was able to establish a jazz band class at UCHS for the first time and the band began to flourish once again. In the early '90s Easley and Reithel were doing the jazz band together and had to end it due to the demands on the students with other before-school activities. The jazz band class made it possible for the group to rehearse on a daily basis, and they once again started to do concerts and community performances. Also, in 2001 the program had its first members be selected to the All-West Tennessee Honor Jazz Band, followed by a run of three years with members selected to the Tennessee All-State Jazz Band.

When more independent classes were added to the UCHS curriculum in the mid-2000s, the jazz band class was removed from the schedule and the band once again was dissolved. With no intentions of starting the program before or after school again, Easley felt as though the program was probably done during his duration as director.

But then he was approached by a group of students who said they would really like to do jazz band and wondered if there had ever been one at UCHS. After learning about the program's past, this diligent group of students said they would be...
RECOMMENDS REACCREDITATION — The site-visit team from the national Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication recently evaluated the UT Martin Department of Communications. The site team informed UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes (third from left) that they are recommending full reaccreditation for the department. The team members were (from left) Dr. Douglas A. Boyd, professor of communication, the University of Kentucky; Dr. Kristin Gilger, associate dean, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Arizona State University; (Dr. Rakes); Dr. Joe Foote (team chair), dean, Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Oklahoma; and Ward White, strategy officer, Edelman PR world’s largest PR firm), Houston, Texas. They are joined by Dr. Robert Nanney, chairman, UT Martin Department of Communications. The ACEJMC cycle of review is every six years. The 32-member Accrediting Council will take the final vote on May 2 in Arlington, Va.

UT Martin Greeks help local Carl Perkins Center

Members of Gamma Kappa Pi Sorority and Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity won first place in Service Night, a new event for the 2014 Greekfest at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Twenty Greek organizations signed up to participate in the event. People were paired into 10 teams and the teams were asked to fund-raise in the manner of their choosing to raise money for the Carl Perkins Center of Weakley County. The teams conducted activities such as a barbecue sale, a pancake breakfast and placed collection jars at local businesses.

The 20 participating Greek organizations raised more than $12,000 for the local Carl Perkins Center.

The mission of the Carl Perkins Center is to provide support to families in preventing and dealing with child abuse in West Tennessee and to help both parents and children meet the practical needs of preserving and improving the quality of family life.

Writers clubhouse and ‘kids on stage’ courses offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education is co-sponsoring a Young Writer’s Clubhouse course with the West Tennessee Writing Project.

The course will be offered Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the UT Martin campus.

Children in grades 3-8 will have the opportunity to sharpen their writing skills in a relaxed environment. The course is titled “Just Pin It!” and will teach children how to express their creative interests through writing.

The registration fee is $35. Participants should bring their own lunches and snacks.

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

Register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.

Kids on Stage course

UT Martin will offer a Kids on Stage course for ages 7-12. The course will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, Feb. 15 - April 5, on the UT Martin campus.

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

The course will introduce children to basic acting techniques. The instructor will use theatre games and exercises to explore character development, improvisation, concentration, voice and movement. The class will culminate in a staged production for friends and family.

The registration fee is $50, plus a supply fee of $8 that is paid to the instructor at the first class meeting.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
UTM names interim dean of education
Former dean put on administrative leave, Ogg says

By MARY JEAN HALL
Special to The Press

Dr. Mark Kelley, dean of the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was placed on administrative leave Tuesday.

Kelley has served as dean since July 1, 2013. Dr. Gail Stephens, the university’s equity and diversity officer, will serve as the interim dean until a new dean is named at the conclusion of a national search to be initiated later this month.

Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, informed the faculty about the transition Wednesday afternoon.

"I understand that the timing of this decision to place Dr. Kelley on administrative leave was a bit unusual, but we were impacted by the faculty handbook’s provision that first-year, tenure-track faculty must be notified by March 1 if they are not going to have the opportunity to return the following year," Ogg told The Press.

“We also wanted to move quickly enough to complete the search for the new dean before the summer, and we didn’t feel it would be fair to Dr. Kelley to have him trying to represent his college under those circumstances.”

Kelley was informed he was being put on administrative leave Tuesday. A public safety officer accompanied him to his office simply as a matter of standard protocol.

“'I’m not going to discuss specifics of any personnel action, but I can certainly state that I know of no allegations of criminal activity or inappropriate behavior with students. I would have been amazed had he not had disagreements with faculty; as the old saying goes, the only administrator with whom all faculty agree is a retired administrator,” Ogg said.

Ogg said that the faculty handbook protocol was being followed for the removal of Kelley from the dean position. 

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DEAN
FROM PAGE 1

"Any administrator, including myself, may be replaced at any time; the faculty handbook does not contain tenure-like protections for persons serving in academic administrative positions," Ogg said.

"To the extent the faculty handbook guidelines apply to Dr. Kelley’s status as a tenure-track professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, the faculty handbook is being followed."

According to sections 1.5.2.2.3 and 1.5.2.2.4 of the UT Martin faculty handbook, there is set protocol for evaluating deans:

1.5.2.2.3 Evaluation
An annual evaluation of the dean is made by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. In preparation for this evaluation, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs asks the chair, appropriate members of the staff, and members of the faculties for their judgment.

1.5.2.2.4 Tenure
The dean, as all administrative officers, does not have tenure in the administrative office. Tenure, if held by the dean, resides only in his/her status as a faculty member in the position in which he/she has been granted tenure.

As vice chancellor of academic affairs, Ogg appointed Stephens as the interim dean.

"I appreciate Dr. Kelley’s service as well as Dr. Stephens’ willingness to step up during this time of transition," Ogg said.

According to the email sent out to the faculty, Dr. Stephens earned her Ed.D. in educational administration and supervision, with an emphasis in higher education, from the University of Memphis. She previously served as vice president for student services at Henderson State University (Arkansas) as well as vice president for student affairs at Mississippi University for Women before coming to UT Martin in 2012.
'Surviving Technopolis'
Hunt publishes new book

Arthur W. Hunt III, an associate communications professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has published a new book addressing problems and solutions associated with modern technological society.

"Surviving Technopolis: Essays on Finding Balance in Our New Man-Made Environments" argues that technological society has no end in view other than bigger, faster, newer and more. While giving us many material benefits - at least in the short run - in its wake are spiritual loss, alienation and devastation.


Hunt says some of our best wisdom in approaching Technopolis can be found in the voices of the Christian humanist tradition, which includes G.K. Chesterton, J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis.

Hunt suggests we adapt a "third way" model, which focuses on three precepts: small is beautiful, the restoration of household economy and a public sacramentalism that respects nature and nature's God.

"Covering topics from Marshall McLuhan to Middle Earth, this is a fascinating and eclectic example of Christian op-ed, polemic, cultural commentary and provocation," said Carl R. Trueman, professor of historical theology and church history at Westminster Theological Seminary.


SPECIAL GUEST — Some local children got poetic advice from one of the best Wednesday afternoon. Celebrated poet Jeff Daniel Marion (standing) spoke to about 35 children at the after school program at the Martin Housing Authority’s Tom and Ann Stuart Center. Marion taught creative writing at Carson-Newman College for 35 years before retiring in 2002. He is celebrated for his literature work dealing with the southern Appalachian region, among numerous other poetic and teaching accolades. He gave the children some pointers on writing and then listened as a few of the children read aloud some of the poetry they had written.
The Weakley County Economic Development Board, the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce, the university’s Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center and Tennessee Small Business Development Center sponsored the annual breakfast, according to a news release.

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes welcomed the group, and Weakley County General Sessions Judge Tommy Moore moderated the discussion. In his remarks, Rakes thanked elected officials for their support of the university, noting, “state and federal support represents 30 percent of our budget.”

Program speakers included Ronnie Price, president and CEO of the Weakley County Economic Development Board; U.S. Rep. Stephen Fincher, R-Frog Jump; 24th District state Sen. John Stevens, R-Huntingdon; and 76th District state Rep. Andy Holt, R-Dresden. The elected officials answered questions and offered comments about wide-ranging topics including education, school vouchers, the new farm bill and economic development, the release said.

Also attending and offering brief comments were the four candidates for Weakley County mayor: Steve Blake, Jake Bynum, Randy Edwards and David Sudberry. Candidates for other elected offices attended and greeted attendees before and after the breakfast.

Others attending the breakfast included Landy Fuqua, REED Center director; Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations and executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program; and UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Nick Dunagan and his wife, Cathy.
Members of Gamma Kappa Pi Sorority and Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity recently won first place in Service Night, a new event for the 2014 Greekfest at the University of Tennessee Martin.

Twenty Greek organizations signed up to participate in the event, according to a news release. People were paired into 10 teams and the teams were asked to raise money in the manner of their choosing for the Carl Perkins Center of Weakley County.

The teams conducted activities such as a barbecue sale, a pancake breakfast and placing collection jars at local businesses.

The 20 participating Greek organizations raised more than $12,000 for the local Carl Perkins Center, according to the release.

The mission of the Carl Perkins Center is to provide support to families in preventing and dealing with child abuse in West Tennessee and to help both parents and children meet the practical needs of preserving and improving the quality of family life.
SIMPLY ‘SASSY’!

Rebecca Jones of Milan has demonstrated award-winning success with food

By Lyda Kay Ferree
kmsouth@jacksonsun.com

Meet Sassy! Come with her on a culinary experience like no other. You will fall in love with her Southern charm and witty humor. Her recipes are delicious and time tested.

With a degree in home economics from the University of Tennessee, Rebecca Jones of Milan has experience in teaching culinary hospitality to students ranging in age from 5 to 75. She has demonstrated award-winning success in her field by showcasing individual dishes, meals and menu planning for thousands of people.

Recently, Jones was recognized nationally as one of the top 100 professionals in her field. She also has received National Teacher of the Year, Tennessee Teacher of the Year, Program of the Year and Administrator Excellence awards during her career at the high school and university levels. She is also a university supervisor and an instructor for online and distance learning courses at UT Martin.

"As a child, I would dream that there would be a day that I would have pretty dishes," Jones said. "I used all sorts of handmade doilies for place mats because at that time I didn't know what a place mat was! I just thought they looked pretty under bowls and plates. We rarely had two of the same that matched. I didn't know people were not supposed to eat off of saucers. I had so much to learn ... I would do anything for my mama. She wanted me to go away to college. I wanted to learn so much about cooking and hospitality."

Jones wanted to be a teacher and have her own classroom, teaching students how to cook like the teachers whom she admired "who were dressed professionally and had so much wisdom."

She wanted to know how to be a lady. "I was going to be 'sassy,'" she said.

When her son, Harris, was a little boy, he told her she was sassy, but in a good way. He said, "Mom, you try new recipes and make it all fun. You decorate your food and make my pancakes in shapes."

You're just sassy!"

And sassy she is! The name suits her well. Jones (aka Sassy) is my charming new friend who radiates a zest for life, a joie de vivre. Wait until you meet her in person!

Jones selected "Sassy" as a theme for her cookbook and sequences of cookbooks to follow:

S — Spices to blend with someone you love every day.
A — A little bit of chocolate to smooth the rough spots.
S — Salads, like friends, in many varieties.
S — Salsa as the relish for your "spirit."
Y — Yes to good times spent with family, friends and memories shared with great food.

In the meantime, I hope you will enjoy reading about her and buy her first cookbook, "Sassy in the Kitchen."

The spiral-bound, easy-to-use cookbook, already in its second edition, is designed for home cooks every...

See SASSY, Page C3
where at any level. The first edition of “Sassy” presents a seasonal array of fall and holiday recipes that includes sauces, dips, soups and chowders; festive casserole recipes; and heavenly breads. The author’s favorites include a baker’s collection of spectacular dessert recipes and a chapter of recipes from Jones’ former students.

Jones’ second cookbook in the series, “SHUGGA Mama,” will capture your baking spirit with more than 100 decadent dessert recipes, from lemon raspberry cake to The Chocolate Throw Down.

“Desserts are my favorite dish to prepare,” Jones said. “I love what I call a ‘Sensuous Coconut Cake’ and my mother’s 100-year-old carrot cake, and I enjoy preparing sauces like the delicious Tennessee Blackberry Sauce that may be used on pancakes or on a pound cake.” Note: This book should be on sale this summer.

“Courage in the Kitchen!” is being specifically prepared for the novice cook. After more than 41 years of teaching students at Milan High School and elsewhere, this collection of learner-friendly recipes will give even the most timid cook the courage to “cook something up,” as she says.

Her “Grilling Gourmet” cookbook will feature recipes created for the man who loves to cook and will contain recipes for tailgate parties and black-tie dinners.

Other projects on the drawing board include “Stirring Up Smiles,” a children’s book with children’s recipes (possibly out by Christmas 2014); children’s dinnerware; and a Christmas cookbook in 2015.

Jones’ son, Harris, and former culinary students encouraged her to write her first cookbook. “When I was invited to teach in Hawaii two years ago in their culinary program, my desire to write this cookbook became stronger as I knew it would help my students understand more about our Southern culture,” she said.

Her Hawaiian students knew that Southerners love fried chicken and mashed potatoes. They never heard of chicken and biscuits. Poultry is very expensive in Hawaii, more expensive than beef.

The first dish she prepared in her class in Hawaii was banana pudding. “They have so many varieties of bananas that this was an economic lab experience,” Jones explained. “My students learned to love banana pudding. I took this dessert to a faculty meeting in Hawaii, and it won first place in the dessert competition.”

“I told my Hawaiian students about fried pies and pies with meringues, both of which are foreign to them. I loved the mangoes, pineapple and fresh fish. Their food photography and food presentation were so exquisite.”

Back at home in West Tennessee, she enjoys sharing food with others. Working as a chef with her mother and her Aunt Sallie, she learned while watching them cook and cooking with them.

“When we had prepared a platter of warm fresh cookies, it would be my task to take that platter to a shut-in or a nearby neighbor,” she said. “That taught me to be giving.”

Jones loves to bake bread, mostly biscuits and fruit breads such as banana nut bread, and she enjoys sharing with friends and neighbors.

Tablescapes and pretty linens are a must for me,” she said. “I’m against anything plastic or paper plates.”

Culinary camps and cooking demonstrations

Jones will host culinary camps in the summer for young children and teenagers who are interested in learning to cook. The Young Chefs Camp will be held June 10-12 at the Milan High School for children ages 8 to 12. Call (731) 613-1323 for more information.

She also will teach Men’s Tailgate and BBQ Camp Cooking with her son June 17-19 at Milan High School. (Her son is on a Memphis in May barbecue team.)

In late June or July, Jones will teach the second phase of “Denim and Pearls” Culinary Camp (date to be arranged). Call (731) 613-1323 for more information about the culinary camps.

Jones is available for events and cooking demonstrations. On Thursday, she made a presentation for Raymond James & Associates at Coffman’s Home Furnishings Test Kitchen. She demonstrated quick and easy menu ideas and recipes for a Valentine’s evening menu and from the “Sassy in the Kitchen” cookbook for women on the go in a private appreciation event for female clients.

Favorite and signature dishes

Some of Jones’ favorite dishes are shrimp and corn chowder with fennel, and she loves basil for pasta. “I keep an herb garden,” she said. “I often take a small herb garden as a gift to friends.”

Among her favorite appetizers are sausage stuffed mushrooms, a hot crab and artichoke dip and pepper-jack shrimp dip. As for favorite entrees and casseroles, she likes to prepare grilled garlic shrimp, garlic salmon, peppercorn beef brisket and hearty chicken pie.

“Soups warm the soul,” Jones said. “I love the Knock Me Out Chili, shrimp and corn chowder with fennel, Sassy’s Seafood Chowder and my old-fashioned beef stew. All are especially good this time of the year.”

She likes to bake breads such as cinnamon breakfast rolls, easy homemade rolls, a crowd-pleasing breakfast casserole and her pineapple coffee cake. Desserts: “Ah, the grand finale!” Jones said. “I love Aunt Sallie’s jam cake, the brown-sugar fresh apple cake, the prize-winning pound cake and Forever Favorite cream pies. But the perfect cake at my house is the Bacardi rum bundt cake served with my Tennessee Blackberry Sauce. Mama Mildred’s 100-year-old carrot cake recipe is one of the few recipes ever written down by my mama, and I have my mother’s biscuit recipe in the cookbook. My Italian Cream Cake has won awards. I have had many requests for this recipe.”

The sweet potato cake recipe belonged to her grandmother, and the jam cake is a really old recipe of her Aunt Sallie’s.

“It calls for blackberry jam, but in West Tennessee we use strawberry jam,” she said. “The chocolate pineapple upside-down cake is decadent, and the Grand Lemon Pound Cake is a prize winner. The Sensuous Coconut Cake, as it is called in my cookbook, is really awesome and perfect for Valentine’s. It is a made-from-scratch cake. I love the old, old recipe for French coconut pie and the pecan pie cobbler and sweet potato cobbler plus the bread pudding with whiskey sauce. The teacake recipe I learned to prepare as a young girl.”

Jones’ cookbook, “Sassy in the Kitchen,” is available at the following locations: L&T Cakery, at 1021 Jones Blvd. in Milan; Candyland, at 1019 Jones Blvd. in Milan; Garden Pleasures Gifts & Tea Room, across from the post office on Main Street in Milan; Kathleen’s Salon & Beauty Room, across from Sonic on Van Hook Street in Milan; and Kirkland’s Antiques & Gifts, at 232 Lindell St. in Martin.
With a degree in home economics from the University of Tennessee, Rebecca Jones of Milan has experience in teaching culinary hospitality to students ranging in age from 5 to 75. SUBMITTED PHOTO
Team recommends re-accreditation for UTM department

The site-visit team from the national Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication evaluated the University of Tennessee Martin Department of Communications Feb. 2-5.

On Feb. 5, the site team informed UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes that it was recommending full re-accreditation for the department, according to a news release. The team members were Dr. Douglas A. Boyd, professor of communication at the University of Kentucky; Dr. Kristin Gilger, associate dean of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University; Dr. Joe Foote, site team chairman and dean of the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma; and Ward White, strategy officer of Edelman PR, the world's largest PR firm, in Houston, according to the release.

The council’s cycle of review is every six years, the release said. The 32-member Accrediting Council will take the final vote on May 2 in Arlington, Va.

Children's writing courses offered in Martin, Parsons

The University of Tennessee Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education is co-sponsoring two Young Writer's Clubhouse courses — one in Martin and one in Parsons — on Saturday with the West Tennessee Writing Project.

Both courses will give children in grades three through eight the opportunity to sharpen their writing skills in a relaxed environment, according to news releases from the university.

The “Just Pin It!” course will be offered from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday on the UT Martin main campus. It will teach children how to express their creative interests through writing.

The “Picture Your Words” course will be offered from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the UT Martin Parsons Center. It will show students how pictures inspire many forms of writing, such as poetry, songs and stories.

For either event, the registration fee to attend is $35. Participants should bring their own lunches and snacks.
University of Tennessee at Martin students interning in Nashville

By JAMIE ARNETT
Special to The Press

Each fall, students at universities from across the state of Tennessee apply to be a part of the Legislative internship program. This year, UTM was awarded five of the roughly 90 coveted internship spots available.

Bailey Hudlow, Cassie Rogers, Sara Christopher, Caleb Poole and Cole Grosvenor are the students representing UTM in Nashville this semester.

These students are considered to have maintained high academic standards and are heavily involved around the UTM campus.

They completed an application process that started in Martin and then were recommended by a committee to represent UTM in the final interviews in Nashville.

They serve in public officials’ offices and with a designated committee of the Tennessee Legislature.

During the interview process, each applicant submitted a biography that allowed the internship staff to help place students in a position that best suits them.

Hudlow, a junior political science major, was placed with Speaker of the House, Beth Harwell.

“Once again, UTM was able to send some exceptional students to serve as legislative interns, and once again, our students were blessed with some fantastic office assignments. All four of our students are working with widely respected Capitol Hill veterans who will have a lot to teach our students. Every year, my hope is that our interns get good assignments that put them right in the middle of the action, and I was not disappointed,” UTM adviser Chris Baxter said.

“This experience has completely changed the way I look at the legislative process. I have learned so much, and absolutely love working at the Capitol with people who have the ability to effect change in our state,” Christopher said.

Rogers, will return to UTM in the fall to continue her degree.

“It’s an exciting opportunity that I would recommend for anyone who wants to get a hands-on experience with government and the legislative process,” Rogers said.

On a daily basis, Rogers keeps busy with legislative work. She is interning for Sen. Mike Bell and the Government Operations Committee.

“I file bills, do any necessary research, talk to constituents, help set up for committee, schedule and sit in on private meetings between the senator and his constituents, committee members, lobbyists, or various other guests. I also do any other miscellaneous paperwork or office work needed of me,” Rogers said.

“I think it’s great getting to be involved with the legislation from the drafting level to filing bills to hearing and amending them in committee before they go on the floor. It’s great to see ideas develop and change as more and more people become involved in the process.”

The students hear testimonies from former legislative interns on what they are now doing to give them examples of how their experience can allow them to pursue career ambitions in the future. While many of the UTM interns want to attend law school, Grosvenor said he would like to pursue a career in the lobbying profession.

SEE INTERNS, PAGE 6
Dr. Stephen L. Mansfield, a Weakley County native, named chairman of the Dallas Regional Chamber

The Dallas Regional Chamber introduced Stephen L. Mansfield, PhD, FACE, president and CEO of Methodist Health System, as its 2014 board chairman during the chamber’s recent annual meeting.

Mansfield is a 1970 graduate of Martin High School and his wife Marilyn, a teacher by training, an author and a public speaker, is a 1975 graduate of Dresden High School. He and Marilyn have a 25-year-old daughter who also resides in Dallas.

In addressing the chamber after accepting the new role, Mansfield looked to the future and highlighted economic development, education and public policy initiatives which will be paramount to the organization’s progress in 2014.

“Our mission for the year ahead remains very clear: Together, we will lead the Dallas region to become the most economically prosperous region — and the most desirable place to live and work — in the United States,” he said. “You belong here with us, achieving these strategic goals and fulfilling this mission.”

The Dallas Regional Chamber is the area’s leading membership-driven business organization committed to promoting economic prosperity by leading economic development, driving improvements in public education, influencing public policy, and catalyzing and advocating for regional partnerships.

Besides his leadership position in the chamber, Mansfield is also on the boards of several other organizations: Dallas County Community College District Foundation, Dallas Citizens Council, MD Buyline, Institute of Healthcare Executives and Suppliers, North Texas Commission, and Dallas Medical Resources. He also serves on a number of advisory boards including the newly-established Ned Ray McWherter Center at UT Martin and was the chairman for the 2010-11 March of Dimes March for Babies.

Mansfield was named to the 2011 Becker’s Hospital Review “Hospital and Health System Leaders to Know” list. In 2012, he was recognized with the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award in the health care provider category. In 2013, he was a recipient of the inaugural Becker’s Healthcare 2013 Leadership Awards and was named among the Dallas Business Journal’s DFW Who’s Who in Health Care. Most recently, Dr. Mansfield was listed in Becker’s Hospital Review’s 130 Nonprofit Hospital and Health System CEO’s to Know.

Under Dr. Mansfield’s leadership, Methodist has been one of the nation’s fastest growing health systems — having doubled in size over the past five years, and being cited in 2012 by Modern Healthcare as one of America’s 40 Fastest Growing healthcare companies in the nation.

With a stated mission to improve and save lives through compassionate quality health care, the $1.1 billion non-profit Methodist Health System is comprised of Methodist Dallas Medical Center, Methodist Charlton Medical Center, Methodist Mansfield Medical Center, Methodist Richardson Medical Center, Methodist Rehabilitation Center, Methodist Rehabilitation Hospital, Methodist Hospital McKinney, Methodist Hospital for Surgery in Addison, and 24 Methodist Family Health Centers. Methodist employs 7,600 staff, has more than 1,200 physicians and more than 1,800 volunteers engaged with the system.

In 2013, and for the past ten years in a row, Dallas Business Journal has recognized Methodist as a Best Place to Work and Methodist has recently been recognized as a Best Place to Work by Modern Healthcare and Becker’s Hospital Review as well.

Over the past four years, in addition to having doubled in size, Methodist has experienced its most profitable years in its history, and has won numerous national, state, and local awards for their community-based wellness programs, patient safety, clinical quality and overall performance.

Before joining Methodist in 2006, Dr. Mansfield spent seven years as the President and CEO of the five-hospital St. Vincent Health System based in Little Rock, Arkansas, and before that worked for the Baptist Memorial Health Care System in Memphis for 23 years.

Dr. Mansfield has a Bachelor’s Degree in Healthcare Administration from Ottawa University, a Master’s from the University of Tennessee Martin, and a Ph.D. in organizational leadership from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
UT Martin grad dies in Afghanistan

Marine also was former Skyhawks football player

By Josh Lemons
jlemons@jacksonsun.com

A former University of Tennessee Martin football player and alumnus died Saturday while on assignment in Afghanistan.

A statement from Camp Lejeune in North Carolina issued on Tuesday said 36-year-old Master Sgt. Aaron C. Torian of Paducah, Ky., died of wounds sustained during combat operations in Helmand province.


Flags on the UT Martin main campus were lowered to half staff Tuesday to honor Torian.

Head football coach Jason Simpson said even though he did not coach Torian personally, the news of his death still hit close to home.

"I’m sure there have been many others over the years, but in my eight years this is the first former football player that I remember," Simpson said. "I’ve heard some great things about him.

"We’ve very proud and feel for his family."

Torian was assigned to 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Regiment, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command. He joined the Marine Corps in March 2003 and joined MARSOC in 2006. Torian was promoted to master sergeant last September.

Among Torian's awards is a Purple Heart with one gold star for wounds received in action on May 29, 2008, and Saturday in Afghanistan resulting in his death.

Simpson said the team has made a make-shift memorial through the video boards around the football building to honor one of their own.

"We had a kind of a tribute to him this week (with) the years he played and some different information about him," Simpson said. "It just makes you proud to be an American and to appreciate the people that give their lives for us."

According to military records, Torian enlisted in the Marine Corps on April 28, 2003.

He will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Josh Lemons, 425-9636

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, February 19, 2014

UT board to meet

The board of directors and officers of the University of Tennessee Foundation will meet Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the University Center room 206ABC on the campus of UT Martin.

Items on the agenda include:
• University president's report
• Vice Chancellor reports
• Foundation president's report
• Committee reports
• Bylaw changes
• Meeting schedule changes
• Treasurer/CFO title change
• AGB Foundation Forum report

The meeting will be open to the public.

For more information or to make arrangements for someone with a disability to attend the session, contact Tiffany Carpenter at (865) 974-1476 or at tcarpenter@utfi.org.
Community Concert Association of Union City/Obion County hosting Community Concert Series

February 19, 2014  Community, Featured, Regional  No comments

Community Concert Association of Union City/Obion County will host Union City High School Jazz Band and University of Tennessee at Martin Jazz Band Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Union City Civic Auditorium. Individual tickets will be made available to non-members for $10 at Lanzer Printing and Office Supply in downtown Union City and at the door. For more information about Community
Concert Association, visit online at [www.communityconcertue.org](http://www.communityconcertue.org) or on Facebook at Community Concert of Union City/Obion County.

Members and patrons of Community Concert Association of Union City/Obion County will be able to enjoy some local jazz bands soon.

Union City High School Jazz Band and University of Tennessee at Martin Jazz Band will perform Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Union City Civic Auditorium.

Individual tickets will be made available to non-members for $10 for this concert.

The Union City High School Jazz Band was started in the early- to mid-1960s by longtime band director Marion Reithel.

Reithel began the program as an extra curricular program that met a few times a week before school. The band immediately became a success and began to perform concerts as well as play for various community events.

In the late 1990s current Director of Bands John Easley was able to establish a jazz band class at UCHS for the first time and the band began to flourish once again. In the early '90s Easley and Reithel were doing the jazz band together and had to end it due to the demands on the students with other before-school activities. The jazz band class made it possible for the group to rehearse on a daily basis, and they once again started to do concerts and community performances. Also, in 2001 the program had its first members be selected to the All-West Tennessee Honor Jazz Band, followed by a run of three years with members selected to the Tennessee All-State Jazz Band.

When more independent classes were added to the UCHS curriculum in the mid-2000s, the jazz band class was removed from the schedule and the band once again was dissolved. With no intentions of starting the program before or after school again, Easley felt as though the program was probably done during his duration as director.

But then he was approached by a group of students who said they would really like to do jazz band and wondered if there had ever been one at UCHS. After learning about the program’s past, this diligent group of students said they would be willing to give it a shot at rehearsing in the mornings, and the UCHS Jazz Band was up and going again.

This is the third year for the new program and it has flourished once more. According to Easley, it really means more to him than ever before, because he is aware of the time constraints on the students involved. He says they really make a commitment to come out at 7 a.m. to rehearse.

The current band consists of ninth through 12th graders who are members of the UCHS band program. Auditions are now held for the group, due to the show of interest in the jazz band that has developed over the past few years. The hope is that the group will continue to be a strong part of the UCHS band program for years to come, as jazz is a needed genre of music for everyone, Easley says.

The UTM Big Band, directed by Dr. Kurt Gorman, displays the diversity, vibrancy and artistry of jazz, America’s greatest art form, through the medium of the traditional big band. A UTM Big Band performance features Swing Era charts by Duke Ellington and Count Basie, as well as a wide array contemporary compositions, Latin jazz and funk charts.
The group presents the repertoire of jazz standards, from songs by Gershwin or Rodgers and Hart, to the compositions of Charles Mingus, Thelonious Monk and Miles Davis.

The UTM Small Jazz Group is comprised of select players from the UTM Big Band who practice and cultivate the fine art of jazz improvisation. The ensemble holds jam sessions open to the community of UTM students and to the general public.

After the jazz bands’ performance, the remaining local concert will be Chicago tribute band Transit Authority on April 26. The remaining reciprocal performance for Dyersburg Live on Stage is the Memphis Men’s Chorale and Memphis Women’s Chorale on April 5.

For more information about Community Concert Association, visit online at www.communityconcertuc.org or on Facebook at Community Concert of Union City/Obion County.

Individual tickets for local shows will be available at Lanzer Printing and Office Supply in downtown Union City.

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Funeral Services Announced for UT-Martin Student

Story Created: Feb 20, 2014 at 6:25 PM CST
(Story Updated: Feb 20, 2014 at 6:25 PM CST)

MARTIN, Tenn. — Funeral arrangements have been announced for Trystan Bechtel, 19, of Trenton, a UT Martin student who died Wednesday in a car accident in Gibson County.

Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 21, at the First United Methodist Church in Trenton. Services will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, also at the church. Shelton Funeral Home in Trenton is in charge of arrangements.

Trystan was a 2013 honor graduate of Peabody High School and in her freshman year at UT Martin. She was in the university’s pre-physical therapy program and was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi.

More than 300 students gathered Wednesday evening for a candlelight memorial service outside of the Boling University Center, followed by a second service in the center’s Duncan Ballroom.

"This tragic loss of a student saddens our entire university community," Dr. Tom Rakes said, UT Martin chancellor. "We extend our thoughts and prayers to Trystan’s family and friends at this time."
Fan vote open: Butler a finalist for Senior CLASS Award

Senior guard Heather Butler on the University of Tennessee at Martin women’s basketball team has been named a finalist for the 2013-14 Senior CLASS Award. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievement in four areas of excellence – community, classroom, character and competition.

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

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

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

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

Butler is a three-time All-Ohio Valley Conference first team after becoming UT Martin’s first 2,000 point scorer. Recently, Butler became the OVC’s all-time leading scorer on Jan. 18, 2014, breaking Cheryl Taylor’s 27 year old record of 2,226 career points. An eight-time OVC Player of the Week, Butler is the active NCAA leader with 121 consecutive games in which she has scored in double digits. Her 121 games in which she has scored double figures ranks 12th on the NCAA’s all-time list.

She currently leads the OVC in scoring average with 23.0 points per game (552 points) and three-point field goals made with 69. She owns several UT Martin records with career points (2,663), single-season field goals made (266), career field goals made (891), single season three-pointers made (105) and career three-pointers made (357). Butler’s 22.4 points per game last season ranked sixth in the country in scoring.

Along with her volume scoring output, Butler has been a model of consistency, setting a pair of NCAA three-point records by making a three-pointer in 80 consecutive games and 34 games in a single season. Butler scored 37 points against Notre Dame in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, ranking as the highest individual output in the 2013 tournament and the most points ever against Notre Dame in its tournament history. The finalists were chosen by national media from the list of 30 women's candidates announced in October. Nationwide fan voting begins immediately to help select the winner. Fans are encouraged to vote on the Senior Class Award website through March 24. Fans votes will be combined with media and Division I head coaches’ votes to determine the winners.

The Senior CLASS Award winners will be announced during the 2014 NCAA Women’s Final Four in Nashville.

Joining Butler are finalists Hallie Christofferson (Iowa State), Jerica Coley (FIU), Stefanie Dolson (Connecticut), Jordan Hooper (Nebraska), Natasha Howard (Florida State), Maggie Lucas (Penn State), Chiney Ogwumike (Stanford), Haley Peters (Duke) and Odyssey Sims (Baylor).
CLASS ACT — Heather Butler, a senior, is the total student-athlete and uses her platform in athletics to make a positive impact. (Photo by Nathan Morgan)
Smith named to CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-District Team

Terence Smith, a red-shirt junior guard on the University of Tennessee at Martin men's basketball team, was selected as a Capital One Academic All-District selection for District 3 by the College Sports Information Directors of America on Thursday.

Smith joins Tennessee Tech's Dennis Ogbe, Belmont's JJ Mann, North Carolina's Marcus Paige and Vanderbilt's Shelby Moats as the NCAA Division-I representatives from District 3.

These five honorees advance to the Capital One Academic All-America Team ballot, where first, second and third-team All-America honorees will be selected in February.

In the classroom, Smith boasts a cumulative 3.67 Grade Point Average while majoring in management. He is a three-time Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll selection.

This season, the 6-4, 195-pound native of Russellville, Ala. is the only Skyhawk to have started in all 24 games. Smith has led the team in scoring six times and reached double-figures in the scoring column in 22 out of 24 games, including a trio of 20-plus point efforts.

Smith currently ranks third in the OVC in three-point field goal percentage (.437), fifth in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.9), eighth in three-point field goals made (1.9 per game), 10th in scoring (14.5 points per game), 10th in free throw percentage (.794) and 10th in minutes played (32.2 per game).

The 2013-14 Capital One Academic All-District Men's Basketball Team, selected by CoSIDA, recognizes the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances athletically and in the classroom.

Capital One has been the entitlement rights holder to CoSIDA's Academic All-America teams programs since 2011.
Ashia Jones (34) goes up for a pass from her teammate Heather Butler (11).

Sarah Johnson shows her Skyhawk spirit.

Photo by Nathan Morgan
UTM’s Butler has high school jersey retired

BY LORI CATHEY  
Special to The Press

Heather Butler was honored by the Gibson County High School community for her outstanding athletic career by retiring her No. 11 athletic numbers at the school recently. Butler received her jersey in a frame along with a plaque. The presentation was made by former GCHS Principal Bo Booth.

This is the fifth time in GC history that an athlete’s number has been retired. The first four were: Christy Hicks Hart, Tiffany Akins, Anna Richardson and Kaitlin Dudley.

Butler played basketball at GC from 2006-10. She was a record-setting player for the Lady Pioneers and has continued to set and break records at UT Martin as a guard for the Skyhawks.

“Honestly, words can’t describe how much of an honor and blessing it is to have my jersey retired,” Butler said. “I have gained so many amazing memories, but most importantly people who I can call family. I truly thank God for all of it. Once a Lady Pioneer, always a Lady Pioneer.”

Among Butler’s team achievements are:

- Her sophomore year, she started on a state tournament team.
- Her junior year, under head coach Kevin McMillan, Butler helped lead GC to an undefeated season and Class AA state championship.
- Under the guidance of McMillan and David Russell, Butler helped lead GC to a combined 70-1 record her junior and senior years and two state titles.
- While at Gibson County, Butler became the all-time leading scorer with 2,289 points. Butler’s junior year, she was named to the All-District, All-Region, and All-State tournament teams and was named the region MVP.
- In Butler’s senior year, she was named to All-District, All-Region, and All-State tournament teams.
- She was also the MVP for the 2010 TSSAA Class AA State Tournament and was one of three finalists of TSSAA Class AA Miss Basketball.
- Other individual achievements are: averaging 25 points per game her senior year, All-Academic for the district and scoring 93 points in three games in the State Tournament to set a new state scoring record.
- Butler, while attending UT Martin last year, set the NCAA record with 80 consecutive games scoring three-point goals and became UT Martin’s all-time leading scorer with 2,111 career points.
- Butler is the Ohio Valley Conference’s all-time leading scorer with 2,651 career points through her senior season.

She is a three-time All-OVC first teamer and 2012 OVC Tournament Most Valuable Player. She not only ranks 31st on the NCAA’s all-time scoring list but has scored in double figures in 120 consecutive games, good for 15th on the NCAA’s list. It is the second longest consecutive double digit scoring streak in NCAA history.

She is a nine-time OVC Adidas Player of the Week throughout her college career with four this year, Tennessee Sports Writers Association Player of the Week, candidate for Senior Class Award and Nominee for All State WBCA Good Works Team.

In the classroom, Butler was named the program’s second OVC Scholar-Athlete, the league’s highest individual honor, while being a three-time OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll honoree.
SPEAKING AT ALMA MATER — Retired Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin was the guest speaker of the College of Business and Global Affairs and the International Security Studies program this past week. He said the armed forces of 2020 will demand critical thinkers; look for those who are culturally adjusted, technologically oriented, emotionally fit and diverse; and leaders who are capable of leading.

UT Foundation Board of Directors to meet Tuesday on UT Martin Campus

The board of directors and officers of the University of Tennessee Foundation will meet Tuesday, February 25, in Martin. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the University Center, room 206ABC on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Agenda items include:
- University President's Report.
- Vice Chancellor Reports.
- Foundation President's Report.
- Committee reports.
- Bylaw Changes.
- Meeting Schedule Changes.
- Treasurer/CFO Title Change.

The foundation's mission is to enrich the lives of the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University of Tennessee through alumni engagement, financial stewardship and private gift support. A nonprofit corporation, the foundation helps meet the needs of the University by augmenting state and institutional funds.

For more information about the UT Foundation, visit www.utfi.org.

Anyone with a disability who wishes to attend this meeting may contact the individual listed below to request auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate attendance.

Contact may be made in person, by writing, by email, by telephone or otherwise and should be received no later than 5 p.m. today (Thursday).
GREEK WEEK — Chi Omega and Zeta Tau Alpha finished in a tie for the overall winners of Greekfest, an annual event at the University of Tennessee at Martin. (Photos by Sarah Martin)

LINE DANCE — Members of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority perform during the Greefest Line Dance competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Marine, former UT Martin football player dies in combat in Afghanistan

FALLEN SOLDIER — A Marine carry team carries the transfer case containing the remains of Marine Master Sgt. Aaron C. Torian, of Paducah, Ky., upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del., on Tuesday. The Department of Defense announced the death of Torian, who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP) — Military officials say a Marine master sergeant based at Camp Lejeune has died in Afghanistan.

A statement from the base on Tuesday said 36-year-old Master Sgt. Aaron C. Torian of Paducah, Ky., died Feb. 15 of wounds sustained during combat operations in Helmand province.

Torian, a UT Martin graduate who also played football for the Skyhawks, was assigned to 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Regiment, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command. He joined the Marine Corps in March 2003, and joined MARSOC in 2006. Torian was promoted to master sergeant last September.

Among Torian's awards is a Purple Heart.

As of Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014, at least 2,173 members of the U.S. military had died in Afghanistan as a result of the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to an Associated Press count.

The AP count is one fewer than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Tuesday at 10 a.m. EST.

The Defense Department also counts three military civilian deaths.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, 19,650 U.S. service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The AP count of total OEF casualties outside of Afghanistan is two more than the department's tally.

Outside of Afghanistan, the department reports at least 133 more members of the U.S. military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, 11 were the result of hostile action.
UT Martin student killed in car accident

The Tennessee Highway Patrol investigated a single-car crash that killed a UT Martin student Wednesday in Gibson County, according to a report from THP.

The report states Thystan Bechtel, 19, was driving north on State Highway 54, three miles northeast of Bradford, about 10 a.m. in her 1999 Ford Explorer when the SUV ran off the highway and hit a bridge barrier.

The Explorer overturned, and Bechtel was thrown out. The report says she wasn’t wearing her seat belt.

Bechtel was a 2013 graduate of Peabody High School and was attending the University of Tennessee at Martin.

UTM said that while Bechtel was in her freshman year, she had enough hours to qualify her as a sophomore.

Bechtel is from Trenton and was a member of AOpi Sorority and was in the pre-physical therapy program, UTM said.

Funeral arrangements announced for UT Martin student

Funeral arrangements have been announced for Trystan Bechtel, 19, a University of Tennessee at Martin student who died Wednesday in a car accident in Gibson County.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the First United Methodist Church in Trenton. Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, also at the church. Shelton Funeral Home in Trenton is in charge of arrangements.

According to a report from the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Bechtel was driving north on State Highway 54, three miles northeast of Bradford, Wednesday morning when her SUV ran off the highway and hit a bridge barrier.

Bechtel was a 2013 graduate of Peabody High School and was attending UT Martin. UTM said that while Bechtel was in her freshman year, she had enough hours to qualify her as a sophomore. Bechtel is from Trenton and was a member of AOpi Sorority and was in the pre-physical therapy program, UTM said.

More than 300 students gathered Wednesday evening for a candlelight memorial service outside of the Boling University Center, followed by a second service in the center’s Duncan Ball
GRAVES COUNTY, Ky. - A Mid-Continent board meeting Saturday morning could shed more light on what's next for the university, but many students don't want to wait to find out before they focus on their own future. The school's going through a financial crisis and is in danger of closing.

Area schools like West Kentucky Community and Technical College, University of Tennessee Martin, and Murray State University are already receiving calls from Mid-Continent students wanting to talk about their options.

Mari Rosa, the Director of the Transfer Center at MSU said they're more than happy to help any student needing to transfer, they'll just need an official transcript.

"We can certainly work with students from a preliminary advising standpoint with unofficial transcripts, but due to accreditation policies, we do have to have official transcripts on file at some point," she said.

The president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools said Mid-Continent University's accreditation is still in tact even though it has a 'warning status.' Any degrees already received will stand, even if the University closes.

MCU trustee Gale Hawkins had this advice for students.

"I just simply say, if it was my child or myself I would get the most current transcript I could get from the office today," he said.

Students who are interested in transferring to West Kentucky Community and Technical College need to contact the Advising Center which is located in the Anderson Tech Building. Advisors are available to help anyone looking to transfer, but suggest students call to set up an appointment because they like to meet with someone in person. All students will need is an unofficial copy of their transcripts. To make an appointment, students can call (270) 534-3408.

Anyone looking to transfer to Murray State University can call the Transfer Center at (270) 809-3350 or email them at Msu.transfercenter@murraystate.edu. Students will need an official copy of their transcripts.

The University of Tennessee at Martin allows students to apply for admissions online. Students will also need an official transcript for the Office of Admissions. The UT Martin code for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is 003531.

The Mid-Continent board meeting is scheduled for 11:00 A.M. Saturday and a prayer walk is scheduled for immediately before at 10.
The Union City High School and University of Tennessee at Martin Jazz Bands perform tomorrow night at 7:30 at the Union City Civic Auditorium. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased by non-members at the door on a first-come basis starting at 7.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Friday, February 21, 2014

UT trustees to meet

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will meet Wednesday and Thursday in Martin. The full board's meeting will begin at 12:45 p.m. Thursday in the University Center Ballroom at UT Martin.

The session will be webcast live and archived for later viewing. For a link to the webcast, go to http://www.tennessee.edu/

Agenda items include:
- Governor's remarks
- President's report
- Introduction of the new athletics director at UT Martin
- Chancellor Rakes' update on UT Martin gap analysis
- Designation of UT-Regional One Physicians as a faculty practice plan for the College of Medicine in Memphis and authorization for execution of associated agreements
- Tennessee Administrative Procedures Act Rules on use of University property and use of University property by non-affiliated persons for free expression activities
- Report of the Audit Committee
- UT Knoxville gas line easement for steam plant
- UTHSC acquisition of 885 Madison Ave.
- UTHSC acquisition of 239 Dr. M.L. King Ave.
- UTHSC acquisition of 964 Union Ave.
- FY14 revised operating budget
- Repurposing of UT Martin student publication fee
- Honorary Doctorate of Letters and Science, UT Knoxville
- Revisions to UT Knoxville faculty handbook and manual for faculty evaluation
- Renaming the UTHSC College of Allied Health
- UTHSC strategic plan, 2014-18
- Revised compensation for Executive Vice President/Vice President for Research and Economic Development
- Revisions to the policy on comprehensive presidential performance reviews
- Plan and timeline for 2014 comprehensive presidential performance review
- Naming of the Corporate Governance Center, College of Business Administration, UT Knoxville

The meetings will be open to the public. Anyone with a disability who wishes to attend the meetings may contact Gina Stafford at (865) 974-0741 or at stafford@tennessee.edu; or Elizabeth Davis at (865) 974-5179 or at elizabeth.davis@tennessee.edu.
Funeral Services for UTM Student
February 22nd, 2014 - By Charles Choate

Funeral services will take place today for a UT-Martin student killed this week in an automobile accident.

Services for 19 year old Trystan Bechtel, of Trenton, will begin at 10:00 at First Methodist Church in Trenton.

Bechtel died in a single vehicle accident Wednesday in Gibson County.

She was a 2013 honor graduate at Peabody High School and freshman at UTM studying in pre-physical therapy.

Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes called the death of Bechtel a “tragic loss that saddens the entire university community”.

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ACT prep course begins Saturday

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer an ACT prep course for high school juniors and seniors from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, from March 1 through April 5, at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

The course will begin with students taking an off-record ACT test, according to a news release, and the instructor will provide feedback in specific areas. Students will learn how to complete test problems based on question frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test-taking strategies.

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UT Martin hosts Civil Rights Conference

An actress who recently played a maid in the film “The Help” will be in attendance today at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 14th annual Civil Rights Conference, which began Sunday and continues through Thursday.

Florence Roach will present “I Am a Man” at 7 p.m. today, according to a news release.

The conference focuses on the theme “Freedom Summer: Fifty Years Later.” It is one of only two civil rights conferences sponsored yearly by any public university in the United States, according to the release from UT Martin.

The event will be held in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. There is no admission charge, and the public is encouraged to attend.

Find a complete schedule of events for the conference at www.utm.edu/departments/civilrights/

For more information, contact Dr. Renee Lafleur at (731) 881-7534 or rlafeur@utm.edu.

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UTM nursing dept. recommended for full accreditation

The University of Tennessee Martin has announced that the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing told several administrators and Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor and chairwoman of the Department of Nursing, that the commission was recommending full accreditation for the Department of Nursing.

People on campus who were notified about the re-accreditation included Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor, and Dr. Gail Stephens, interim dean of the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences, according to a news release.

The next ACEN is scheduled for eight years, and “that’s the longest you can get,” Radford said in the release.

The recommendation will go to the Evaluation Review Panel in June at
MARTIN, Tenn. – University of Tennessee at Martin Student Relay for Life advisors know all too well about the pain of cancer.

Seven years ago, Dr. Desiree McCullough, interim director for Institutional Research and associate professor of mathematics and statistics, was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer.

The other advisor, Dr. Victoria Seng, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, was also diagnosed with breast cancer. Like McCullough, she has survived for more than seven years.

The two advisors, who are in remission now, were at this past Monday night’s meeting and saw the student chapter’s executive committee get several awards.

The UT Martin chapter received a plaque for being the top Collegiate Relay for Life event in West Tennessee in 2013. The student chapter and was also recognized with a banner for Weakley County which has four Relay for Life events (UT Martin, Weakley West, Weakley Southwest and Weakley East).

All four chapters were recognized as No. 6 in the nation per capita for more than $175,000.

This past year, UT Martin had 35 teams participate in its relay and raised more than $25,000.

“I challenge you to put forward your best effort and raise more than $25,000,” UT Martin Student Relay for Life assistant executive director Mary Allie Clayton, a junior from Murfreesboro, said.

This year’s goal is $40,000, 40 teams and the theme is Hollywood, said Syrena Flowers, a senior from Jackson, who is this year’s executive director of the UT Martin Relay for Life.

“Through you all we can get together and fight cancer,” Flowers said.
Dennis to speak at UTM Campus

Dave Dennis, who worked closely with Bob Moses in Mississippi and was active in many civil rights organizations during the 1960s, will be the next speaker in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Academic Speakers Program.

Dennis will speak on “The Crawl Space to the Pathway to Freedom” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium on campus. His visit is part of the annual Civil Rights Conference.

“This is one of the nice things we do,” said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of the Honors Program at UT Martin.

“We have teamed up with the Civil Rights Conference for a third year in a row.”

Dennis currently works for the Algebra Project, an organization founded by Moses to improve minority children’s mathematics education.

“He has stayed active in civil rights, and he is still involved with the Algebra project,” Crews said.

Dennis was a Freedom Rider and co-director of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) in Mississippi. Dennis was the Mississippi director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), but he worked with SNCC members and other civil rights activists in Mississippi under the COFO umbrella to avoid intra-organizational conflicts. COFO organized activists for a Mississippi voter registration drive during “Freedom Summer.”

Dennis spoke at the funeral of James Chaney, and he worked closely with both Moses and Medgar Evers.

Dennis’ visit is co-sponsored by the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference.

“He was involved at the ground level of the civil rights movement,” Crews said.

SMACS to host chemistry bowl

Student Members of the American Chemical Society at the University of Tennessee at Martin and at Bethel University invite area students to participate in the High School Chemistry Bowl March 22 at UT Martin.

The test will consist of two parts, a written test from the American Chemical Society, and an afternoon bowl fashioned after the erstwhile GE College Bowl (http://www.utm.edu/staff/skairae/HSChemistryBowl.html).

There will be trophies for the champion and runner-up schools and gold, silver and bronze medals for team members.

Each school will be given a copy of the Merck Index. All teachers and the two highest scoring students from each school will get green chemistry T-shirts.

The results of this contest will be used to select the local competitors, five each from Northwest Tennessee and five from Western Kentucky, for the National Chemistry Olympiad examination to be administered April 26 at UT Martin.

If any of the local competitors do well they will be invited to a June 18, 2014 Study Camp at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado. After that they may go to the 46th International Chemistry Olympiad July 20-29 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

While the students are taking the written test, teachers will have the opportunity to participate in a green chemistry workshop that will include some hands-on demonstrations of solar energy and fuel cells as well as a lecture by an eminent author.

All schools are asked to register by March 7.

Westview, UTM grad named portfolio manager

Jake Todd has been named commercial portfolio manager for First State Bank.

He has been employed with First State for three years and is located at 1720 West End Avenue in Nashville.

Todd is a graduate of Westview High School. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2010.

“I am truly honored to receive this promotion. First State is an incredible company to work for and has a vested interest in the success of its employees,” he said. “I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to grow with First State. The most unique thing about First State is the hometown feel. While working in Nashville, I still have the feeling that I am working for a local bank that cares about each customer, and this sets First State apart from our competition.”

He is responsible for analyzing financial statements of a business or individual to determine the creditworthiness of their request and manage the loan portfolio of commercial lenders.

“I have the utmost confidence in Jake to be successful with this position. He began developing his skill set in February of 2011 and has worked hard to expand his capabilities to support a team of commercial lenders,” said Mark Winfree, commercial banking president for First State Bank. “His vast experience and professionalism will be an enormous benefit to our customers.”
Ensemble to perform during conference at UTM

"Roots of Rhythm," a University of Tennessee at Martin world percussion ensemble will perform today and tomorrow at UT Martin. Today's show is set for 7:30 p.m. with tomorrow's show set for noon.

Both shows are scheduled for the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building on campus.

Admission is $5 per person and $1 per student with student identification.

The concert will give listeners a chance to learn about Black History Month (February) by exploring the migration of rhythm throughout history as taken by African nations across the globe through slave trade.

"This complete program allows audiences to gather information through listening, participating, observing and visualizing," said Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music and director of percussion studies. "The possibility for community and student enrichment with the context of multicultural education is limitless."

POET VISITS — Martin Middle School students in Catherine Carithers' Language Arts class and Steve Douglas's CLUE class recently received a visit from acclaimed poet Jeff Daniel Marion. Students enjoyed listening to poems written by Marion and asking him questions about his writing process and publishing. Marion and the class analyzed published poet George Ella Lyon's poem, "Where I'm From," together for its sensory detail. Students then tried out their own poetry skills, first brainstorming about the five senses, and then, drafting a personal poem about themselves and where they come from. This exercise gave students an opportunity to think reflectively and write about the ways they are unique from and common with others.

MMS students will submit their final poetry to Marion for review at his request. His visit was made possible by Dr. Charles Julian, Director of Paul Meek Library, UT Martin and the Paul Meek Literacy Legacy Speakers series committee; Randy Frazier, director of Weakley County Schools; and Martin Middle School principal Nathaniel Holmes.

STUDENT RELAY TEAM — The UT Martin student Relay for Life executive committee was named one of the best in the state as it raised more that $25,000 in this past year's Relay. Members of the executive committee receiving the award included (from left) Syrena Flowers, Amy Belote, Travis Henry and Kayla Brockmeyer.
Relay for Life team wins award, announces
goal and theme for 2014 event

University of Tennessee at Martin Student Relay for Life advisors know all too well about the pain of cancer.

Seven years ago, Dr. Desiree McCullough, interim director for Institutional Research and associate professor of mathematics and statistics, was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer.

The other advisor, Dr. Victoria Seng, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, was also diagnosed with breast cancer. Like McCullough, she has survived for more than seven years.

The two advisors, who are in remission now, were at this past Monday night’s meeting and saw the student chapter’s executive committee get several awards.

The UT Martin chapter received a plaque for being the top Collegiate Relay for Life event in West Tennessee in 2013. The student chapter and was also recognized with a banner for Weakley County, which has four Relay for Life events (UT Martin, Weakley West, Weakley Southwest and Weakley East).

All four chapters were recognized as No. 6 in the nation per capita for more than $175,000.

This past year, UT Martin had 35 teams participate in its relay and raised more than $25,000.

“I challenge you to put forward your best effort and raise more than $25,000,” UT Martin Student Relay for Life assistant executive director Mary Allie Clayton, a junior from Murfreesboro, said.

This year’s goal is $40,000, 40 teams and the theme is Hollywood, said Syrena Flowers, a senior from Jackson who is this year’s executive director of the UT Martin Relay for Life.

“Through you all, we can get together and fight cancer,” Flowers said.

WHITE-OUT — University of Tennessee at Martin students wore white Saturday for the Skyhawks’ “white out” doubleheader basketball games. The UT Martin women’s team secured the program’s second outright Ohio Valley Conference regular season championship with a 84-67 win against Murray State. In the men’s game, Southeast Missouri beat the Skyhawks in overtime, officially eliminating the UT Martin men from the upcoming OVC tournament.
UT Martin Hosts Nation's Oldest Civil Rights Conference

By KATE LOCHTE (people/kate lochte)

This week, the University of Tennessee at Martin hosts "Freedom Summer: Fifty Years Later." It's their 14th Annual Civil Rights Conference featuring keynote speaker Mr. Dave Dennis, who participated in the first Freedom Bus ride from Montgomery, Alabama and in voter registration efforts during the 1964 Freedom Summer. Today, he works as the director and CEO of the Southern Initiative of the Algebra Project, a nonprofit that aims to improve mathematics education for minority children. UTM Department of History faculty member Dr. Renee LaFleur is coordinator for the conference and speaks with Kate Lochte about its events on Sounds Good.

Listen

Tonight, February 25, one can attend "Roots of Rhythm" featuring Dr. Julie Hall and the UTM Percussion Students, beginning at 7:30 in Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building. There's another performance tomorrow (February 26) at noon. Thursday's (February 27) conference speakers are in Watkins Auditorium.

More about UTM's 14th Annual Civil Rights Conference
Master Sgt. Aaron C. Torian

UT Martin graduate killed in Afghanistan

Master Sgt. Aaron C. Torian of Paducah, Ky., died of wounds sustained during recent combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Flags were at half-staff last Tuesday honoring the UTM graduate and former Skyhawk football player. A former University of Tennessee Martin alumnus and Skyhawk football player died Saturday, February 15, while on assignment in Afghanistan.

Torian played football at UT Martin from 1995-1999 and graduated with a degree in education in 2001. The University honored Torian by lowering flags on the main campus to half-staff Tuesday, February 18.

According to military officials at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, 36-year-old Master Sgt. Aaron C. Torian of Paducah, Ky., died of wounds sustained during combat operations in Helmand Province.

Torian enlisted in the Marine Corps April 28, 2003. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) in 2006, and was promoted to master sergeant in September 2013. At the time of his death, Torian was assigned to 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Regiment, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

Torian’s awards included a Purple Heart with one gold star for wounds received in action on May 29, 2008, and Saturday, February 15, in Afghanistan resulting in his death. (See complete list of awards below.)

Master Sgt. Torian will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Master Sgt. Torian’s Awards

• The Purple Heart medal with one gold star.
• Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for service during the period Jan. 1, 2005, to Jan. 1, 2006.
• Combat Action Ribbon with one gold star for service in Iraq during 2004 and Afghanistan during 2008.
• Navy Unit Commendation with one bronze star awarded to I Marine Expeditionary Force for service during the period Aug. 2, 2004, to Feb. 1, 2005; and I Marine Expeditionary Force for service during the period Feb. 29, 2006, to Feb. 9, 2007.
• Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.
• A National Defense Service Medal.
• Iraq Campaign Medal with one bronze campaign star for service during 2006.
• Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for service in Iraq during 2004 to 2005.
• Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.
• Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with one silver star.
• North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal ISAF for service in Afghanistan.
• Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia.
• Rifle Expert Badge (second award).
• Pistol Expert Badge (fourth award).
• He is entitled to a blood stripe and two hash marks.
UT Martin Department of Nursing Recommended for Full Accreditation

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) informed several administrators and Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor and chairwoman of the Department of Nursing, it was recommending full accreditation for the University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Nursing.

Among those on campus notified about the reaccreditation were Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor; and Dr. Gail Stephens, interim dean of the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences.

The next ACEN is scheduled for eight years, "that's the longest you can get," Radford said. The recommendation will go to the Evaluation Review Panel (ERP) in June at Atlanta, Ga.

UT Martin offered a two-year nursing program from 1970 to 1991 and began the transition to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in 1988. The university offers the traditional BSN at the main campus and the UT Martin Parsons Center. An RN to BSN program option is offered at the university's Ripley Center and also online. ###

Lt. General Cavin Speaks at UTM

Retired Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin was the guest speaker of the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs and the International Security Studies program this past week. He said the armed forces of 2020 will demand critical thinkers; look for those who are culturally adjusted, technologically oriented, emotionally fit and diverse; and leaders who are capable of leading.

Dennis to Speak at UT Martin’s Academic Speakers Program

Dave Dennis, who worked closely with Bob Moses in Mississippi and was active in many civil rights organizations during the 1960s, will be the next speaker in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Academic Speakers Program.

Dennis will speak on "The Crawl Space to the Pathway to Freedom" at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 27, in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium on campus. His visit is part of the annual Civil Rights Conference.

"This is one of the nice things we do," said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of the Honors Program at UT Martin. "We have teamed up with the Civil Rights Conference for a third year in a row."

Dennis currently works for the Algebra Project, an organization founded by Moses to improve minority children’s mathematics education.

"He has stayed active in civil rights, and he is still involved with the Algebra project," Crews said.

Dennis was a Freedom Rider and co-director of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) in Mississippi. Dennis was the Mississippi director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), but he worked with SNCC members and other civil rights activists in Mississippi under the COFO umbrella to avoid intra-organizational conflicts. COFO organized activists for a Mississippi voter registration drive during “Freedom Summer.”

Dennis spoke at the funeral of James Chaney, and he worked closely with both Moses and Medgar Evers.

Dennis’ visit is co-sponsored by the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference.

"He was involved at the ground level of the civil rights movement," Crews said.
Single-vehicle accident claims life of UTM student

By David Fisher
Staff Reporter

A University of Tennessee at Martin student lost her life in a single-vehicle accident last week in Gibson County.

According to a report filed by Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Kenny Callahan, at approximately 10:10 a.m., Wednesday, February 19, Trystan C. Bechtel, 19, of Trenton, was traveling north on Highway 54, approximately three miles northeast of Bradford, when the 1999 Ford Explorer she was driving left the roadway and struck a bridge barrier. The Explorer then overturned, and Bechtel, who was not wearing a seat belt, was ejected from the vehicle.

Drugs and alcohol were not a factor in the accident, according to the report.

Bechtel, who began attending UT Martin after graduating from Peabody High School in 2013 with honors, excelled academically. Even though she was still in her freshman year, the pre-physical therapy student had already earned a sufficient number of credits to be classified as a sophomore. Additionally, she was a member of the Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority.

Last Wednesday evening, over 300 UTM students gathered outside of Boling University Center for a candlelight service, which was followed by a second service in the center’s Duncan Ballroom.

“This tragic loss of a student saddens our entire university community,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. “We extend our thoughts and prayers to Trystan’s family and friends at this time.”

Shelton Funeral Home in Trenton was in charge of services, which were held Saturday morning, February 22, at First United Methodist Church in Trenton. Burial followed in Rose Hill Cemetery in Humboldt.
The top three sorority and fraternity teams in the recent Service Night Competition included Gamma Kappa Pi and Alpha Gamma Rho; Sigma Alpha and Sigma Phi Epsilon; and Alpha Omicron Pi and Phi Sigma Kappa. Representing the different organizations (from left to right) are Sean Riley, of Phi Sigma Kappa; Mallory Slaughter, of Alpha Omicron Pi; Danielle Stagner, of Sigma Alpha; Pam McElhiney, the director of the Carl Perkins Center; Michael Ward of Sigma Phi Epsilon; Ben Garner of Alpha Gamma Rho; and Mikayla Thrash of Gamma Kappa Pi.

UT Martin Greeks Help Local Carl Perkins Center

Members of Gamma Kappa Pi Sorority and Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity won first place in Service Night, a new event for the 2014 GreekFest.

Twenty Greek organizations signed up to participate in the event. People were paired into 10 teams and the teams were asked to fund-raise in the manner of their choosing to raise money for the Carl Perkins Center of Weakley County.

The teams conducted activities such as a barbecue sale, a pancake breakfast and placed collection jars at local businesses. The 20 participating Greek organizations raised more than $12,000 for the local Carl Perkins Center.

The mission of the Carl Perkins Center is to provide support to families in preventing and dealing with child abuse in West Tennessee and to help both parents and children meet the practical needs of preserving and improving the quality of family life.
Union City native Mark Elam recently earned his doctor of chiropractic degree from Logan University in St. Louis.

He is the son of Bart and Vickie Elam, former Obion County residents who now make their home in North Carolina.

At Logan University, Elam completed a rigorous 10 trimesters (the equivalent of five two-semester academic years) program of study. Logan's Doctor of Chiropractic curriculum encompasses basic and clinical (diagnostic) sciences, chiropractic science, research and patient care.

He was a member of the Logan University golf team and competed in the Chiro Games golf tournament in Cocoa Beach, Fla.

Elam graduated from Obion County Central High School in 1997 and graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a bachelor of arts degree in university studies in 2005. He also earned a bachelor of science degree in human biology from Logan University in 2011.

Skyhawk veterans group part of national coalition

The University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Veteran Association has been affiliated to the national Student Veterans of America (SVA).

As of Feb. 12, the UT Martin Skyhawk Veteran Association is part of a national coalition of more than 985 student veteran organizations in the United States.

The national SVA offers training workshops and programs for veterans, as well as scholarships, chapter grants, career mentoring and regional events.

The SVA also has a presence in Washington, D.C., and a voice in pertinent legislation.

"The activities and goals support the Skyhawk Veteran Association's goals and affirm the mission of the local veterans association ...", said Alice-Catherine Carls, the group's advisor.

www.knoxnews.com
St. Jude Church, located just south of the University of Tennessee at Martin campus, is hosting a 5K/10K and two-mile walk as a fundraiser for the local Carl Perkins Center. The event is March 15 at 9 a.m. with registration at 8.

The registration fee is $12 and includes a race T-shirt, CrossFit Martin T-shirt, race headband and a stuffed goody bag. There will be lots of treats available after the event as well. The parish will be baking goods to serve the runners and walkers.

There will be prizes for each place winner, such as yoga lessons, gift certificates to local restaurants, CrossFit memberships and more.

There will also be door prizes, $20 Walmart gift cards, items from Hibbetts, $20 Snappy’s gift cards a UT Martin football and basketball season passes valued at $125 each.

Registration is going on now. Register online at rockabillyroadrace.org.
UT Martin earns OVC team sportsmanship award for rifle

On Tuesday the Ohio Valley Conference announced that the University of Tennessee at Martin is the recipient of the 2013-14 Team Sportsmanship Award for rifle.

Voted on by the student-athletes and coaches of the respective sports, the team awards are bestowed upon the Conference squads deemed to have best exhibited the standards of sportsmanship and ethical behavior as outlined by the OVC and NCAA. Included in the areas for evaluation are the conduct of student-athletes, coaches, staff and administrators and fans.

"Without sportsmanship there are truly no meaningful victories," said Beth DeBauche, OVC Commissioner. "The recipients of the OVC Team Sportsmanship awards should accept this award with great pride for their fellow competitors have made it clear their teams exemplify the best in intercollegiate athletics. In receiving this prestigious honor other competitors are saying these student-athletes compete with class, respect their opponents and value fair play. That is quite a compliment as those are all traits that will lead to true victories throughout the course of life."

The 2013-14 school year marks the ninth year the team sportsmanship honors have been awarded. This season the UT Martin mixed team finished third at the OVC Championship while the women's squad was sixth. It marks the fourth time the UTM program has won the award; the Skyhawks were also honored in 2008, 2010 and 2012.

"Justin Grinolds (assistant coach) and I have known all season that we have a very special group of young men and women, not only athletically but also academically and as fine ladies and gentlemen. It is deeply gratifying to learn that the other student-athletes around the conference recognize this as well," said UT Martin head rifle coach Bob Beard.

Implemented in August 2005, the team honors are the most recent addition to an awards program that recognizes and celebrates sportsmanship within the Conference. In 1998, the league established the Steve Hamilton Sportsmanship Award, presented annually to a male or female student-athlete of junior or senior status who best exemplifies the characteristics of the late Morehead State student-athlete, coach and administrator. Five years later, the Conference added the OVC Sportsmanship Award, presented annually to the member institution selected by its peers to have best exhibited the standards of sportsmanship and ethical behavior as outlined by the OVC and NCAA.

In 1995, the Ohio Valley Conference implemented a first-of-its-kind "Sportsmanship Statement," a policy promoting principles of fair play, ethical conduct and respect for one's opponent. The statement answered the challenge of the NCAA Presidents Commission to improve sportsmanship in collegiate athletics, and has become a model for others to follow across the nation.

BRIDGE BUILDING — For the second year in a row, a team from Westview High School won the annual bridge building competition for high school students hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin's engineering department. The contest was held Tuesday in the fieldhouse on campus. Westview's bridge held 140 pounds before breaking. The team included (from left) Bruce Hicks, Laura Ferrer, Annabelle Cormia and John Sterrett.
AWARD — On Sunday, the Martin Housing Authority’s Learning Enrichment Center was recognized at the UT Martin Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority’s Founders Day event held in the ballroom at the UTM Boling Center. The sorority presented the after-school program a certificate of recognition for dedication to community service and a check in the amount of $500. The sorority contributed over $11,000 during the Founders Day event to several area charities. Pictured are Derrickia Payne, an AKA member, and Robert Nunley, program coordinator for the Martin Housing Authority’s Learning Enrichment Center.
Civil Rights Conference continues at UT Martin

The Jackson Sun

The University of Tennessee at Martin's 14th annual Civil Rights Conference, which focuses on the theme "Freedom Summer: Fifty Years Later," continues today and Thursday with several distinguished speakers.

Dave Dennis, who was active in many civil rights organizations during the 1960s, will deliver the keynote address at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

Dennis currently works for the Algebra Project, an organization to improve minority children's mathematics education, according to a news release. He was a Freedom Rider and co-director of the Council of Federated Organizations in Mississippi.

Dr. Yohuru Williams, a professor of history and director of black studies at Fairfield University, will speak at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, also in Watkins Auditorium. He is the author of "Black Politics/White Power: Civil Rights Black Power" and "Black Panthers in New Haven" and has edited several works on the Black Panther Party, the release said.

He also will serve as a featured speaker, delivering an address titled "On the Significance of the Civil Rights Movement."

At noon today, Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, and her percussion students will present "Roots of Rhythm." Designed to demonstrate the migration of rhythm through the slave trade, the performance will provide a multi-sensory experience, encouraging audience members to observe how different societies are formed and interact through music. There is a $5 admission charge for the event.

Also today, the Hortense Parrish Writing Center, Dave Dennis' address will end the conference's main day, which is Thursday. Activities begin at 9:30 a.m. with Williams' speech.

Dr. Mark Anthony Neal also will deliver a speech, "Education and Segregation in the Present Day." Neal is a professor of black popular culture at Duke University and a public intellectual, the release said.

"White Activists in the Southern Movement," featuring Howard Romaine, Ed Hamlett and Roena "Bunny" Haynie, will follow Anthony's presentation.

Romaine worked on projects related to racial equality, poverty, labor and the Vietnam War in the 1960s and 1970s as a member of the NAACP, SNCC, Students for a Democratic Society and the Southern Student Organizing Committee. He is currently a lawyer and writer for the Tennessee Tribune in Nashville, where he continues to work on civil rights, according to the release.

Born in Fulton, Ky., Hamlett grew up in Jackson and graduated from Union University in 1963. He became the SNCC director of the White Folks Project as part of Mississippi Freedom Summer in 1964, the release said. In addition to his work in SNCC, Hamlett was active in SDS and SSOC throughout the late 1960s. He later became a psychiatric nurse working at Vanderbilt University Hospital until he retired in 1998.

After making an initial visit in 1963, Roena "Bunny" Haynie, former husband Charles Haynie, and Walter Tillow worked through the summer of 1964 with faculty and students at Cornell University to support voting rights in Fayette County. The trio led a group of mostly Cornell students to West Tennessee to conduct a voter registration drive among sharecroppers, the release said.

Haynie coordinated housing, communication and protection, as activists visited homes to help people complete voter registration forms, taught citizenship classes and organized transportation for new registrants. She now lives in the Kansas City area.

All conference events will be held in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium unless otherwise noted. There is no admission charge, unless otherwise noted, and the public is encouraged to attend.

Find a complete schedule of events for the conference at www.utm.edu/departments/civilrights/.

For more information, contact Dr. Renee Lafleur at (731) 881-7534 or by email at rlafleur@utm.edu.
UT board of trustees holding winter meeting in Martin

The University of Tennessee board of trustees is meeting today in Martin.

The full board's meeting will begin at 12:45 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom at UT Martin.

The board meeting will be webcast live and archived for later viewing. For a link to the webcast, go to http://www.tennessee.edu/Agenda.

Agenda items include: Governor's remarks; president's report; introduction of the new athletics director at UT Martin; UTM Chancellor Tom Rakes' update on UT Martin gap analysis; designation of UT Regional One Physicians as a faculty practice plan for the College of Medicine in Memphis and authorization for execution of associated agreements; Tennessee Administrative Procedures Act Rules on use of university property and use of university property by non-affiliated persons for free expression activities; report of the Audit Committee; UT Knoxville gas line easement for steam plant; UTHSC acquisition of 885 Madison Ave.; UTHSC acquisition of 239 Dr. M.L. King Ave.; UTHSC acquisition of 964 Union Ave.; FY14 revised operating budget; repurposing of UT Martin student publication fee; honorary doctorate of letters and science, UT Knoxville; revisions to UT Knoxville faculty handbook and manual for faculty evaluation; renaming the UTHSC College of Allied Health; UTHSC strategic plan, 2014-2018; revised compensation for executive vice president/vice president for research and economic development; revisions to the policy on comprehensive presidential performance reviews; plan and timeline for 2014 comprehensive presidential performance review; naming of the Corporate Governance Center, College of Business Administration, UT Knoxville.

The meeting's full agenda and materials will be posted at http://bot.tennessee.edu/Agenda.

Various board committees were scheduled to meet Wednesday and today. All meetings will be held in the University Center Ballroom. Here is a schedule of today's committee meetings: 8:30 a.m. — Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee; 10:30 a.m. — Advancement and Public Affairs Committee.

University Students Beat The Market In TVA Investment Challenge

Thursday, February 27, 2014

University students in the Tennessee Valley Authority's Investment Challenge Program outpaced the stock market's best annual performance in 16 years in 2013.

"It was a great year for our student investors even with the market's strong performance," TVA Chief Financial Officer John Thomas said. "TVA and ratepayers benefited from their hard work, and we believe the students benefited as well from the real-world experience they received through the program."

The Standard and Poor's 500 Index produced a 2013 return of 32.4 percent, the biggest annual advance since 1997. Students in TVA's Investment Challenge Program collectively outperformed the S&P 500 by 1.4 percentage points, with a return of 33.8 percent.

In fact, 17 of the 25 participating universities outperformed the S&P 500 in 2013, with five schools producing returns of more than 40 percent.

The top three universities for 2013 based on performance are:

- Tennessee Tech University, 47.7 percent return
- Alabama A&M University, 46.9 percent return
- East Tennessee State University, 46.4 percent return

TVA's Investment Challenge Program is a partnership between TVA and 25 universities in the TVA service territory that provides hands-on experience in financial asset management and performance-based awards the universities can use to enhance their business school resources.

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

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

"TVA is committed to promoting economic development in the Tennessee Valley," Thomas said. "The Investment Challenge Program nurtures an educational infrastructure vital to growth in our region, and we are proud to offer this opportunity to students in the communities we serve."

TVA initially provided $1.9 million from one of its long-term asset retirement trusts to start the program. Through 2013, the program has grown to over $12 million.

"The TVA Investment Challenge is an effective and innovative way to leverage our resources and offer experience and training to foster the next generation of financial leaders in the region," TVA Vice President and Treasurer Tammy Wilson said.

The participating universities are: Alabama A&M University, Austin Peay State University, Belmont University, Christian Brothers University, East Tennessee State University, Lipscomb University, Middle Tennessee State University, Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, Murray State University, Tennessee State University, Tennessee Tech University, Trevecca Nazarene University, Union University, University of Alabama at Huntsville, University of Kentucky, University of Memphis, University of Mississippi, University of North Alabama, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, University of Tennessee at Martin, Vanderbilt University, Western Carolina University and Western Kentucky University.

More information about the Investment Challenge Program can be found at http://www.tva.gov/investmentchallenge.