Covington Biomass Gasification Plant Online

By Bill Dries

Covington, Tenn., Mayor David Gordon describes himself as a “confirmed nerd” who enjoys reading scientific papers.

He’s also a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and holds a Bachelor of Science in biology and chemistry from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Three years ago at a meeting of the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council, a presentation on biomass gasification got his attention.

Three years later, after Gordon delved further into the details and spreadsheets from PHG Energy of Nashville, Covington has a $2.25 million gasification plant that with wood waste and sludge will produce electricity to run Covington’s sewage plant.

The agreement was announced in July 2012. The gasification plant next to Covington’s wastewater treatment plant has been running for about three months and is now running consistently.

The Covington plant is a $2.25 million project that includes a $250,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and $2 million of Tennessee Municipal Bond fund financing through a general obligation bond issue.

And $3.5 million in savings to the city from that electricity will fund development of an 86-acre expansion of the city’s Cobb Parr Park, west of U.S. 51.

“I think it sets Covington apart as far as a leader in green energy and helping the environment,” Gordon said Wednesday, Oct. 30, before a formal ceremony in the park to signal the opening of the plant.

But Tom Stanzione, president of PHG, said Gordon was not an easy sale on the concept whose only motive was being “green.”

“Ultimately we found the mayor had been looking at a competitor of ours and was not exactly excited about what he was seeing,” Stanzione said.

So he and other PHG executives showed Gordon their biomass gasification plant in Gleason, Tenn., which Stanzione said is a critical part of the effort to get local leaders to understand the business.

Stanzione said Gordon isn’t the only local leader they’ve talked with who had some initial skepticism until he saw the plant in Gleason working.

“We’ve had to do a tremendous amount of education. Gasification kind of got a black eye back in the ’70s and ’80s,” he said. “There were a lot of large-scale attempts at gasification that did not go well. It wasn’t gasification’s fault. It was some of the projects that were attempted were just kind of out of the question for the type of technology.”

Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division planned a coal gasification plant in the 1970s and bought a gas field in Monroe, La., – both of which the utility abandoned in the 1980s. Among the criticisms of the move to gasification then was that MLGW was attempting a commercial-size facility when demonstration plants were needed to fill gaps in data about what the technology could and could not do.

PHG dutifully responded as Gordon continually requested more information and more spreadsheets on the operation of the plant.

“This could not just be a warm fuzzy feeling for me because I am the steward of the citizens’ money. It had to be financially reasonable. It had to be a return on our investment,” Gordon said. “We couldn’t lose money and if we made money that would be great, which we will.”

Gordon questioned the initial spreadsheets, which he said were “very conservative” in terms of the financial side of the equation. They didn’t include the financial impact of “biochar,” which is a result of the process that is similar to activated charcoal and is a marketable product.

The city of Covington bought the 84 acres next to Cobb Parr Park in 2007 on the eve of the global recession and the $3.5 million in savings from the plant goes specifically to developing that acreage as a larger park.

Stanzione and PHG executives repeatedly explained Wednesday at the gathering, which drew leaders from across West Tennessee, how the gasification process works.

“We’re taking two waste streams. We are taking the wood waste, the sludge waste. We’re converting them to energy but we are doing it through gasification,” said Chris Koczaja, vice president of sales and engineering for PHG. “It’s as simply put as adding heat to it but not giving oxygen. We are not incinerating it. We’re not burning it. We’re breaking it down. By breaking it down into simpler molecules we can turn that into a clean burning gas that we can turn into heat and turn that heat into electricity.”

The symposium was composed of several events including a student poster competition, lectures with guest speakers from different universities and a panel discussion about top forensics programs in the region and the future of Forensic Science.

**Student Insights**

The student poster competition gave students the opportunity to display their knowledge of forensics and hope to get their studies evaluated by forensic experts.

Two of the competitors were MTSU senior students Cameron Crawford, a biology major, and Heather Hammond, a forensic science major.

Crawford used detailed bite marks to demonstrate the use of oral protozoa to identify assailants. His goal is for his presentation to be used as a tool to help catch assailants and put them behind bars. Crawford has been working on the presentation for a year and a half.

Hammond’s presentation was on scanning electron microscopic analysis of gunshot residue collected from human hair using a vacuum and HEPA filter. She concluded that gunshot residue stayed in the hair longer than it did on hands. Hammond’s goal is to receive more insight to furthering her research project.

Other competitors were Aubrey Granger and Caleb Watts from University of Tennessee at Martin, Danielle Hamby and Samara Hunter from University of Alabama at Birmingham, and MTSU graduate Tiffany Saul.

Criminal justice seniors Aubrey Granger and Caleb Watts were promoting the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program at University of Tennessee at Martin, a program giving undergraduate students hands-on experience with forensic science using real life scenarios.

Second year forensic science masters student Danielle Hamby spoke about legal highs, drugs sold and altered by research chemical companies.

Forensic science masters student Samara Hunter presented on the comparisons of enhancing agents on developing fingerprints.
Meredith Hinson, a senior at Clarksville Academy, and her father, Greer Hinson, attended the University of Tennessee at Martins recent Honors Preview Day. Students had the opportunity to tour the UT Martin campus and meet with faculty and staff to learn about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.
3 ROTC programs discontinued

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE — The Army is discontinuing ROTC programs at three Tennessee universities. The Tennessean reported that the officer-training programs at Tennessee Tech University, East Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee at Martin are among 13 programs in the nation that the U.S. Department of Defense is closing. Nationwide, more than 1,300 universities train about 33,000 ROTC cadets.

The Army recently announced the closures as part of a broader push to update the ROTC training program and diversify recruiting.

Tennessee Tech University President Phil Oldham bemoaned the decision in a blog post, saying the university was “not consulted or notified prior to or during this review.”

“I completely disagree with the conclusion drawn behind closed doors, but I am even more justifiably angry and saddened by the process itself,” he wrote. “With more than 60 years of commitment to producing many of the U.S. military’s best leaders, Tennessee Tech has earned the respect and common courtesy of due process.”

Tennessee Tech has 69 cadets in the program and has graduated 1,662 commissioned officers since 1950.

Quickbooks course offered

An intermediate course in QuickBooks, an accounting software for small business, will be taught from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 12 at the University of Tennessee at Martin REED Center.

Participants will take their QuickBooks knowledge deeper and learn to customize the program’s functions to their specific needs, according to a news release. Topics will include setting preferences, payroll, paying payroll taxes, setting up inventory, tracking and paying sales tax, creating estimates and tracking time, creating reports and understanding financial data. Computers with the QuickBooks software will be provided. The class is limited to the first 10 participants. The course is sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at the UTM REED Center, located at 406 South Lindell St. in Martin. The registration fee is $75, to be paid at the time of registration.

To reserve a seat, contact Landy Fuqua at the REED Center at (731) 587-7333 or by email at reed@utm.edu.
Army Shuttles UT Martin ROTC and 12 Other Programs; Aims To Change Demographics

By ROB CANNING (11/5/13/RB/CANNING)

The Army is ending 13 officer training programs nationwide, including the ROTC program at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Army approved the closures after a comprehensive review of resources last month. The 13 programs are mostly in rural areas that are producing too few officers to justify their operation.

Along with UT at Martin, Tennessee closures include Tennessee Tech University, East Tennessee State University, and Tennessee State University.

The only Kentucky program shuttered was at Morehead State University.

Morehead Military Science Chairman Lt. Col. Robert Mason said the cuts may be aimed at changing the program’s demographics.

“So I think what the Army is trying to do is get after recruiting and representation in the officer corps from more of the minority and urban based markets versus some of the more rural based areas that these 13 programs lie in, you know, Morehead being one of those programs,” said Mason.

Mason said junior and senior-year cadets will be able to stay within the university programs until they graduate in May of 2015 

But freshman and sophomore cadets will need to transfer to another university to continue with the ROTC program.

Mason said the programs are set to end September 1st, 2015.

The full list of ROTC closings across the nation include:

- University of South Dakota
- Northern Michigan University
- North Dakota State University
- University of Wisconsin at La Crosse
- Arkansas State University
- University of Tennessee at Martin
- University of North Alabama
- Georgia Regents University (Augusta State)
Resident assistant rewards vary in Tenn.

By Amber Williams

news@dailyhelmsman.com

Published: Tuesday, November 5, 2013
Updated: Tuesday, November 5, 2013 00:11

Resident assistants across the state are responsible for helping students with dorm life. Though they have similar responsibilities, the way they are paid varies among universities.

The University of Memphis selects RAs, as they are called, based on their student standing and judiciary background. For example, Aretha Milligan said students with a history of plagiarism are an example of what they are looking to avoid.

According to Milligan, RAs are provided with a free single room and a meal plan — 60 meals a semester.

“They are given a stipend for $7.25 an hour for 16 weeks. They are paid biweekly,” Milligan said.

She also said that the RAs on average work between 10 and 10½ hours a week.

“Being an RA is a great opportunity for students to become better leaders,” Milligan said.

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga requires its RAs to be sophomores and have a grade point average of at least 2.3. These prerequisites are slightly higher than the U of M’s 2.25 GPA requirement of undergraduate students. Both universities run background checks on RAs.

Once students are hired at UTC, they attend a seminar called RASE, or Resident Assistant Seminar Experience, where they are trained. The class teaches them how to handle emergency situations as well as day-to-day maintenance of the hall they work in, according to Valara Sample, director for housing at UTC. Sample describes the university’s RA program as more of a scholarship opportunity.

"RA's are responsible for building communities in their resident halls," Sample said.

She also added that they are on duty about once a week. When on duty, they are required to stay at the dormitory from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Students are awarded differently in this program based upon how long they have been an RA. First-year RAs get a free room and a meal plan. Second- and third-year students also receive a stipend for the academic year of $1,000 for the second year and $2,000 for the third year.

According to Sample, the students at UTC also have access to a free iPad mini.

"It is for work purposes, but they can use it for schoolwork also," she said. "They are required to return it at the end of the semester, but they do get one."

Not every university supplies iPad minis, but they do offer other incentives.

The assistant director of housing at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Ryan Martin, listed the benefits of being an RA at the university.

"Student (RAs) get a biweekly stipend that averages out to about $1,060 every semester," he said. "They are also given room compensations."

According to him, students interested in becoming an RA are required to take a class. After they've passed the class, they can apply for the position, then go through a series of group interviews, followed by individual interviews. Then, 60 students are selected.

"We put academics first," said Martin. "We set a schedule at the beginning of the semester that works around all of their classes."

Martin said RAs at UTM do not get a meal plan like so many other universities offer.

Rachel Buntz, a psychology major and junior RA at UTM, did not seem to mind.

"It's most definitely worth it," she said. "(Being an RA) teaches you how to time-manage."

She also stated that the lack of a meal plan did not bother her.

"Working as a RA, you automatically qualify for food stamps, and we get paid every two weeks, so buying groceries isn't that much of a hassle," Buntz said.

She has been an RA for a year now. She likes it, because she enjoys helping people.

"I think that if you really like people, and you really like your school, then being an RA is worth all the stuff you have to go through," Buntz said.

Cierra Burnett, an English major and an RA in the Living Learning Complex, said the job could be challenging.
"You have to remember that you're a student first," she said. "It can be difficult to get your work done, because you're always on the clock, kind of. It's like a 24-hour job. You might be trying to do (school) work, and you get pulled away to help with this or do that. It can be really hard."

Aside from her struggles, Burnett said that the residents make it all worth it.
FALL FESTIVAL — An estimated 800 to 1,000 people attended Big Cypress Tree’s annual Fall Festival on Saturday. There were many activities and exhibitions on display throughout the day. Top: University of Tennessee at Martin professor Dr. Arthur Hunt portrayed Davy Crockett, Tennessee’s most famous volunteer. Hunt captured Crockett’s dress, voice and mannerisms as reflected in historical accounts and Crockett’s own biography written in 1834 and published at the height of his political career. Bottom: Reelfoot Lake’s Jessie McNeel was on hand with a bald eagle.
Committee named for AD search

A search committee is in place to search for the next athletics director for the University of Tennessee at Martin. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes selected the committee members to include current coaches, students, university staff, faculty, alumni and community members.

The committee will recommend possible names to succeed Phil Dane, the current athletics director, who has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 2013. A short list of acceptable candidates will be sent to Rakes by late December.

"Phil has been the right person at the right time for our athletics programs," Rakes said of Dane's service to UT Martin intercollegiate athletics. "He has led the charge improving our facilities, student academic progress, NCAA compliance, and the overall competitiveness of our athletics programs."

In releasing the names of search committee members, Rakes added, "I'm pleased that these individuals have agreed to assist in this very important search. Athletics is considered by many to be a front porch to a university, and the job of effectively managing an NCAA Division I program is vitally important. I have every confidence that this group will identify persons qualified and capable of leading UT Martin athletics."

The committee members are:

**UT Martin staff representatives**
- David Belote, committee chair and assistant vice chancellor for student affairs.
- Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations and annual giving.
- Danielle Fabianich, assistant athletics director for administration and senior woman administrator.
- Joe Henderson, coordinator of student conduct.
- Jason James, head coach, men's basketball.
- Petra McPherson, interim director of budget and management reporting.
- Dennis Taylor, head coach, women's tennis.
- Edie Gibson, executive assistant to the chancellor (non-voting staff position).

**Faculty representative**
- Dr. John Schommer, professor of mathematics and faculty athletics representative.

**Community representatives**
- David Bryan, registered representative and investment advisor, AXA Advisors, LLC, Chattanooga.
- Wayne McCreight, CEO, The Hamilton-Ryker Group, LLC, Martin.
- David Murphy, owner, Murphy Funeral Home & Florist, Inc., Martin.
- Art Sparks, partner, Alexander, Thompson, and Arnold, PLLC, Union City.

**Student representatives**
- Alyssa Curtis, women's player representative.
- Rick Drewry, UT Martin Student Government Association president.
- Taiwo Fears-Perez, men's player representative.

UT Martin competes in NCAA Division I in both men's and women's sports and the Football Championship Subdivision. The UT Martin rodeo team, the only collegiate rodeo team in Tennessee, is a member of the Ozark Region and the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

Local student awarded scholarship

The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) recently awarded a $750 scholarship to Jesi Ogg of Martin. She is a student at University of Tennessee at Martin and is the daughter of Sammy and Cheryl Ogg.

Miss Ogg is a junior at UT Martin working toward a bachelor's degree in agriculture. After graduation, she is planning to attend graduate school and plans to work in the agriculture field. She is a member of the UT Martin FFA, Zeta Tau Alpha and the Weakley County Young Farmers and Ranchers. She is currently employed by Monsanto in Union City and is also a student worker at UT Martin.

The TCC is a nonprofit organization established to promote the cooperative form of business through education and promotion of all types of cooperatives. TCC has two types of membership including "parent cooperatives," and "individual cooperatives."

The TCC is made up of member representatives from various cooperative organizations in Tennessee. The total TCC membership is 60 members consisting of eight parent cooperatives and 52 individual cooperatives, including 19 electric cooperatives, 20 Tennessee Farmer Co-ops, five telephone cooperatives, three financial institutions, two milk cooperatives, one tobacco cooperative and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation. Leadership for TCC is provided by 13 voting board members and six ex-officio members.

For more information about Tennessee cooperatives, the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives or the TCC scholarship, contact Roberta Smith, TCC Administrative Secretary, at (423) 447-2121 or via email to smith@bledsoe.net. For more information about Tennessee cooperatives, the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives or the TCC scholarship, visit the TCC website at http://tennesseecouncilofcoops.org/.

UTM’s REED Center to host QuickBooks class Nov. 12

An intermediate course in QuickBooks, an accounting software for small business, will be taught Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the UT Martin REED Center.

Participants will take their QuickBooks knowledge deeper and learn to customize the program's functions to their specific needs. Topics will include setting preferences, payroll, paying payroll taxes, setting up inventory, tracking and paying sales tax, creating estimates and tracking time, creating reports and understanding financial data.

Computers with the QuickBooks software will be provided. The class is limited to the first 10 participants.

The course is sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at the UT Martin REED Center, 406 South Lindell Street.

The registration fee is $75, to be paid at the time of registration.

To reserve a seat, contact Andy Fuqua at the REED Center at 731-587-7333 or by email at reed@utm.edu.
Two crowned at UTM

Erica Glisson of Dresden was crowned Miss University of Tennessee at Martin at the combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant recently in the Harriet Fulton Theater on the UT Martin campus.

The UT Martin nursing student won the 2014 title and the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant this summer in Jackson.

Also headed to the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant is Camille Garner of Tullahoma, who won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. She is a junior pre-dental major at Tennessee Tech.

"Considering Saturday night was the first time singing in front of anyone, ever, I was pretty excited when I just finished without forgetting the words, let alone getting the honor of representing the University of Tennessee at Martin," Miss Glisson said after the event held Oct. 26.

The senior sang Etta James' "At Last."

Miss Glisson is the second nursing student to win the Miss UT Martin title. Mandy Hopper Braswell won the crown in 2006.

Miss Glisson’s philanthropy is Hoop It: Healthy Living for Life. The senior had a stellar high school basketball career at Dresden High School and played her freshman year at UT Martin.

"I picked this philanthropy because I wanted to focus on healthy living," she said. "I singled out basketball because I have played for 13 years."

She led UT Martin with 76 assists and helped the Skyhawks advance to the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament during the 2009-10 season. She was a two-time all-district selection in basketball at Dresden High School. She also played softball in high school.

Miss Garner's philanthropy is the National Children's Oral Health Foundation of America: The Tooth Fairy.

Miss Garner, who has been in more than 20 Miss Tennessee preliminary pageants, said her recent victory is the result of being persistent and dedicated.

"I did not see this coming. The interview portion of this pageant was so hard, they asked everything from current events, politics and the controversial."

Miss Garner said she has watched the annual Miss America pageant religiously with her mother.

"The goal is to become Miss Tennessee and ultimately Miss America," she said. "Since I moved to college I have had to stay on the phone the entire time with my mom."

The winners led a field of 10 contestants, and a total of $4,400 was awarded to the titleholders and runners-up. Miss UT Martin 2012 Jordan Gunn of Dyersburg crowned Miss Glisson. Miss Garner was crowned by Madison Hardy of Philadelphia, Miss., the 2012 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

Miss Hardy and Miss Tennessee Shelby Thompson entertained the audience with vocal selections. Miss Hardy opened the show with Katy Perry's "Roar" and sang "Sunday Kind of Love," which was her competition song in the recent Miss Tennessee pageant. She also sang "Natural Woman."

Hollie Holt of Martin directed the pageant.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with two talented, bright and beautiful young ladies," Mrs. Holt said. "They are both competitive and ready to start their year of service. They will prepare and train for the next six months for competition in fitness, talent, interview and evening gown. They will also work to raise donations and awareness for the Children's Miracle Network and children's hospitals as well as their own personal platforms."

Runners-up for the Miss UT Martin crown were Courtney Caton of Huntingdon, second place; and Shelby Dotson of Rutherford, first place.

Runners-up for Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival were UT Martin students Dylan Brown of Martin, second place; and Victoria Abbott of Rutherford, first place.

"I am excited about winning," Miss Glisson said. "If I am going to do this, I am going to do it right."
A Neotropical migrant species, the Cerulean Warbler breeds in mature deciduous forests in eastern North American and overwinters in the forested Andes Mountains of South America. The distinctive blue songbird has been under consideration for listing as an endangered species and is already listed on the Audubon watchlist.

In addition to the UTIA scientists, researchers from West Virginia University, the Ohio State University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement have participated in the effort.

The Cumberland Mountains, located just north of Knoxville, are among the sites where the scientists have studied the birds. The Tennessee sites contained both the greatest densities of ceruleans recorded across their breeding range and the greatest breeding productivity.

Throughout the six-year effort, the Cerulean Warbler Research Group has graduated 13 graduate students and trained hundreds of undergraduates in field wildlife research techniques. In addition to graduate student theses and dissertations, the project has published more than 10 peer-reviewed publications, with several more still in preparation. The important results and significant conservation impacts discovered to date have led to publication of the monograph Forest Management Guidelines for Cerulean Warblers. One of the key discoveries discussed in the publication, which is written for forest managers, is that certain forest management strategies can be beneficial to maintaining appropriate forest structure for nesting Cerulean Warblers.

When asked about the significance of the work, Keyser remarked, "Finding science-based solutions to both conservation and productive forest management are essential to ensuring that all of the components of our natural resources are managed in a way that ensures sustainability of these resources for future generations."

The scientists' work has been funded in part by UTIA Department of Forestry Wildlife and Fisheries. In addition to its agricultural and natural resource research programs, UTIA also provides instruction, research and public service through the UT College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the UT College of Veterinary Medicine and UT Extension offices in every county in the state.
UTM's ROTC Program Closure Delayed

By WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
By news@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Nov 6, 2013 at 9:44 PM CST
(Story Updated: Nov 6, 2013 at 11:03 PM CST)

MARTIN, Tenn - Good news for the ROTC program at UT-Martin as the program's closure has been delayed.

Senator Lamar Alexander announced Wednesday the delay will give the program time to improve to meet the Army's current needs.

This will also be the case for East Tennessee State University and Tennessee Tech as well.

UTM piano ensemble featured

The University of Tennessee at Martin Piano Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Elaine Harriss, will present a recital 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Blankenship Recital Hall of the Fine Arts Building on campus.

In celebration of the opening of the new Fine Arts facility, the program will feature four piano graduates of the UT Martin music program: Delana Easley, Dr. Daniel Donaldson, Victoria Russell and Linda Farmer. They will perform Aaron Copland's "Hoe-Down" from "Rodeo" and Arthur Benjamin's "Jamaican Rumba."

In addition, Dr. Harriss and Dr. Johnathan Vest will perform Bernhard Heiden's "Fantasia," commissioned by UT Martin for the 1971 dedication of the original Fine Arts Building.

The first movement of Bela Bartok's chamber work, "Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion," will be performed by pianists Rachel Steiner and Dr. Harriss with guest percussionists Della Coleman and Dr. Julie Hill.

Other works included are Moskowski's "Spanish Dances," Clementi's "Sonata in B-flat Major" and "Gracia" from Infante's "Andalousian Dances." Other performers will be Serena Chen, Martha Kendall and Amy McLemore.

There is no admission charge and the public is invited to attend the event.

Percussion program set for Sunday

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble is set for its first concert in the renovated Fine Arts Building's Harriet Fulton Theater Sunday.

The program includes a world premiere called "Consecration" by Cayenn Ponchione for percussion orchestra and saxophone quartet.

Events will include a reception for Nancy Mathesen, associate professor of music (1973-2005), who will be receiving the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association Lifetime Achievement Award. A reception is set for 4 p.m. in the Percussion Rehearsal Hall. The concert will follow at 5 p.m.
Davy Crockett re-enactor a real crowd pleaser at Big Cypress Tree Fall Festival

By David Fisher

Among the many attractions enjoyed by visitors at this year’s Big Cypress Tree Fall Festival, held Saturday, November 2, was an appearance by Tennessee’s legendary frontiersman, politician and number one volunteer, Davy Crockett (August 17, 1786 - March 6, 1836), portrayed by historic re-enactor Arthur Hunt.

Hunt gave a colorful account of one of Crockett’s bear hunts, following the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812 that formed Reelfoot Lake.

He also talked about Crockett’s political career, including his opposition to fellow Tennessean President Andrew Jackson’s efforts to relocate the Native American tribes of Tennessee to Oklahoma, which cost Crockett his seat in the U.S. Congress. Shortly afterward, he traveled to what would later become the Republic of Texas to fight and die at the Alamo.

Following Hunt’s informative, insightful and sometimes humorous performance, festival-goers enjoyed a program about the snakes of Tennessee. Dr. Tom Blanchard, professor of the UTM department of biological sciences and director of the Reelfoot Lake Environmental Field Station, presented the program.

Dr. Tom Blanchard, professor of the UTM department of biological sciences and director of the Reelfoot Lake Environmental Field Station, presented a program entitled, “Snakes of Tennessee” featuring venomous and non-venomous types.
promotes volunteerism

Tourism Program, which

Dean's band was a huge

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in Alexandra Barros,

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Dance

also

Miss Festival-goers also

Tarter

Next, Bob Tarter of the

Natural History Educa-
tional Company of the

Mid-South presented an

animal presentation enti-
tled "Predators to Prey." The program included ex-
amples of animals of prey

native to Tennessee, and a

few examples from other

regions of the world. He
displayed a bobcat, several

types of snakes, a huge

Euro-Asian Eagle Owl,

and other animals of prey.

Festival-goers also en-
joyed live musical enter-
tainment, provided by Cur-
reykorn, an energetic and

upbeat family bluegrass

band from Columbia, Mis-

souri. David and Nancy

Currey and their children

provided a lively blend of

traditional and contempo-
rary bluegrass music. The

band was a huge hit with

visitors.

Miss Tennessee Tourism

Alexandra Barros, who is

also a UTM student with a

Dean's List double major in political science and

public relations, spoke brie-

fly about the Miss Tourism Program, which

promotes volunteerism and

becoming an active mem-

ber in one's community.

She will be competing in Miss

World Tourism in July 2014.

Another attraction was Air

Evac Lifeteam, which landed an

air ambulance helicopter at the

park.

The UTM Ecology Club host-
ed a booth with interesting ex-

hibits of plants, birds, mammals

and small animals. Additionally,

UTM's Elanor Gardner, a geol-

ogy instructor, had all kinds of

rocks, minerals and fossils on

display.

Greenfield Tennis Project

volunteers sold lunch items,

including hamburgers, hot dogs,

chips and drinks.

Arts and crafts vendors were

also set up in the park with a

wide assortment of handcrafted

items for sale.

Big Cypress Tree State Natu-

ral Area, described by USA

Today earlier this year as one

of the nation's "10 Great Hid-

den State Parks," is located six

miles northwest of Greenfield

on Highway 445. At the park

sign on Highway 45E near

Greenfield, turn west onto High-

way 445 and go five miles. Turn

at the next park sign.

For more information about

the hours of operation of the

park and upcoming events, call

(731) 235-9216 and leave a

message or email bill.mccall@tn.

gov.

Dance course for children

offered by UT Martin

The University of Tennessee

at Martin Office of Extended

Campus and Continuing

Education is sponsoring a

dance class for children. The

course, titled "Let's Dance," will be offered from 9-10 a.m.,

Saturdays, Nov. 2-23.

Leah Graham, UT Martin
dance major, will teach the

course.

Children will learn elements

of jazz, ballet and tap dance in a

fun filled environment through

movement games and exercises.

Students should wear dance or

gym wear that is comfortable,

but not loose-fitting. Ballet

slippers or flexible shoes worn

without socks are appropriate

footwear.

The registration fee to attend

is $50. Children must be 4-5 years

old. Parents must accompany

children at all times.

To register, contact ECOS

at 731-881-7082, or register

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

php.
Heather Butler, a senior guard on the University of Tennessee at Martin women's basketball team, has been selected as one of just 30 candidates for the 2013-14 Senior CLASS Award in collegiate basketball.

To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements 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.

In the classroom, Butler has worked hard at maintaining a 3.83 GPA as a health and human performance major (K-12 licensure). A three-time OVC 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 Ohio Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete for the 2012-13 academic year, the league's highest individual honor.

On the court is where Butler continues to shine, becoming the program's all-time leading scorer with 2,111 career points after just three seasons. Along with garnering All-OVC first team accolades three times and being named the 2012 OVC Tournament Most Valuable Player, she has twice ranked in the top-10 nationally in scoring.

Butler set a pair of NCAA records in 2012-13, making a three-pointer in 80 consecutive games and 34 games in a single season. Butler's 37 points

see BUTLER page 2B
CHAPTER WINS — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Student Chapter of the The Wildlife Society was named the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society’s Student Chapter of the Year. The chapter received this honor recently when attending the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies yearly conference in Oklahoma City. Members competed for this prestigious award against 29 other student chapters. Twenty-two members attended the conference in order to make contacts within the natural resources profession and to support fellow members David Ferrell and Tanner Romsdal as they delivered their manuscript about “diurnal habitat associations of raccoons in an agricultural landscape” and Ryan Jerrolds while he spoke on “A survey to estimate population distribution of and damage caused by feral swine in Tennessee.” Members receiving the plaque and cash prize were (from left) Joseph Henry, Tanner Romsdal, Lacey Lane, Melissa Sage, David Ferrell, Kayce Workman, Jamie Walker, Jack Glenn and Matt Moore.

Corker applauds Army decision to delay closure of Tennessee ROTC programs

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Bob Corker, R-Tenn., today applauded the U.S. Army’s decision to delay closure of Reserve Officers’ Training Corps programs at East Tennessee State University, Tennessee Technology University and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“I applaud the Secretary of the Army’s decision to delay closure of three Army ROTC programs in Tennessee, and I am proud to have worked with my colleagues to resolve this issue,” said Corker.

“For generations, these programs have produced some of our nation’s best and brightest military leaders, and I’m glad our universities will have time to demonstrate their ability to meet the continuing needs of the Army.”

On Oct. 1, the Army announced that Army ROTC programs at 13 universities nationwide would close, including three in Tennessee. Since the announcement, Corker, Sen. Lamar Alexander, and Representatives Phil Roe, Diane Black and Stephen Fincher have worked closely with Army leadership to more fully understand the metrics used to make the decision.
UTM percussion ensemble presents concert

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble is set for its first concert in the newly renovated Fine Arts Building’s Harriet Fulton Theater on Sunday.

The program includes a world premiere called “Consecration” by Cayenna Ponchione for percussion orchestra and saxophone quartet.

“Consecration” was commissioned by the UTM Percussion Society in celebration of the opening of Phase I of the Fine Arts Building. The piece includes 21 tambourines being played at once.

Other works on the program include “Six” by Ivan Trevino and “Volume Pig” by Gareth Farr, both of which will be performed at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention on Nov. 14, as part of an International Chamber Percussion Ensemble Competition.

Additional works include “The Alabados Song” featuring marimba soloist Katherine Felthauer, as well as two other selections for large ensemble that include UT Martin alumni who will be visiting campus that day.

Special events for Sunday also include a reception for Nancy Mathesen, UT Martin associate professor of Music (1973-2005), who will be receiving the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association (WTSBOA) Life-time Achievement Award.

A reception for Mathesen will be held at 4 p.m. in the Percussion Rehearsal Hall of the Fine Arts Building.

The concert will follow at 5 p.m. in the Harriet Fulton Theater. Both the reception and the concert are open to the public.
ROTC Temporarily Saved at UTM

November 6th, 2013 - By Charles Choate

Tennessee U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander has announced that the ROTC program at UT-Martin has been saved for at least two more years.

Alexander credited Tennessee Representatives Stephen Fincher, Diane Black and Phil Roe, along with Senator Bob Corker for their efforts to save the university program.

The Army announced Wednesday that they agreed to delay the closure of the program at UT-Martin, East Tennessee State and Tennessee Tech.

Army officials said the additional two years will allow them time to improve the programs to meet their current needs.

Senator Alexander said the ROTC programs have produced some of the nation’s outstanding military leaders, and called the decision a “major victory” for students at the Tennessee schools.

Army gives ROTC programs at ETSU, Tennessee Tech and UT-Martin 2-year reprieve from closure

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

November 6th, 2013 - 4:04 am EST

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — The U.S. Army has agreed to put off the planned closure of Reserve Officers Training Corps programs at three Tennessee universities.

Republican U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker said Wednesday the delay will provide time to show the programs can meet the Army’s needs.

The three ROTC programs are located at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville and the University of Tennessee campus in Martin.

The Tennessee ROTC programs were among 13 the army announced it would close around the country over the next two years.

Alexander thanked Corker and U.S. Reps. Phil Roe, Diane Black and Steve Fincher for working to keep the ROTC programs open for two more years while the Army reviews its plan.

Think your friends should see this? Share it with them!

STATE GAZETTE | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013

Army gives ROTC programs in Tenn. 2-year reprieve

NASHVILLE (AP) — The U.S. Army has agreed to put off the planned closure of Reserve Officers Training Corps programs at three Tennessee universities.

Republican U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker said Wednesday the delay will provide time to show the programs can meet the Army’s needs.

The three ROTC programs are located at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville and the University of Tennessee campus in Martin.

The Tennessee ROTC programs were among 13 the army announced it would close around the country over the next two years.

Alexander thanked Corker and U.S. Reps. Phil Roe, Diane Black and Steve Fincher for working to keep the ROTC programs open for two more years while the Army reviews its plan.
Army suspends closure of ROTC programs including at UTM

The U.S. Army announced Wednesday that it has suspended the closure of 13 student Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs, which includes the ROTC program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Members of Congress were notified along with officials at the affected universities, according to a news release.

According to the notification, the Army will now review the criteria used for the recommended closures. Once this review is complete, the Army will reassess all student ROTC programs nationwide and "develop a formal 24-month probationary program for schools failing to meet the evaluation criteria." Programs demonstrating "no improvement in achieving performance goals or meeting criteria by the end of the first year will receive one year's notice of intent to close the unit."

Programs that show improvement or meet evaluation criteria will receive a second year of probation, and at the end of 24 months, schools retained for a second year will be re-evaluated. "At that time, they (the schools) will either receive one year's notice of intent to close the unit or be retained," the notification stated.

UT Martin announced in October that its program was among 13 in the nation scheduled for closure in 2015. Other Tennessee universities facing ROTC closures were East Tennessee State University in Johnson City and Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville.

"We're grateful to our elected officials and the Army for suspending the closure of UT Martin's ROTC program," said Tom Rakes, university chancellor. "We will work hard to meet the Army's criteria for keeping the program open."

Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences where the ROTC program resides, is also pleased with the Army's decision and thanked those who have worked on behalf of the program. "However, this allows us to just take a breath. The game isn't over," Winters said. "We'll continue to make adjustments to the program to render it more economical and efficient."

The university's military science program, of which ROTC is a part, includes Jackson State Community College, Lane College, Freed-Hardeman University, Bethel University and Union University. Enrollment for fall semester 2013 is 85 basic course cadets and 26 advanced course cadets.

See BRIEFLY, Page B2
Skyhawk Veteran Association honors Brent Morel, veterans

The University of Tennessee Martin Skyhawk Veteran Association will have a special program today recognizing all veterans present, including members of American Legion Post 69, and honoring Capt. Brent L. Morel.

The program will begin at 3 p.m. today in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium, according to a news release. Retired Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Jim Phelps will address the audience.

Morel, 27, of Martin, was assigned to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif., the release said. Morel was killed April 7, 2004, by hostile fire in Anbar, Iraq. He earned the prestigious Navy Cross.

Phelps served in the Navy from 1972 to 1992 and did three tours in the Vietnam era and the Iraq War, according to the release. He served on the USS Mississippi, a nuclear fuel-powered guided missile cruiser, and the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

Phelps is also a member of the Rolling Thunder and the Patriot Guard Riders, the release said. He served 20 years with the Weakley County Sheriff’s Department.

BRIEFLY

UTM Jackson Center hosts retired general

The University of Tennessee Martin Jackson Center, at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass, will host retired Lt. Gen. John G. Castellaw as its Veterans Day speaker at 1:30 p.m. today.

Castellaw, a UT Martin graduate, served in the Marine Corps for 36 years, according to a news release from the school. Castellaw’s duties included service with the United Nations during the Siege of Sarajevo; command of a U.S. joint force in an Australian-led multi-national security and stability operation in East Timor; and as the chief of staff for the U.S. Central Command at the height of the war in Iraq.

Other service included assignments ashore and aboard in Africa, Europe, the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East. Castellaw’s last tours on active duty were in the Pentagon, where he oversaw Marine Aviation and later the Marine Corps budget creation and execution, the release said.

Castellaw held several operational commands and flew more than two dozen different aircraft including the CH-46E Sea Knight, the TAV-8B Harrier and the MV-22B Osprey, according to the release.

In 2008, Castellaw retired and returned to the family farm in Crockett County, the release said, but he remains involved in national security issues. In addition to Crockett Policy Institute, he is on the National Security Advisory Council of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition and is a teaching fellow in the College of Business and Global Affairs at UT Martin.

A reception is planned after Castellaw’s speech.
UTM professor earns award

Dr. Thomas H. Payne has been named the recipient of the T. Eugene Spragens, III, President's Award from the Louisiana State University Graduate School of Banking.

Payne is the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and professor of finance at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The criteria for his award includes teaching performance and involvement in promoting and supporting the school and its educational mission.

The award was established and funded in April 1999 by Gene Spragens, past president of the LSU Graduate School of Banking. The Graduate School of Banking is a professional educational program for commercial bank officers, which has been taught on the LSU campus for 65 years and has more than 15,000 graduates.

Payne is a member of the LSU faculty and teaches monetary economics and interpreting economic change. He consistently receives the highest ratings by his students for the thoroughness, clarity and depth of his lectures.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Arkansas, an MBA with a concentration in finance from the University of Texas at Dallas and a Ph.D. in finance from the University of Arkansas.

Prior to his teaching career, Payne worked for two Fortune 500 companies. He has published more than 30 peer-reviewed articles and has earned a reputation as an outstanding speaker, author, teacher and consultant. An avid proponent of experiential learning, he connects students to careers through a variety of travel study, internship, and professional activities.

Payne has served as a visiting professor at the University of Orleans in France where he taught financial analysis and risk management. He served as UTM's interim chair of accounting, finance, economics and political science from 2007-2013 and served in a leadership role in the establishment and delivery of UTM's acclaimed online MBA focusing on banking and financial services professionals.

Dr. Payne is a faculty member of the Barret Graduate School of Banking in Memphis, the Tennessee Bankers Association Southeastern School of Consumer Credit and the Graduate School of Banking at LSU, where he was recently honored as the 2013 Outstanding Faculty Member. Since 2002, Dr. Payne has hosted the highly successful Mid-South Agricultural Lending Conference and is co-director of the new Mid-South School for Advanced Agricultural Lending.

A leader in regional economic development, Payne serves as chairman of the Martin Industrial Development Board and on the Weakley County Economic Development Board of Directors. He served on the WestStar Leadership Program Board of Trustees from 2011-2013 and was founder of the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center. Payne is a past president of the Martin Rotary Club and the Southwestern Finance Association.
The University of Tennessee Martin Skyhawk Veteran Association hosted a special program recognizing all veterans present, including members of American Legion Post 69, Monday afternoon in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The program also honored Capt. Brent L. Morel, who was killed April 7, 2004, at age 27 by hostile fire in Anbar, Iraq. The guest speaker was retired Navy Senior Chief Petty Office Jim Phelps, above, who served in the Navy from 1972 to 1992. Phelps did three tours in the Vietnam Era and the Iraq War. He is also a member of the Rolling Thunder and the Patriot Guard Riders. Phelps served 20 years with the Weakley County Sheriff's Department. SUBMITTED PHOTO

UT Martin Piano Ensemble Performance

The UT Martin Piano Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Elaine Harris will present a recital Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Blankenship Recital Hall of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus. The program will feature four piano graduates of the UTM music program, Delana Eastley, Dr. Daniel Donaldson II, Victoria Russell, and Linda Farrow. The program will include works by Moskowski, Copland, Clementi, Bernhard Hedin, Manuel Infante, Arthur Benjamin, and Bartok.
Skyhawk Veteran Association honors veterans

By BRAD GASKINS
News Editor

When UT Martin’s Dr. Daniel McDonough learned that one his former students, Capt. Brent Morel, had been killed in action, he said he was surprised, but not entirely shocked.

McDonough knew Morel when Morel was a student at UTM. He had Morel in several classes.

“When Brent was killed in action and I heard that, I was very surprised obviously as you would be when news like that comes in,” McDonough said Monday afternoon during a Veterans Day observance hosted by the Skyhawk Veteran Association. “But I wasn’t shocked, because I knew what kind of guy Brent was. Brent was the kind of person who would be first to move into action. He was a very loyal person and someone who was eager to serve.”

Morel, 27, of Martin was killed April 7, 2004, by hostile fire in Anbar, Iraq.

The Skyhawk Veteran Association presented Morel’s family with a plaque in his honor. The plaque will hang above all future meetings of the Skyhawk Veteran Association.

“Brent would be embarrassed if he were here,” said Mike Morel, Brent’s dad. “He would say that he was just doing his job. He didn’t want awards or anything like that. He was just doing his job, that’s exactly what he would say.”

Brent’s mom, Molly Morel, thanked the Skyhawk Veteran Association for honoring her son.

“He has inspired us, and I hope that those that hear his story will be inspired as well,” she said.

Retired Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Jim Phelps was the guest speaker. He served three tours in the Vietnam Era and the Iraq War and also served 20 years with the Weakley County Sheriff’s Department.

Phelps spoke about the importance of keeping veterans in the minds of all Americans.

“Most Americans don’t know that since World War II there are still over 83,000 American service members who are missing in action,” he said. “That’s 83,000 that didn’t come home. That’s 83,000 families that didn’t get to bury their loved one.”

One thing that Americans can do to honor veterans is take pennies with them when they visit a cemetery. If a person served in the military, leave a penny on the grave marker to signify to the family that their loved one was thought about.

“Next time you find yourself in a cemetery, take some pennies and leave some,” Phelps said. “Take the time to let the family know that someone recognized their loved one for their service.”

IN HONOR OF BRENT
— The University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Veteran Association hosted a special program recognizing all veterans present, including members of American Legion Post 69, and honoring Capt. Brent L. Morel, Monday afternoon in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. Accepting a plaque in memory of her son, Brent, is Molly Morel. Brent Morel, 27, of Martin, was killed April 7, 2004, by hostile fire in Anbar, Iraq.
UTM ROTC program to remain in place – at least for now

The U.S. Army announced Wednesday that it has suspended the closure of 13 student Reserve Officers’ Training Corps programs, which includes the ROTC program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Members of Congress were notified along with officials at the affected universities.

According to the notification, the Army will now review the criteria used for the recommended closures. Once this review is complete, the Army will reassess all student ROTC programs nationwide and “develop a formal 24-month probationary program for schools failing to meet the evaluation criteria.” Programs demonstrating “no improvement in achieving performance goals or meeting criteria by the end of the first year will receive one year’s notice of intent to close the unit.”

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UT Martin announced in October that its program was among 13 in the nation scheduled for closure in 2015. Other Tennessee universities facing ROTC closures were East Tennessee State University in Johnson City and Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville.

“We’re grateful to our elected officials and the Army for suspending the closure of UT Martin’s ROTC program,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. “We will work hard to meet the Army’s criteria for keeping the program open.”

Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences where the ROTC program resides, is also pleased with the Army’s decision and thanked those who have worked on behalf of the program.

“However, this allows us to just take a breath. The game isn’t over,” Winters said. “We’ll continue to make adjustments to the program to render it more economical and efficient.”

An ROTC unit was first established at the university in 1952, followed by the start of a four-year ROTC program in 1964. Since the program’s beginnings, 651 cadets have been commissioned as second lieutenants in the regular Army, the U.S. Army Reserve and the Tennessee Army National Guard.

The university’s military science program, of which ROTC is a part, includes Jackson State Community College, Lane College, Freed-Hardeman University, Bethel University and Union University. Enrollment for fall semester 2013 is 85 basic course cadets and 26 advanced course cadets.
Congressman Stephen Fincher (R-Frog Jump) today announced that the U.S. Army has agreed to postpone closure of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program at the University of Tennessee Martin. The Army will review its plans to reorganize the ROTC program in two years.

"For generations, the ROTC program at the University of Tennessee Martin has created invaluable opportunity for West Tennessee's young men and women to serve our country while getting their education," said Congressman Fincher. "ROTC programs across the country are breeding grounds for talented military officers and our nation's finest leaders and UTM is no exception."

"I'm pleased the Army decided to reevaluate their decision, and I'm confident the UTM program will continue to produce quality officers for our military for years to come. The entire West Tennessee community, as well as my Senate and House colleagues, deserve thanks for speaking out to save this vital program."

On Oct. 1, (date) the U.S. Army announced that over the next two years it would close 13 ROTC programs across the country, including programs at the University of Tennessee campus in Martin, East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, and Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. Working alongside Senators Alexander and Corker, as well as Congressmen Black and Roe, Congressman Fincher fought to reverse the U.S. Army's decision.
Butler honored as Scholar-Athlete

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. – Heather Butler, a senior guard on the University of Tennessee at Martin women’s basketball team, has been honored as a prestigious Ohio Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete for the 2012-13 academic year.

The accolade is the highest individual honor that can be earned by an OVC student-athlete. The award is given annually to three female and three male student-athletes of junior or senior status for their leadership qualities, as well as their accomplishments in both the classroom and athletic arena.

Butler is just the 15th UT Martin student-athlete and second women’s basketball player (Kelly Pendleton, 2001-02) to bring home the award. Also earning the award was Belmont’s Chase Brookshire (baseball), Murray State’s Delaney Howson (golf), Southeast Missouri’s Rebekah Lawson (cross country/track and field), Tennessee Tech’s Dennis Ogbe (basketball) and Austin Peay’s Ben Stansfield (football).

“TO be highlighted as one of three female athletes out of the entire conference is a special accomplishment in Heather’s career,” Skyhawk head coach Kevin McMillan said. “We all have seen how remarkable she is on the court over the past three seasons and this award shows she is just as valuable in the classroom and with her community service as well. I couldn’t be more proud of Heather.”

A Medina, Tenn. native, Butler has helped guide UT Martin to 63 victories and three consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances since 2010.

Butler is the program’s all-time leading scorer with 2,111 points after just three seasons. A three-time All-OVC first teamer and 2012 OVC Tournament Most Valuable Player, she currently holds an NCAA record with 80 consecutive games of making at least one 3-pointer.

After she was the nation’s leading freshman scorer (19.1 points per game) in 2010-11, Butler ranked fourth in the nation in scoring (23.8 points per game) as a sophomore. Last season, she finished sixth nationally with 22.4 points per game and concluded her spectacular junior campaign with 37 points against eventual Final Four participant Notre Dame – which ranked as the highest individual scoring game in the 2013 NCAA Tournament.

In the classroom, Butler accounts for a 3.83 Grade Point Average as a health and human performance major (K-12 licensure). A three-time OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll honoree, she also is a multi-year selection to the UT Martin Chancellor’s Honor Roll.

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 as well as serving as a DARE program graduation speaker among many other activities.
UT Martin horn player honored

Michael Hernon, who spent much of his life at the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently received the International Horn Society's (IHS) Punto Award.

Individuals selected for the Punto Award have made a major contribution at the regional or national level to the art of horn playing.

Hernon was able to play in regional orchestras in Jackson and Paducah, Ky., teach horn students, direct a horn choir and teach music history.

The Punto Award was a surprise, shock and joy, he said. Hernon had no idea he was to receive the award until his name was called from the stage.

Hernon studied at Murray (Ky.) State University, Western Kentucky University and Peabody College, now part of Vanderbilt University. He completed his PhD in 1972.

Ed Pease, a hornist and musicologist at Western Kentucky who had studied with Willi Apel at Indiana University, inspired Hernon in both horn playing and musicology. He took great pleasure in teaching music history and published a discography, French Horn Discography, published by Greenwood Press.

Hernon retired from UT Martin in 2011 because of his health. He had not been playing since, but at the time of receiving the award at the 2013 IHS Symposium in Memphis, he planned to start again, only for himself, since his sense of balance has been affected.

UTM professors lauded for outstanding teaching

Recipients of the 2013 Teaching Awards have been chosen at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Dr. Tracy Rutledge won the Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award and Dr. Carol Eckert won the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award.

The Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award was established in 1998 by Mai and Charlie Coffey and is awarded annually to a faculty member who demonstrates strength in teaching and contributes to the teaching profession through extracurricular achievements, leadership qualities and scholarly activities.

The Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award was established in 1993 by James R. Cunningham, who attended UT Junior College in the 1930s. It is awarded annually to faculty members who have demonstrated strength in teaching and made a contribution to the teaching profession through scholarly activities, extracurricular achievements and leadership responsibilities.

Both awards are made through a competitive and rigorous process that includes input from students, peers and administrators.

Dr. Rutledge is an assistant professor in the department of communications.

"My role is to encourage and equip students to discover the motivation, skills and confidence they need to be successful in a competitive workplace. I am part coach, part evangelist and part general," she said.

In addition to traditional classroom activities, Dr. Rutledge’s teaching methodology includes service learning. In her Principles of Advertising class, she includes assignments where students plan and design an integrated communication campaign for a client. Not only does the project challenge students to take the textbook knowledge to create a solution to a real problem, but also they must articulate a clear rationale for that solution.

"Her goal has always been to blend media design technology with the best practices in pedagogy. Thus, it is not surprising that Rutledge has developed a practical, hands-on teaching style that her students love," said Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Dr. Eckert is a professor of art.

"Learning is an exciting, stimulating activity for me, and I believe in presenting material in my classes so that is also true for my students," she said.

Dr. Eckert’s scholarly work has focused on curriculum development and pedagogical practices in the area of introductory college-level courses such as art appreciation and art surveys. She expanded this to explore visual thinking, which centers on the premise that different regions of the brain are utilized depending on whether you are using verbal/written means or visual means to process information.

"Eckert is a prominent member of the Tennessee Art Education Association and the National Women Studies Association and has made significant contributions through these organizations to the teaching profession as a board member, officer, organizer and presenter," Dr. Alexander said.

The university’s Office of Research, Grants and Contracts works with the Teaching Effectiveness Advisory Committee in the teaching awards selection process.
PROUD PRESENTATION - Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC made the Presentation of Colors at Fulton High School's Veterans Day Celebration. Also participating in the event were Darius Saxton who lead the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, and Guest Speaker, Will Elliott.(Photo by Benita Fuzzell)
The University of Tennessee at Martin is listed for the eighth consecutive year among America's 100 Best College Buys, a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc. UT Martin is among three public Tennessee higher education institutions listed. Additionally, the university is listed in the new book "The Best 295 Business Schools: 2014 Edition," published by Random House and Princeton Review Books. Both recognitions were announced in recent weeks.

"Students at the University of Tennessee at Martin enjoy and benefit from the opportunity to attend one of a very select group of colleges and universities providing quality and affordability in higher education," said Lewis Lindsey Jr., IRE president. To be considered for the designation "America's 100 Best College Buys," an institution must be an accredited, four-year institution offering bachelor's degrees. The institution must also offer full residential facilities, including residence halls and dining services.

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Additionally, the institution must have had an entering freshman class in fall 2012 with a high school grade point average and/or SAT/ACT score equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen.
UT Martin Chair, Professor earns President’s Award from LSU

Dr. Thomas H. Payne

Dr. Thomas H. Payne, Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and professor of finance at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been named the recipient of the T. Eugene Spragens, III, President’s Award from the Louisiana State University Graduate School of Banking. The Graduate School of Banking is a professional educational program for commercial bank officers, which has been taught on the LSU campus for 65 years and has more than 15,000 graduates. The school’s dedicated faculty is its most valuable resource, and this award recognizes this importance. It is awarded annually.

Payne is a member of the LSU’s faculty and teaches monetary economics and interpreting economic change. He consistently receives the highest ratings by his students for the thoroughness, clarity and depth of his lectures.

Payne holds a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from the University of Arkansas, an MBA with a concentration in finance from the University of Texas at Dallas and a Ph.D. in finance from the University of Arkansas.

Since coming to academia from the private sector where he worked for two Fortune 500 companies, Payne has published more than 30 peer-reviewed articles and has earned a reputation as an outstanding speaker, author, teacher and consultant.

An avid proponent of experiential learning, he connects students to careers through a variety of travel study, internship, and professional activities. Payne has served as a visiting professor at the University of Orleans in France where he taught financial analysis and risk management, partnered with the Financial Services Volunteer Corporation to assist the Savings Bank of Albania during its privatization and, in 2005, hosted a lending and risk management program for Russian bank executives.

Payne served as UT Martin’s interim chair of accounting, finance, economics and political science from 2007-2013. He served in a leadership role in the establishment and delivery of UT Martin’s acclaimed online MBA focusing on banking and financial services professionals.

Payne is a frequent speaker to professional organizations, provides conferences, hosts seminars and sponsors speakers on the UT Martin campus. He is a faculty member of the Barret Graduate School of Banking in Memphis, the Tennessee Bankers Association Southeastern School of Consumer Credit and the Graduate School of Banking at LSU, where he was recently honored as the 2013 Outstanding Faculty Member.

Since 2002, Payne has hosted the highly successful Mid-South Agricultural Lending Conference and is co-director of the new Mid-South School for Advanced Agricultural Lending.

A leader in regional economic development, Payne serves as chairman of the Martin Industrial Development Board and on the Weakley County Economic Development Board of Directors. He served on the WestStar Leadership Program Board of Trustees from 2011-2013 and was founder of the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center. Now affiliated with the Tennessee Small Business Development Center Network, the UT Martin REED Center supports small business growth and economic development throughout Northwest Tennessee.

Payne is a past president of the Martin Rotary Club and the Southwestern Finance Association. He and his wife, Amy, have two daughters, Rachel, a UT Martin graduate and a CPA in Franklin, and Rebekah, who is a senior finance major at UT Martin.
Accepting a plaque in memory of her son, Brent, is Molly Morel. Brent Morel, 27, of Martin, was killed April 7, 2004, by hostile fire in Anbar, Iraq.

UT Martin conducts Veterans program

Jim Phelps was guest speaker at UTM’s Veterans program.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Veteran Association hosted a special program recognizing all veterans present, including members of American Legion Post 69, and honoring Capt. Brent L. Morel, Monday afternoon in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

The guest speaker was retired Navy Senior Chief Petty Office Jim Phelps, served in the Navy from 1972-1992. Phelps did three tours in the Vietnam Era and the Iraq War. He served on the USS Mississippi, a nuclear fuel powered, guided missile cruiser and the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. He is also a member of the Rolling Thunder and the Patriot Guard Riders. He served 20 years with the Weakley County Sheriff’s Department.

Oil Up Girl Scout Badge

Martin Girl Scouts learn all about oil Thursday afternoon at the Tom and Ann Stuart Community Center in Martin. Professor Eleanor Gardner and senior Andrew Eudy complete one of the requirements for the Oil Up badge with Persempathy Harrell (from left), London McDonald and Serenity Harrell. Eudy is a member of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the earth science honor’s society. Also helping Gardner out were Eta Alpha Chapter members William Abrams, Taylor Wilson-Primm and Brandt Gibson. Gardner is a lab instructor in agriculture, geosciences, and natural resources at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
UTM fraternity suspended during investigation

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — A fraternity at the University of Tennessee at Martin campus has been suspended while officials investigate a hazing allegation.

WPSD-TV reports the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity is on interim suspension by both the university and the national chapter.

UT Martin Director of University Relations Bud Grimes says the move stems from an incident last week when a fraternity pledge member was hit by a car.

"A student was brought in to the local hospital who had been injured in a vehicle accident, as things turned out and looking into this further, it results from an alleged hazing incident," Grimes said.

He said hazing is prohibited at UT Martin.

"Hazing is putting any student in a situation that is potentially harmful or degrading," he said.

National Chief Executive Officer of Alpha Tau Omega Wynn Smiley said the incident is under investigation.

Fraternity at UT Martin suspended during hazing investigation

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National Chief Executive Officer of Alpha Tau Omega Wynn Smiley said the incident is under investigation.

Our investigation and the university's investigation, it's hard to determine how long it will last. It will last as long as it needs to," Smiley said.

The fraternity must cease all functions until the investigation is over.

No student names were released.
NEW MEMBERS — The Martin Kiwanis Club recently welcomed two new members to its club, (center, from left) Christie Ricketts of Christie’s Photography and Kimberly Williams, assistant professor in educational studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. They are joined with their sponsors Clinton Smith and Anita Bell. The Martin Kiwanis Club meets Wednesday at noon at UT Martin. Learn more at martinkiwanisclub.org or check out their Facebook page.

Jeff Parham will seek Circuit Court judgeship

Local attorney Jeff Parham announced Tuesday that he will seek the Republican party’s nomination for Circuit Court judge in Tennessee’s 27th Judicial District, which serves Weakley and Obion counties, during the May 2014 primary.

Parham is one of several candidates seeking to succeed retiring Circuit Court Judge William B. Acree in the August general election.

While growing up, Parham worked on his family’s farm in the McConnell community. He is a South

JEFF PARHAM
Fulton High School and University of Tennessee at Martin graduate.

SEE PARHAM, PAGE 13

Parham attended the Nashville School of Law beginning in 1989 where he attended classes four nights a week, while he maintained a full-time day job.

After graduation, he came back home to provide legal services to his community. Parham has been a licensed attorney for more than 20 years, with offices in both Martin and Union City. His practice consists of both criminal and civil matters, including estates, divorces and custody. In addition, he is a seasoned real estate attorney. Parham has represented countless individuals, small businesses, and large corporations. Parham stated, “I believe my work ethic and dedication to the law and my community have helped me to become successful.”

He currently lives in the McConnell community, located between South Fulton and Martin, with his wife, Tina. They have three children, a son Alex, who currently attends Logan College of Chiropractic in Chesterfield, Missouri, a son Blake, a University of Tennessee at Martin sophomore, and a son, Ethan, a seventh grader at Martin Middle School.

The Parham family are members of the First United Methodist Church in Martin, where Jeff has chaired both the Trustee’s and Staff-Parrish committees, along with teaching the high school age Sunday school class. Parham is a current member of the Martin Rotary Club, where he serves on the board of the Directors. He also serves on the boards of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and We Care Ministries. Parham previously set on the Martin Youth League Football and Cal Ripken Baseball Boards.

Parham served as a hearing officer for the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility from 2006 to 2012. The organization oversees the ethical responsibilities of our state’s lawyers.

Parham was chosen Weakley County’s Best of the Best Award for Best Lawyer in Weakley County for the years 2009, 2011 and 2012.

“The courtroom is truly the one place in our nation where all citizens should begin on equal footing,” he said. “As a Judge, it is my goal to insure that all who enter the courtroom leave knowing that they have been heard and had their day in court.”
Date set for UTM's Fall Preview Day

The second of two Fall Preview Days at the University of Tennessee at Martin is set for Nov. 23.

Preview Days are opportunities for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. Each event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life.

Representatives of UT Martin will provide information and answers to students’ questions on a variety of topics, including scholarships and financial aid, college and housing costs and the various university academic programs.

Registration for the Nov. 23 Preview Day will be from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Registration will be followed by a welcome and general information session and the university’s academic fair, which will take place in the Elam Center. Academic department visits and campus tours will also be conducted at the Preview Days.

For more information about Preview Day activities and events, call 731-881-7020.

Mary and Jack Jinks Scholarship — UT Martin student Rachel Stegall from Martin was awarded the Mary and Jack Jinks Scholarship. The scholarship is made possible by and is named for IPS Vice President of Public Service, Dr. Mary Jinks and her husband Jack. It is awarded to a student of any UT system employee who is a relative of an IPS employee. Stegall is completing her degree in animal science veterinary health technology. Stegall is pictured with her mother, Kay (left), and Dr. Mary Jinks (right).

www.kfvs12.com

Santa's Village to mark 29th year in Martin, Tenn.

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - The legacy of Santa's Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected and donated to service agencies through its 28 years.

More than $1 million has been distributed to area residents over a span of 28 years.

Santa’s Village will mark its 29th anniversary, Dec. 12-15, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment.

More than 270,000 people have attended Santa's Village.

The fantasy land provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas. It is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Times are from 6-9 p.m. on Dec. 12-13, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Dec 14, and 1-5 p.m. on Dec. 15. The event will return to the “Enchanted Forest” theme this year in scenes depicting the holidays.

There's also wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children's rides and vendor booths.

Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and a petting farm will add to the festivities.

Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

"We would like to thank the sponsors and volunteers who contribute time and money," said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director. "Santa's Village is not only a wonderful, family-oriented holiday event, it helps the less fortunate in the surrounding area."

For more information about Santa's Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
Newsome breaks record in victory
Senior guard eclipses 2,000 points with school-best 44

By Josh Lemons
jlemons@jacksonsun.com

MARTIN — With 13 seconds left and the Skyhawk women's basketball team leading 82-79 over visiting Quinnipiac, UT Martin senior guard Heather Butler stepped into the lane to take the charge and seal the win. The referees saw it a different way and called Butler for the foul, her fifth. That's when the other senior took over.

Jasmine Newsome scored 13 of the team's last 15 points, all in overtime, to help the Skyhawks knock off the Bobcats 102-97 in the consolation bracket of the WNIT Saturday night.

Newsome said she felt pressure to step up because it was her player that Butler attempted to get the charge off of.

"My girl was the one that drove," Newsome said. "I overhelped, and my girl was the one that drove.

"I told her (Newsome), 'I'm so glad you pulled it off.'"

There were a total of 77 fouls called between the two squads, mainly due to new rule changes implemented this season by the NCAA.

Head coach Kevin McMillan said the new rules changes can help his squad as long as the calls are consistent.

"It is if they are going to call it with our two guards because you can't keep them in front of you," McMillan said. "In our three games it's been called three different ways.

"You can see they are trying to do it the same, but it's not there yet."

McMillan said the difference in Saturday night's performance and the first two games was the effort his team put forward over Quinnipiac and considers the win the biggest during his time at UT Martin.

"That is the biggest win that we've had since I have been here," McMillan said. "Quinnipiac last year was an RPI 38. That's going to end up being a huge win at the end of the season.

"They were 30-2 last year and only lost one player."

Newsome finished the game with a career-high 44 points, and in doing so became the second player in UT Martin basketball history to score over 2,000 points. The only other player, both men and women, is Newsome's teammate Butler.

Newsome's 44 was also a program-best as well.

"It's a great accomplishment because I worked so hard for it," Newsome said. "At the same time, during the season, I just have to stay focused on my team winning more than individual stuff.

"I can worry about the individual stuff after the season."

Josh Lemons, 425-9636

See UTM, Page D5
Dyer County Healthier Beginnings family support worker Jenny Pate Hollingsworth is accepting referrals of pregnant women under the age of 20 for the Healthier Beginnings program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Mothers over 20 years of age with multiple children or other at-risk factors may also qualify if their youngest child is less than 3 months old.

The program is beginning an accreditation program with Healthy Families of America.

Michelle Merwin, professor of psychology in the Department of Behavior Sciences at the University of Tennessee Martin was named the fall semester Feature Faculty Scholar. Merwin has many publications and presentations to her credit. She is active in research, grants and faculty/teaching development activities, university and community service, as well as professional societies. Accepting the award with Merwin are, from left to right, Mark Kelley, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences; Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs; Merwin; and Cynthia West, professor and chairwoman of the department for behavior sciences. SUBMITTED PHOTO
Garen Shrader gestures toward one of his paintings Monday during a reception kicking off his ‘Epic American Paintings’ show at the University of Tennessee Martin Jackson Center, at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass. The show runs through Dec. 18. TIMOTHY SIMPSON/THE JACKSON SUN
‘Epic American Paintings’

ON THE WEB
Visit jacksonsun.com to see more photos from the show's opening art reception.

Artist Garen Shrader's work is on display in the 'Epic American Paintings' show at the University of Tennessee Martin Jackson Center, at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass. TIMOTHY SIMPSON/THE JACKSON SUN

A woman looks at paintings Monday during a reception kicking off Garen Shrader's 'Epic American Paintings' show at the University of Tennessee Martin Jackson Center. TIMOTHY SIMPSON/THE JACKSON SUN

Dec. 6 at UT Martin, according to a news release.

The show features seven teaching artist-professors from the Visual and Theatre Arts Department who also exhibit their art nationally and abroad, according to a news release. Artists include Carol Eckert, Grace Eckert, Sarah Haig, Lane Last, David McBeth, Diane Shaw and Jason Stout.

The exhibition is in the first-floor main lobby of the new Fine Arts Building Gallery, at 16 Mt. Pelia Road in Martin. The gallery is open from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, visit www.utm.edu/departments/finearts/

UTM holds faculty art exhibition

“The FAB Seven: Faculty Art Exhibition,” featuring works by University of Tennessee Martin art faculty members, began last week and continues through

A woman looks at paintings Monday during a reception kicking off Garen Shrader's 'Epic American Paintings' show at the University of Tennessee Martin Jackson Center. TIMOTHY SIMPSON/THE JACKSON SUN

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TIMOTHY SIMPSON/THE JACKSON SUN

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For more information, visit www.utm.edu/departments/finearts/
Empty Bowls soup supper set for Saturday

By STANTON WATSON
Special to The Press

Christmas lists, Thanksgiving menus and festive decorations may be on the forefront of many minds this time of the year, but the true spirit of the holiday season is not lost on the campus of UT Martin.

The month of November brings the 10th anniversary of the annual Empty Bowls soup supper, and this year’s event holds special meaning for those who have been involved every step of the way.

Every fall semester, UTM art professor David McBeth and many of his students spend countless hours of work crafting pottery bowls to be sold at the event. McBeth and his students put special effort and attention into their creations, adding a piece of their own artistic identities into every unique bowl to ensure one is never quite the same as another.

Traditionally held at the facilities of the soup supper’s main sponsor, the Wesley Foundation at UTM, Empty Bowls is being relocated to the patio of the newly-renovated Fine Arts building on campus.

The move is meant to honor McBeth, who originally brought the idea for the supper to the Martin community after hearing about the movement from some artisan friends in 2003. Relocating the fundraiser to the ceramics studio will allow patrons to see firsthand where and how McBeth and his students crafted the thousands of bowls they have donated over the years.

When asked what the relocation of the event would mean for the campus ministry, Wesley Foundation director Becca Alexander asserted that the priority has always been helping others, not simply attracting numbers.

“It’s about feeding hungry people and doing what’s best for the mission that is Empty Bowls,” Alexander said. “We want the event to be as big as it can get so we can help as many people as possible. Relocating will give us a chance to maximize on the crowd before the game and be more accessible to a larger number of people.”

Holding Empty Bowls at a larger venue will be a welcome change as the popularity and attendance of the event has seen huge jumps every year for a decade.

“The event has outgrown the Wesley building and the move will allow people to see the passion of students as they make their bowls in a really nice space,” Alexander said. “It is also a chance for UT Martin students to see that people in our community care about their neighbors and that we can still care for and support each other through tough times.”

In addition to the donated bowls, many local churches and several members of the community contribute to Empty Bowls by providing a wide variety of soups for patrons to enjoy. This year, local businesses

SEE BOWLS, PAGE 5
BOWLS
FROM PAGE 1

Monograms and More, E.W. James supermarket and The Hearth restaurant have enlisted themselves as sponsors for the event as well. Empty Bowls will take place as a luncheon on Saturday from 11:30-1:30 on the Fine Arts patio before the Skyhawk football team faces off against the Eastern Illinois Panthers. In the case of poor weather conditions, the meal will be held indoors in the ceramics studio.

For a $10 donation, visitors to the event will receive a pottery bowl of their choice, as well as a lunch of soup, crackers and a drink. All proceeds from the bowls and meals sold at Empty Bowls are contributed entirely to the food bank at We Care Ministries in Martin. Shirts commemorating the soup supper’s 10th anniversary will also be available for $10.

The spirit of the season continues to shine through Empty Bowls as students and members of the community truly give of themselves to help others. McBeth, the Wesley Foundation and the rest of the team behind Empty Bowls extend an invitation to the campus community and the Weakley County area to join in the 10th anniversary celebration.

HISTORICAL GOLD MEDAL WINNER TO SPEAK AT UTM

Dr. Mary Jane Warde, a UT Martin alumna will speak at 4 p.m. today (Tuesday) in the Boiling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium, as part of the Tom Elam Lecture Series.

Warde, one of the daughters of former Martin Fire Chief Buster Williams, just received the United Daughters of the Confederacy’s Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal for furthering the preservation of Confederate history through her new book, When the Wolf Came.

Warde, who lives in Stillwater, Okla., earned a Bachelor of Arts at UT Martin in English and history in 1966. She has a master’s degree and a doctorate in history from Oklahoma State.

She was an Indian historian and archivist at the Oklahoma Historical Society for eight years. Her work there included collecting nearly 80 oral histories, mostly from Indian people, and helping design the Indian gallery in the new Oklahoma Museum of History.

To date, Warde has 24 successful National Register nominations and wrote the National Historic Landmark nomination for Honey Springs Battlefield (Oklahoma). She has taught at five universities and currently teaches courses for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Oklahoma State and in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Her third book, When the Wolf Came: The Civil War and Indian Territory, was published by the University of Arkansas Press in November 2013.

Warde’s father, Williams, served more than 66 years as a firefighter and the Martin Fire Department chief.
FEATURED FACULTY SCHOLAR — Dr. Michelle Merwin, professor of psychology in the Department of Behavior Sciences at UT Martin, was named the fall semester Feature Faculty Scholar. Merwin received her B.A. in 1987, from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and her M.A. in 1991, from the University of Colorado. Her Ph.D. was granted in 1997 from Michigan State University. Before coming to UT Martin in 1999, she worked as administrative assistant, cognitive remediation therapist, neuropsychological psychometrician. Merwin has many publications and presentations to her credit. She is active in research, grants and faculty/teaching development activities, university and community service, as well as professional societies. Accepting the award with Merwin are (from left) Mark Kelley, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences; Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs; Merwin; and Cynthia West, professor and chairperson of the department for behavior sciences.
Santa’s village continues good work in 29th year celebration

The legacy of Santa’s Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected and donated to social agencies through its 28 years. Those donations, totaling $1,036,438, have been distributed to area residents who need them.

Santa’s Village will mark its 29th anniversary, Dec. 12-15, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment. To date, 272,431 people have attended Santa’s Village.

The fantasyland provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas. It is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 12-13; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 14; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 15, the event will return to the “Enchanted Forest” theme in scenes depicting the holidays. Also featured will be wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s rides and vendor booths. Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and a petting farm will add to the festivities. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, NWTN Disaster Services, Santa’s Helpers NWTN Healthy Start and the Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, Wednesday, November 20, 2013

UT Martin receives accolades for value, business programs

The University of Tennessee at Martin is listed for the eighth consecutive year among America’s 100 Best College Buys, a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc. UT Martin is among three public Tennessee higher education institutions listed.


“Students at the University of Tennessee at Martin enjoy and benefit from the opportunity to attend one of a very select group of colleges and universities providing quality and affordability in higher education,” said Lewis Lindsey Jr., IRE president.

To be considered for the designation “America’s 100 Best College Buys,” an institution must be an accredited, four-year institution offering bachelor’s degrees. The institution must also offer full residential facilities, including residence halls and dining services.

Additionally, the institution must have had an entering freshman class in fall 2012 with a high school grade point average and/or SAT/ACT score equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen. Also, the out-of-state cost of attendance in 2013-14 for three quarters or two semesters must be below the national average cost of attendance or not exceed the national average cost by more than 10 percent.

“This is one of several national recognitions that UT Martin has received this year recognizing educational value,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

“We strive to offer academic programs that are affordable and also educate students for the competitive job market.”

Robert Franek is senior vice president and publisher of The Princeton Review. “We chose the schools we profile in this book based on our high regard for their academic programs and our reviews of institutional data we collect from the schools,” Franek said in a news release announcing the listing.

UT Martin Employee Awards

Dorothy Gillon (left), coordinator for public occasion at the University of Tennessee at Martin, received the exempt UT Martin Fall 2013 Outstanding Employee Award while Kelli Barnes (right), UT Martin administrative secretary in the Office of Housing, received the non-exempt UT Martin Fall 2013 Outstanding Employee Award. Dr. Tom Rakes (center), UT Martin chancellor, presented both awards. The awards, which recognize outstanding services to the university, are presented each fall and spring semester to two employees.
Mary and Jack Jinks Scholarship Recipient

UT Martin student, Rachel Stegall, from Martin, was awarded the Mary and Jack Jinks Scholarship. The scholarship is made possible by and is named for IPS Vice President of Public Service, Dr. Mary Jinks and her husband, Jack. It is awarded to a student of any UT system employee who is a relative of an IPS employee. Stegall is completing her degree in animal science - veterinary health technology. Stegall is pictured with her mother, Kay (left), and Dr. Mary Jinks (right).

UT Martin student awarded scholarship by Tennessee Council of Cooperatives

(Left to right): Dan Strasser with Tennessee Farm Bureau and representing the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives, Jesi Ogg and Dr. Todd Winters, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at UT Martin.

The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) recently awarded a $750 scholarship to Jesi Ogg of Martin. Ogg is a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin and is the daughter of Sammy and Cheryl Ogg.

Jesi Ogg is a junior working toward a bachelor's degree in agriculture. After graduation, Ogg plans to attend graduate school and work in the agricultural field. She is a member of the UT Martin FFA, Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and the Weakley County Young Farmers and Ranchers. She is currently employed by Mounison in Union City and is also a student worker at UT Martin.

The TCC is a nonprofit organization established to promote the cooperative form of business through education and promotion of all types of cooperatives. TCC has two types of members including "parent cooperatives" and "individual cooperatives."

The scholarship program, started in 1984, is an effort to acknowledge and aid the young people most likely to return to communities served by rural cooperatives. TCC considers the scholarships an investment in the future of cooperatives and their leadership. Several scholarship recipients from the past currently serve in one of Tennessee's cooperatives or in one of the state's agriculture-related agencies, which work with, support and help build cooperative business.

To be considered for the scholarship, the student must be a citizen of Tennessee; enrolled in a college of agriculture; maintain a grade point average of 2.5 out of a possible 4 points; and, if possible, be in his or her junior year of study.

UT Martin Featured Faculty Scholar

Dr. Michelle Merwin, professor of psychology in the Department of Behavior Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin was named the fall semester Feature Faculty Scholar. Merwin received her B.A. in 1987, from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and her M.A. in 1991, from the University of Colorado. Her Ph.D. was granted in 1997, from Michigan State University. Before coming to UT Martin in 1999, she worked as an administrative assistant, cognitive remediation therapist, neuropsychological psychometrician. Merwin has many publications and presentations to her credit. She is active in research, grants and faculty/teaching development activities, university and community service, as well as professional societies. Accepting the award with Merwin are (from left to right) Mark Kelley dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences; Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs; Merwin; and Cynthia West, professor and chairperson of the department for behavior sciences.
University of Tennessee at Martin students are invited to tour China, Kenya, London, Japan, Germany, Paris and other locations with the UTM Travel Study Program.

University professors will lead 16 travel study programs, both foreign and domestic, through December 2014.

“We have several travel study programs, some of them domestic and some of them international, depending on the academic interest of the student,” said Lorrie Jackson, the study travel coordinator for UT Martin.

The first, a trip to Colorado, will be led by Stan Dunagan and Benjamin Hooks, associate geography professors, and Eleanor Gardner, laboratory instructor of geography.

Sandy Mehlhorn, assistant professor of agricultural engineering, will lead a trip to Guatemala in December. There is also a trip scheduled for Paris in March 2014 led by Sue Byrd, professor of textiles, clothing and fashion design merchandising, and David McBeth, professor of visual and theatre arts.

There are several trips scheduled throughout the month of May, including: Germany, led by Kate Stumpo, assistant professor of chemistry, and Margaret Lewis, assistant professor of history; England and Scotland, led by Lionel Crews, associate professor of physics, and Jeff Longacre, assistant professor of English; Germany, led by Charles Hammond, associate professor of German; Washington, D.C., led by Malcolm Koch, lecturer of political science; Brazil, led by Julie Hill, associate professor of music; Atlanta, led by Sarah McCormick, assistant professor of dance; Germany, led by Alice-Catherine Carls, distinguished professor of history; Turkey and Dubai, led by

Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance; and Kenya, led by Darshak Patel, assistant professor of economics, and Sandra Koch, lecturer of political science.

“Many of our students do not have any international experience and we feel our travel study programs, especially our international ones, offer them that opportunity. The hope would be that studying abroad builds on this experience to help them in their career planning and development,” said Malcolm Koch, the executive director for the Center for International Education.

In the summer of 2014, Kyoko Hammon, lecturer of Japanese, will lead a trip to Japan. It will be followed by a trip to Ecuador in August 2014 led by Sue Byrd, professor of fashion and textiles; Craig Darroch, professor of geosciences; and Dawn Wilkins, professor of biology.

Daisy Wang, assistant professor of management, will lead a trip to China in December 2014.

“The things they (the students) learn from different cultures and places are invaluable and it makes them more sought after in the business world,” Ms. Jackson said.

For more information, contact Ms. Jackson at (731) 881-3582 or Mike Sudzum, travel consultant, at 881-3581; or visit the travel study website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/cie/.

PATRIOTIC PROGRAM — A Veterans Day program was held last week at Fulton High School, where members of the University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC presented the colors at the start of the program and retired the colors to end the event.

The program also included the singing of the national anthem, a video tribute to veterans and the POW/MIA Empty Table observance, which honors those who did not return from war.

The FHS program was spearheaded by Mike Thomas, Fulton Independent Schools’ Community Education director.

MOTHER’S DAY — Molly Morel accepted a plaque in memory of her son, the late Capt. Brent L. Morel, during the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Veteran Association’s program which honored veterans last week. All veterans present were recognized, among them members of American Legion Post 69. Ms. Morel’s son was killed April 7, 2004, by hostile fire in Anbar, Iraq.
SPECIAL GUEST — Retired U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Jim Phelps, who served 1972-92, was the guest speaker last week when the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Veteran Association hosted a special program recognizing veterans and honoring Capt. Brent L. Morel. Phelps did three tours in the Vietnam era and the Iraq War. He served on the USS Mississippi, a nuclear fuel-powered guided missile cruiser, and the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. He is a member of the Rolling Thunder and the Patriot Guard Riders. He also served 20 years with the Weakley County Sheriff’s Department.

Debra earned a BS in business administration from the University of Tennessee, Martin. She then began her career as a computer operator for First Citizens Financial Plus before moving to Hilliard Lyons in Dyersburg where she was employed as a registered sales assistant.

Being Series Seven licensed, Debra will serve as a registered sales assistant for Davis Wealth Services. Her responsibilities will include assisting in the implementation and monitoring of financial plans for the clients of Davis Wealth Services as well as a discretionary trading platform using the Raymond James “Analysts Current Favorites” list for equity clients of Davis Wealth Services seeking a fee-based platform using growth stocks.

Chad Davis, CFP®, owner and registered principal of Davis Wealth Services is pleased to announce the addition of Debra McNeely to the Davis Wealth Services team.

“Debra comes to us with 18 years in the financial services industry. She has already made an immediate impact to our capabilities. We are very excited about Debra coming on board,” shared Davis.

McNeely joins staff at Davis Wealth

Debra and her husband, Thomas have made Dyersburg their home where they are raising their two children. Debra is actively involved with the local American Business Women Association chapter and volunteers with March of Dimes and Chimes For Charity.
Artists add color to Safari Park

UT Martin’s League of Striving Artists member Carly Christensen helps paint a mural inside the brown lemur exhibit at Tennessee Safari Park Saturday. KENNETH CUMMINGS/ THE JACKSON SUN

UT Martin’s League of Striving Artists painted a realistic mural for the brown lemur exhibit at Tennessee Safari Park Saturday. KENNETH CUMMINGS/ THE JACKSON SUN

UT Martin’s League of Striving Artists member Haley Davis holds on to a branch for support while standing on a ladder to paint a mural inside the brown lemur exhibit at Tennessee Safari Park Saturday. KENNETH CUMMINGS/ THE JACKSON SUN
MURFREESBORO — Diane Stockard says she's always been in the business of helping people in the career paths she has chosen.

She plans to continue helping others in her new profession as a licensed Realtor.

"I wanted to have another career in which I could make a difference in someone's life and feel rewarded for my hard work in life," said Stockard in a release. "I believe that being a Realtor will help me complete that goal."

Stockard recently joined Crye-Leike's Murfreesboro branch office where she assists buyers and sellers in and around Rutherford and Davidson counties.

"After meeting with several real estate agencies, Crye-Leike felt like the best company to prepare me to be the best Realtor I can be," said Stockard in the release. "While receiving training through Crye-Leike College, I loved learning from experienced brokers and instructors who truly care about seeing their fellow agents succeed."

Stockard specializes in working with residential real estate sales, first-time homebuyers, condominiums and town homes, land and new home construction. She is a member of the Middle Tennessee Association of Realtors, the Tennessee Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors.

Before becoming a Realtor, Stockard held several positions where she enjoyed a rewarding career helping others, officials said. Stockard previously worked as the vice president of operations of the Boys and Girls Club in Memphis and she's also a former branch director of the Boys and Girls Club in Smyrna.

Stockard said she is proud to call Murfreesboro home. She is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University where she also worked as the assistant media athletic director. She is also an alumnus of Motlow State University and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

As the founder of the Cultural Art League of Rutherford County, Stockard enjoys music, art and writing. She also enjoys being an active member in her community where she's a former Symphony board member, Center for the Arts board member, School Safety board member, MTSU Alumni board member and a former member of the Rutherford County Junior League.

Stockard has received several awards for her career achievements including the High Tea Woman Award from United Way of Rutherford County and the Top Non-Profit Leader Award from the National Business Journal.

When Stockard's not busy assisting real estate clients, she enjoys spending time with her family. Stockard is married to Sam Stockard who is a former editor at The Daily News.

http://www.dnj.com/article/20131124/BUSINESS/311240025/
Journal. She is the mother of two children — a daughter who graduated from the University of Tennessee and a son who is a student at MTSU.

Contact Stockard by phone at 615-594-6647 or e-mail her at diane.stockard@crye-leike.com.

Find Stockard on the web at http://dianestockard.crye-leike.com/
**UT Martin student employee honored**

The Fall 2013 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award recently was presented to Terrence L. Bishop, a UT Martin HVAC employee.

Bishop, of Union City, is a Spanish major and has been employed for almost two years, according to a news release. He works in the university's HVAC shop and is responsible for the preventative maintenance night program. His duties include documenting pieces of equipment located in the mechanical room for part numbers and frequency of maintenance.

Bishop shows himself to be a self-starter in the HVAC shop, the release said. During slower work times, Bishop has taken responsibilities of riding with the HVAC workmen and helping in the repair of some mechanical equipment.

The award, given every fall and spring semester, is a memorial for Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who was a strong advocate for student employment. Maloan had a vision that more positions would be developed on campus that would challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university’s mission, the release said.

Recipients of the award exemplify a strong work ethic and commitment to the university, and they receive a $1,000 cash award, an engraved plaque and a nameplate on the perpetual plaque in a place of honor in the Boling University Center.

Contributions to the scholarship award may be made through payroll deduction by employees of UT Martin or by sending a contribution to the Office of Development at UT Martin.

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**Gospel choir set to perform in Martin**

The University of Tennessee Martin's Collegiate Gospel Choir will present its fall concert at 7:30 p.m. today at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, at 120 South St. in Martin.

For more information, call the church at (731) 887-5124.

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**UT Martin student wins award for sports reporting**

MaryLynn Williams, of Franklin, won first place for “Best Sports Reporting” in the radio division at the annual College Broadcasters Inc. awards banquet in San Antonio earlier this month.

Robert Nanney, professor and chairman of the Department of Communications, said in a news release that he is proud of Williams and her effort in the contest.

“I’m elated — but not surprised — that MaryLynn has won this major award,” he said. “It reflects her hard work, news instincts and professionalism. We are proud of MaryLynn and expect great things from her after graduation.”

Williams said the honor came as a surprise to her, but she is proud of her work.

“I was so excited when I got the call from Professor (Richard) Robinson that the interview had won at CBI,” Williams said in the release. “I am so proud of the interview because of who it was with (Pat Head Summitt), and it hadn’t won earlier in the year at other contests; to finally win makes it extra special.”
Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese, will lead a trip to Japan in the summer, followed by a trip to Ecuador in August 2014, led by Sue Byrd, professor of fashion and textiles; Craig Darroch, professor of geosciences; and Dawn Wilkins, professor of biology.

Daisy Wang, assistant professor of management, will lead a trip to China in December 2014.

For more information, contact UT Martin travel coordinator Lorrie Jackson at (731) 881-3582 or travel consultant Mike Sudzum at (731) 881-3581, or visit utm.edu/departments/cie/.

Tennessee Council of Cooperatives awards scholarship

The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives recently awarded a $750 scholarship to Jesi Ogg, of Martin, according to a news release.

Ogg is a student at UT Martin and is the daughter of Sammy and Cheryl Ogg. She is a junior working toward a bachelor's degree in agriculture. After graduation, Ogg plans to attend graduate school and work in the agricultural field.

Ogg is a member of the UT Martin FFA, Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and the Weakley County Young Farmers and Ranchers. She is currently employed by Monsanto in Union City and is also a student worker at UT Martin.

The TCC is a nonprofit organization established to promote the cooperative form of business through education and promotion of all types of cooperatives, the release said. TCC has two types of members—“parent cooperatives” and “individual cooperatives.”

The scholarship program, started in 1984, is an effort to acknowledge and aid the young people most likely to return to communities served by rural cooperatives, according to the release.

To be considered for the scholarship, the student must be a citizen of Tennessee; enrolled in a college of agriculture; maintain a grade point average of 2.5 out of a possible 4 points; and, if possible, be in his or her junior year of study.

Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese, will lead a trip to Japan in the summer, followed by a trip to Ecuador in August 2014, led by Sue Byrd, professor of fashion and textiles; Craig Darroch, professor of geosciences; and Dawn Wilkins, professor of biology.

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Financing seminar offered at REED Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host a seminar titled Financing the SBA Way at 2 p.m. Dec. 3 at the REED Center. The REED Center is located at 406 South Lindell St. in Martin.

The seminar is best suited for those who have good credit, a solid business idea and some money to invest in the business, according to a news release.

The seminar is free, but participants must register in advance. To register, call Landy Fuqua at the REED Center at (731) 587-7333 or email reed@utm.edu, or go online to www.tsbdc.org.

www.chattanoogan.com

UTC Celebrates The AT&T Tennessee Distinguished Scholars Program

Monday, November 25, 2013

Tennessee Senator Bo Watson, Mary Stewart Lewis, regional director, AT&T, and UTC Chancellor Steve Angle

Representatives from The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the City of Chattanooga, the state General Assembly and AT&T gathered to celebrate the 10 AT&T Distinguished Scholars Program at UTC. The University of Tennessee System announced the creation of the AT&T Distinguished Scholars Program.

AT&T contributed $100,000 to UT to create scholarships for academically qualified low-income students attending UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga or UT Martin during the 2013-14 academic year.

The AT&T Distinguished Scholars program will provide $2,000 scholarships to 30 students at UT Knoxville, 10 at UT Chattanooga, and 10 at UT Martin.

AT&T Distinguished Scholarships are available for Tennessee residents who meet the following criteria:

- Family adjusted gross income (AGI) of $40,000 or less
- Are enrolled at one of the UT campuses immediately following graduation from a Tennessee high school.
- Submit Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Eligible AT&T Scholarship recipients were determined based upon admitted students' FAFSA forms (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). After FAFSA review, those eligible for AT&T Scholarships were selected by the Office of Financial Aid at each campus, with all AT&T scholarships approved by the Director of Financial Aid for each campus.

"Opening the doors to higher education for more Tennesseans is one of the central missions of the University of Tennessee," said Dr. Joseph DiPietro, president of the University of Tennessee System. "Thanks to this new scholarship program, up to 50 deserving low-income students will receive financial assistance in getting an outstanding education and preparing for the rigors of the work place. This is good for these students, good for the University and good for the state of Tennessee."

"Public private collaborations like these scholarships greatly enhance our ability to support deserving students at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga," said Dr. Steve Angle, chancellor of The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. "We work very hard to support all of our students and to provide an outstanding college education which is critical as these young people prepare for advanced degrees or the workplace."

State Senator Bo Watson said corporate support for the university will reap benefits for the state and its businesses.

"These scholarships will make a real difference to a great many students across our state and help Tennessee produce the kind of job applicants that retain and attract the best jobs in the country," he said. "I know that companies like AT&T are rapidly deploying new mobile broadband technology, and I want AT&T to be able to find qualified Tennessee graduates to fill any new jobs that their investment and new technology creates."

State Representative Gerald McCormick echoed that statement.

"Supporting education in Tennessee is one of my highest priorities, but I know that state government can't do it alone. Public-private partnerships like the one behind these scholarships help us extend our reach and serve more Tennesseans," he said.

Historically, supporting education has been a major focus for AT&T, and education continues to be a key philanthropy focus for the company. In 2008, AT&T launched AT&T Aspire, specifically focused on confronting the high school dropout crisis to help ensure that student's graduate prepared for the future challenges of continuing education and the workforce. In 2012, AT&T renewed its commitment to Aspire with a $250 million investment planned over five years. In Tennessee, $1,015,422 has been invested through the Aspire program. AT&T has also provided Job Shadow opportunities for 702 students in Tennessee, teaming them up with employees to help them learn the educational background and skills they need to succeed on the job.

"Investing in our communities is part of AT&T's core values," said Joelle Phillips, President of AT&T Tennessee. "I want to thank Senator Bo Watson, Representative Gerald McCormick and the other members of the Tennessee General Assembly who have worked hard to create a welcoming economic environment in Tennessee that helps companies like AT&T invest in our state, create jobs and contribute to worthy endeavors like this."
Milan students attended Future Star Youth Summit

A group of students and teachers from Milan Middle School recently attended the Third Annual Future Star Youth Summit at the University of Tennessee Martin.

They were accompanied by teachers Kenyata Jones and Cindy Taylor.

The event was open to all school systems in Carroll, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Obion and Weakley County.

“The coordinators hope to plant a ‘seed’ in the students that will help them understand the personal value of an education,” said Ms. Taylor, the College Access and Success Counselor at Milan Middle School.

“We want to spark a desire in them to attend college or any postsecondary training.”

DRUM CIRCLE WITH UTM PROFESSOR - Students from Milan Middle School and teacher Cindy Taylor visited the fine arts building on the campus of the University of Tennessee Martin and participated in a drum circle with UTM Music Professor Dr. Julie Hill. Pictured are (from left, front) Shantia McCurrie, Autumn Autry; (Back) Amiya Whiteside, Cindy Taylor, Dr. Julie Hill, Joey Jackson, Kenyata Jones and Jalyn Moore.

FUTURE STARS – Milan students and teachers traveled to the Univ. of Tennessee Martin to participate in the Future Star Youth Summit. Pictured are (from left) Kenyata Jones, Guidance Counselor, Jaylin Moore, Joey Jackson, Autumn Autry, Amiya Whiteside, Shantia McCurrie, and Cindy Taylor, MMS College Access/Success Counselor.
AWARD WINNER — Senior MaryLynn Williams from Franklin won first place for “Best Sports Reporting” in the radio division at the annual College Broadcasters Inc. (CBI) awards banquet in San Antonio, Texas earlier this month.

UTM senior wins first-place for ‘Best Sports Reporting’

Senior MaryLynn Williams from Franklin won first place for “Best Sports Reporting” in the radio division at the annual College Broadcasters Inc. (CBI) awards banquet in San Antonio, Texas earlier this month.

Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chairperson for the Department of Communications, was proud of the senior and her effort in the contest.

“I’m elated,” he said, “but not surprised that MaryLynn (Williams) has won this major award. It reflects her hard work, news instincts and professionalism. We are proud of MaryLynn and expect great things from her after graduation.”

Williams said the honor came as a surprise to her, but she is proud of her work.

“I was so excited when I got the call from Professor (Richard) Robinson that the interview had won at CBI,” Williams said. “I am so proud of the interview because of who it was with (Pat Head Summitt), and it hadn’t won earlier in the year at other contests, to finally win makes it extra special.”

Collegiate Broadcasters, Inc. is one of the two major college broadcast media organizations, the other being the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System, or IBS. Collegiate Broadcasters, Inc. used to be a part of the College Media Advisers organization, and split off a few years back to create its own entity.

UT Martin’s REED Center to host seminar

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s REED (Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development) Center will host a seminar titled “Financing the SBA Way” at 2 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the REED Center, located at 406 South Lindell Street in Martin.

Before you apply for a business loan, first attend a free financing workshop. A SBA (Small Business Administration) representative and a SBA business counselor will answer all of your financing questions and give you advice on what steps to take to achieve your goals of starting or expanding a business.

This seminar is best suited for those who have good credit, a solid business idea and some money to invest in the business.

The seminar is free, but participants must register in advance. To RSVP call Landy Fuqua at the REED Center at (731) 587-7333 or email reed@utm.edu, or online at www.tsbdc.org.
Two students from the University of Tennessee at Martin recently attended the Tennessee Valley Corridor (TVC) 2013 Forensic Symposium on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. The symposium was held as part of the TVC’s Forensic Initiative, a joint venture between the private and government sectors, and higher education to develop the forensics industry and prepare the next generation of forensic practitioners.

The two-day event included a student poster competition, presentations by experts in various areas of forensic science and a luncheon featuring Dr. Bill Bass, professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee and founder of the UT Forensic Anthropology Center, “The Body Farm.”

Caleb Watts of McKenzie and Aubrey Granger of Milan, both criminal justice majors at UT Martin and graduates of the National Forensic Academy (NFA) Collegiate Program presented “Forensic Praxis and CSI’s Next Generation” detailing their NFA experience and how it has increased the value of their degrees. Watts’ and Granger’s presentation was the only undergraduate entry at the event, with all other entries representing graduate-level and international research from individuals at numerous universities, including several Ph.D. holders.

“We are extremely pleased with our students’ ability to compete in these types of events,” said Dr. Brian Donavant, associate professor of criminal justice at UT Martin. “Not only is it a great experience for the students, but it demonstrates their drive to become more competitive as they seek jobs in this growing area of criminal justice.”

Both students graduated from the NFA program earlier this year. The program is a joint venture between UT Martin and the University of Tennessee Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC). The students spent three weeks at the LEIC facility in Oak Ridge in an abbreviated version of the center’s well-known 10-week, in-residence crime scene investigator training. They studied basic crime scene management, shooting scene reconstruction, latent fingerprint processing, bloodstain analysis and forensic anthropology under the same instructors who teach at the 10-week academy.

In just two years, 50 students from UTM and 13 other universities in 10 states have completed the NFA program, and applications are being accepted for 2014. “Our partnership with LEIC enables us to provide an unparalleled practical experience for our students. Aubrey’s and Caleb’s success demonstrates the strength of the UT Martin criminal justice and NFA programs,” said Donavant.

A few degrees of separation from Kennedy’s death
Reflections from a former UT Martin professor

By ROBERT G. COWSER
Special to The Press

Forty-four years after John Kennedy’s assassination is a time for those of us old enough to remember hearing first-hand a report of that event to reflect on its impact on almost every citizen.

Several times during the classes in English composition that I have taught the past few years, I have referred to the assassination. I mention to the students that I saw the President in person approximately 12 hours before he was shot. What amazes the 23-year-olds in my classes is that anyone who was alive when John Kennedy was living is still alive — and even more amazing to them is that that person is standing before them.

A few days after the President announced his plans to visit Texas in late November 1963, my mother, who lived in Saltillo, a small town midway between Texarkana and Dallas, kept a medical appointment in Mt. Vernon, five miles from my parents’ home. While she was waiting to see the doctor, my mother overheard startling remarks by a pharmaceutical representative. He told another salesman in the waiting room that Kennedy had better “watch his back” when he came to Texas later that month. “He’ll get what’s comin’ to him,” the pharmaceutical representative said. My mother was a Democrat and an admirer of Kennedy. Needless to say, she was shocked at what she overheard.

That year was my second year in a doctoral program at Texas Christian University. When Kennedy planned the trip to Texas, he scheduled a stopover in Fort Worth at the Texas Hotel downtown. He and his entourage were scheduled to arrive around 10 p.m. on the night before his scheduled appearance in Dallas.

See Kennedy, Page 11
Kennedy
From Page 1

About 9:30 p.m. a classmate stopped by my apartment. He suggested that we drive downtown to observe the arrival of the president. At first I was hesitant, but my second thought was that I should go. If I saw the famous president in person, I would have an anecdote to tell my future grandchildren. I rode with my classmate to a parking lot near the hotel, where we joined a group of four or five hundred others also waiting to get a glimpse of President and Mrs. Kennedy.

After waiting five or 10 minutes, I saw the couple leave the limousine and walk toward the front entrance of the hotel. At one point, the President left the direct route and walked over to shake hands with a few of the Latinos who had gathered as near the entrance to the hotel as they could. At the time, the event seemed hardly memorable. We were downtown no more than 20 minutes.

About 12:30 p.m. the next day I was walking across the Texas Christian University campus when an undergraduate student carrying a transistor radio called out, "Kennedy's been shot." As one might expect, the class in Old English that I was planning to attend was canceled.

At Thanksgiving when I visited my parents in Saltillo, approximately 100 miles east of Dallas, they told me that Officer Tippitt, the Dallas policeman whom Lee Harvey Oswald shot outside the Texas Theater in Dallas, grew up in Clarksville, about 30 miles from Saltillo.

At the end of the following summer, I left Fort Worth in order to teach in the English Department at Southeastern State College in Durant, Okla. I lived in a second-floor apartment. Beneath me lived a young man who was a medical technician at the local hospital. One evening when I was about to walk up the stairs to my apartment, the technician called out to me. "You'll never believe whose blood I just drew so that it could be tested," he said. "Marina Oswald and the Dallas cop plans to marry drove over from Dallas in order to get tested." The couple took the results of the test to Sherman, Texas, where they were married the following morning.

My neighbor was right. I would never have guessed that the widow of the president's assassin would ever have contact with a hospital technician anywhere in Oklahoma, certainly not one who lived one floor beneath me.

In 1966, I accepted a teaching position in the English Department at Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Conn. One morning shortly after the semester began I went to the snack bar in the Student Center. A group of professors was sitting at a table, one of whom asked me to join them. During our conversation I happened to mention that, though I had been teaching at a college in Oklahoma, Dallas' Love Field was the nearest airport to residents of southeast Oklahoma. I taught at Southeastern State College in Durant, just across the Red River. Before boarding a plane for New York in order to keep a scheduled interview with the Chair of the English Department at Quinnipiac, I had to drive to Love Field. One of the professors said that he did not care to sit any longer with anyone from Dallas. He picked up his coffee cup and walked away. Needless to say, I was shocked by his behavior. Another professor at the table told me that the man who walked away had worshipped John Kennedy.

Numerous reports show that many people over the world blamed Texas, specifically the city of Dallas, for Kennedy's death. John Rosenfield, a columnist for The Dallas News, reported in the Dec. 4 issue of that paper one example. While visiting in New York City, Rosenfield heard a well-dressed young man refer to the Dallas Cowboys as assassins when reporting a score between the Dallas team and the New York Giants. In The Dallas Times Herald for Dec. 4, 1963, Dick Hitt reported that an out-of-state clothing buyer canceled an order previously submitted to a Dallas garment factory. The buyer did not want any Dallas labels on his merchandise.

In 1970, I began teaching in the English Department at The University of Tennessee at Martin. One semester during the 1980s, I taught an extension class in English composition at Henry County High School, about 30 miles from the university campus. The class met once per week. Gerald McElvain, a professor in the Psychology Department, taught a class at Henry County the same evening my class met. We rode together in a car from the university's motor pool. One evening on the way back from class, McElvain mentioned he studied at Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth in the early 1960s. He said he took his two young sons to the Texas Hotel on the evening President Kennedy came. I quickly told him that a classmate and I went to the same spot that evening.

Almost 20 years after I learned that a man who was a stranger at the time had stood a few yards, perhaps even feet, from me on the evening before the assassination, I learned that a person whom I have known since I was a child witnessed the assassination of President Kennedy. Welcome Eugene Barnett, who served for years on the Dallas police force, is the adopted son of my father's first cousin. Barnett graduated from the consolidated high school at Saltillo one year after I did. Just recently I learned that he and two other policemen were assigned duties at the corner of Elm and Houston streets in downtown Dallas on the morning Kennedy's motorcade drove down Elm Street. When I read the transcript of Barnett's testimony before the Warren Commission, I learned that Barnett saw the President collapse after the first shot was fired. He testified that he heard a total of three shots. Both officers ran, as they were ordered to do, to the entrance of the Texas School Book Depository. Barnett said he never saw Oswald or anyone else leave the building.

These incidents, all governed by circumstance, are a reminder history can touch any of us when we least expect it.
MARTIN KIWANIS —
TOP: The Martin Kiwanis Club is happy to welcome two new members to the club: Christie Ricketts of Christie's Photography and Kimberly Williams, assistant professor in educational studies at UT Martin. They are pictured with their sponsors, Clinton Smith and Anita Bell. RIGHT: Thanks to Dr. Jonathan Vest, assistant professor of music at UT Martin, for speaking to the Martin Kiwanis Club on Nov. 20 about the new Elementary School Honor Choir at UTM, as well as getting more music programs in Weakley County. The Martin Kiwanis Club meets Wednesday at Noon at UT Martin. Learn more at martinkiwaniclub.org or check out their Facebook page.
UT Martin clay target team piles up five first-place finishes at SCTRP

The University of Tennessee at Martin Clay Target team dominated the Scholastic Clay Target Regional Program (SCTRP) by finishing first in American Trap, International Trap, American Skeet, Sporting Clays and Doubles Trap recently in Wilmore, Ky.

The university's club team, competing in Division 3, also finished second in Five Stands and was second in High Overall, which is the team's cumulative score in all six events.

Steve Vaughn serves as the team's coach. "This was an accumulated effort by the whole team," he said.

UT Martin has had a clay target team for the past seven years, according to Vaughn. "I thought we should have been in Division 2, but we actually did better in Division 3," he said.

The difference in the two divisions is the number of years a team has competed on the national level. "I thought we have been competing four years on the national level, but it has only been three," he said.

Division 2 is for teams that have been competing on the national level for at least four years, while Division 1 is for teams that receive scholarship support.

D.J. Anderson, club president and a junior agriculture major from Mason, attributes the team's success to countless hours of practice. "We try to practice Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4 p.m. until dark," he said.

"This is the first time our team has won everything," Anderson said. "We have to stay focused."

The clay target team is 52 members strong, but only 12 members participated in the SCTRP. Those team members making the trip to the Bluegrass state included Anderson, Jody Jaco, Mary Jean Hall, Tiffany Bledsoe, Jake McElroy, Bret Williams, Mallory Martin, Ashby Kee, Taylor Martin, Alex Jenner and Brett Cross, the club's vice president.

TOP SHOTS - D.J. Anderson and Brett Cross, the president and vice president of UT Martin's clay target team, show off the medals the team won recently in the Scholastic Clay Target Regional Program in Wilmore, Ky.
UT MARTIN DELEGATION — Members of the UTM delegation meet President Abe Lincoln during a reception of the 44th General Assembly of TISL, the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature. Pictured are (from left) Mark Maloney, Esaias McKinney, Nathan Daniels, Elizabeth Sanders, Ben Allen, Kelley Parks, Mary Jean Hall, Rachel Washburn, Leia Mitchell, Morgan Fitzgerald, Dana Maurizio, Amber Sherman, Bailey Hudlow, William Morris, Dylan Gillespie, John Herron, Mary Irby and Durant Wright.
UT Martin Music Department Scholarship Benefit Concert set for Dec. 2

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music Scholarship Benefit Concert is set for 7:30 p.m. (refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m.), Monday, in the Fine Arts Building’s Harriet Fulton Theater.

The concert will consist of both solos and ensembles by student and faculty performers of the music department. The concert will also feature music from; New Pacer Singers, Wind Ensemble, University Singers, Concert Band, and Jazz Band.

Ticket prices are $15 for adults (ages 12 and up) and $5 for students (ages 6-11). Children 5 and under are free. All proceeds go to benefit music scholarships.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by contacting Sherry Adams in the music department at (731) 881-7402.

STRIVING ARTISTS —
The League of Striving Artists, an art organization on campus at The University of Tennessee at Martin, recently painted this mural at Tennessee Safari Park’s new lemur enclosure. The owner of the park approached Danielle Osborne, the group’s president, and presented the idea to her and she brought it to the group. The artists accepted the challenge and went to work. They decided to paint a landscape of bamboo in front of a majestic mountain and were able to gather about 20 or so volunteers to help over three days. The mural was completed Saturday, and a spokesperson for the League for Striving Artists said everybody was pleased with the result.
Get out for the weekend with local, affordable getaways around Martin

By JOEL SISSMAN
Special to The Press

For those wanting to get out for the weekend outside of UTM, UTM’s Travel Study office offers students several ways to find local trips on a tight budget.

“There are many places of interest within driving distance from Martin that offer cultural, social, family events that are visited by people from all over the world,” said Mike Sudzum the university travel consultant for UTM.

Local getaways for the weekend include trips to cities such as Paducah, Memphis, Nashville and St. Louis. Places of interest around these areas include places of such as Reelfoot Lake, the Memphis Zoo and Beale Street, Shiloh National Park, the St. Louis Arch, and Opryland and the Music Row in Nashville.

UTM travel study coordinator Lorrie Jackson also names some local attractions within a few hours’ driving distance of Martin.

“The Discovery Park in Union City is open now. Reelfoot Lake provides a nice getaway opportunity. It’s rich in local history. Memphis has a variety of iconic internship things to do... It really depends on what your interests are.”

Costs of the tips, however, are largely based on the time it takes to get there along with any other expenses that might occur during the trip such as hotel or rental costs.

“There are free entries to some and minimal charges for admissions to,” Sudzum said. “Hotels and transportation will vary depending on distance and duration of stay. Entertainment and concert ticket costs would depend on what Ticketmaster would charge.”

Free locations that are available to interested students include Reelfoot Lake and St. Louis’ zoo and art museum.

“I’ve personally been to both and find them to be worth the investment of time to go through. The American Indian section of the museum was eye opening for me,” Jackson said.

Sudzum encourages those students who are traveling to some of the bigger tourist cities such as St. Louis or Memphis to simply follow the same rules as they normally follow when going on a trip.

“...Just be diligent about your surroundings and travel in groups of three or more. Generally you will find these areas very populated in any hour of the day/night so use your common judgments when out and about.”

“Whether you’re from West Tennessee or not, the uniqueness of these locations draws in people from all over the world. Having the opportunity to see these is an enriching cultural learning experience,” Jackson said.

Students with any further questions about local weekend trips are asked to contact UTM’s University Travel Consultant Mike Sudzum at 731-881-3581 or via email at msudzum@worldtrav.com.

Joel Sissman is a senior communications: public relations major with a minor in Japanese at UT Martin.

AWARD WINNER

Terrence Bishop (right) received the Fall 2013 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award. Also pictured are (from left) Sharon and Mike Maloan, Beth Maloan’s former husband and his current wife. Bishop, a Spanish major, is an HVAC employee at UT Martin. The award if given every fall and spring semester.
UT Martin and local American FFA Degree recipients

By MARY WORTHAM Special to The Press

Each year, thousands of students across the country are excited to gather for National FFA Convention to receive awards of many types, but none are more excited than the FFA American Degree recipients.

"The journey towards my FFA American degree started before I was in FFA. It started when I watched my brother, Cody Stewart, compete and partake in the Westview High School FFA. This is when I decided that I wanted to put all my heart and dedication into the program," local recipient Seth Pierce said.

"I wanted to accomplish a goal I set for myself, and that goal was to receive the highest degree in FFA, The American Degree. I accomplished that goal this past Saturday in Louisville, Ky., thanks to the encouragement and support of my family, friends, FFA Advisors and God."

There were 3,577 American FFA Degree recipients who were honored during a ceremony at Louisville's Freedom Hall during the eighth general session of the 86th National FFA Convention & Expo on Nov. 2.

The ceremony was broadcasted live on RFD-TV and streamed live online at iHigh.com/FFA.

Out of these vast numbers, 161 recipients were from the state of Tennessee and 24 were UTM students.

"I'm just keeping a family tradition," said Thomas Bell, a sophomore Agriculture major.

Students do not need to be from an agriculture background to receive this degree.

"I didn't grow up on a farm, but joining FFA my freshman year of high school began my love for agriculture. I am a better leader, student and person because of everything FFA has taught me over the past five years. Receiving my American FFA degree is a milestone in my life and a true honor," Whitney Cervantes, a 2013 recipient, said.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to FFA members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their Supervised Agricultural Experiences, or SAEs.

With SAEs, students are encouraged to learn by doing. With help from their agricultural teachers, students develop an SAE project based on one or more SAE categories: Entrepreneurship, Placement, Research and Experimentation and Exploratory.

"The degree is a huge honor. I worked very hard with my horsemanship SAE to earn my American degree," Kelsey Catlett said.

"I zipped up that old blue corduroy jacket that holds so many memories for the last time. I can't thank the FFA organization enough for making me the woman I am today."

FFA was founded by a group of young farmers in 1928. Their mission was to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population. The thought behind it all was to show that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting - it's a science, it's a business and it's an art.

According to the National FFA Organization website, in order to receive the degree, students must complete the following:

- Receive a Greenhand FFA Degree, Chapter FFA Degree and State FFA Degree.
- Have been FFA members for at least three years.
- Have completed at least three years (540 hours) of high school agriculture classes, or 2 years of high school agriculture classes and one year of college agriculture classes (360 hours).
- Have graduated from high school one year prior to the National FFA Convention at which their degree will be awarded.
- Have maintained detailed SAE records, which demonstrate outstanding planning, managerial and financial skills.
- Have earned and productively invested at least $7,500, or have earned and productively invested at least $1,500 and worked 2,250 hours beyond scheduled school hours through their SAEs.
- Have a record of outstanding leadership skills.
- Have a record of participating in community service activities.
- Have maintained a "C" grade average or better.

"It takes a lot of hard work and dedication, but it feels good to walk across stage and receive the golden key," Agriculture Education major, Shelby Gean said.

For many members, it's not only about an agricultural experience, but a social and future oriented one as
Receiving my American FFA Degree was the last step in succeeding my FFA goals. I ’suited up’ for the last time on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013 in Louisville, Ky., with four of my sorority sisters. As my FFA career comes to an end, all the achievements accomplished are my motivation to strive for bigger and better,” Sam Hill said.

"As I was waiting for my name to be called and to walk across stage, I took time to reflect on the many memories and friends I made while I was in FFA. That was one bittersweet moment for me, as I realized that my career as a member is over and my jacket is now retired," said UTM recipient Julie Smith.

"FFA is one of the best youth organizations out there and I would encourage anyone to be involved in it. Thank you, FFA for allowing me to ‘GROW’ as leader, ‘Step Up and Step Out’ of my comfort zone and most importantly ‘Ignite’ my community.”

Mary Wortham is a senior agricultural communications major at UT Martin.
Hillary Watson, originally from Martin, now calls Humboldt home.

She teaches physical science, and chemistry 1 and 2 at Humboldt High School.

Watson graduated from Westview High School in 2007. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from UTM in 2011. Currently she is pursuing a Master’s in Biological Education from Miami University.

Her goals for this school year include to challenge her students every day and to help her kids become better people as well as better students.

When asked about her biggest challenge, Watson replied, “Teaching is a challenging profession by nature. The biggest challenge is not to focus on the negatives and keep your sights on the rewarding parts of the profession.”
Bishop is outstanding UTM student-employee

The Fall 2013 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award recently was presented to Terrence L. Bishop, a UT Martin HVAC employee. Bishop is a Spanish major.

Among his many tasks, Bishop, of Union City, works in the university’s HVAC shop. He is responsible for the preventative maintenance night program. His duties include documenting pieces of equipment located in the mechanical room for part numbers and frequency of maintenance. Bishop also shows himself to be a self-starter in the HVAC shop. During slower work times, Bishop has taken responsibilities of helping in the repair of some mechanical equipment.

“I have had students in our group, but all have fallen short in the ability to understand the technical situations and mechanical complexities associated with equipment documentation and repair,” said David Rinks, HVAC foreman and Bishop’s direct supervisor. “Bishop has not only understood these mechanical systems but has taken on a role as a maintenance helper.”

This award, given every fall and spring semester, is a memorial for Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who, during her years of service, was a strong advocate for student employment. Maloan had a vision that more positions would be developed on campus that would challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university’s mission.

Recipients of this award exemplify a strong work ethic and commitment to the university, and they receive a $1,000 cash award, an engraved plaque and a nameplate on the perpetual plaque in a place of honor in the Boling University Center.

Contributions to this scholarship award may be made through payroll deduction by employees of UT Martin or by sending a contribution to the Office of Development at UT Martin.

REED Center to host seminar

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s REED (Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development) Center will host a seminar titled “Financing the SBA Way” at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 3, at the REED Center, 406 South Lindell Street in Martin.

Before you apply for a business loan, first attend a free financing workshop. A SBA (Small Business Administration) representative and a SBA business counselor will answer all of your financing questions and give you advice on what steps to take to achieve your goals of starting or expanding a business.

This seminar is best suited for those who have good credit, a solid business idea and some money to invest in the business.

The seminar is free, but participants must register in advance. To RSVP call Landy Fuqua at the REED Center at (731) 587-7333 or email reed@utm.edu, or online at www.tsbdc.org.

UT Martin Vanguard Theatre to premier ‘The Little Rose’

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Vanguard Theatre will premiere Sheri Fink’s No. 1 best-selling, award-winning children’s book as a play adapted by Leon Scioscia and Sheri Fink. The Little Rose will debut at 7:00 p.m., December 6 and 7, in the newly renovated Fine Arts Building’s “Little Theatre.” Admission is free. General seating will be available. Seating for performances will begin at 6:30 p.m. Call 731-887-7090 for information.
University of Tennessee at Martin's Clinton Smith Named Kappa Delta Pi Master Teacher of Honor

A former practicing middle and high school educator and behavior intervention specialist, Dr. Clinton Smith believes that educators can be most effective when they are involved in the lives of the students. He is currently assistant professor of special education and the co-advisor for KDP's Alpha Epsilon Epsilon Chapter at The University of Tennessee at Martin.

Indianapolis (PRWEB) November 27, 2013

Dr. Clinton Smith, assistant professor of special education at The University of Tennessee at Martin, is the latest recipient of the Master Teacher of Honor Award from Kappa Delta Pi (KDP), International Honor Society in Education. As only the fourth recipient of the award this year, Smith joins a select group of educators who have been recognized with this honor.

Smith began his teaching career as a high school and middle school educator and behavior intervention specialist. As a special education teacher, he modeled the philosophy that all students can learn. "To me, in the words of Tony Atwood, a student with a disability ‘lives in our world, but in his or her own way,” Smith said. "Sometimes you have to learn their ‘way’ to help them achieve.”

In his extensive research and work as a special education instructor, Smith has studied and implemented the principles of applied behavior analysis to control behavioral issues in the classroom. He seeks to understand the lives of his students and their social environment, which determine their behavior inside of the classroom and out. He believes that educators can be most effective when they are involved in the lives of the students and has acted as educator, disciplinarian, counselor, coach, and father to his students—all in the same day.

"Great teachers change lives by inspiring students to recognize their gifts and to learn how to use them to pursue a worthy dream," said Kappa Delta Pi International President Dr. Mary Clement. "Clinton is one such teacher."

In his current role as assistant professor, Smith has set himself apart as an authority and esteemed researcher in his area of special education. He is also involved with numerous education associations beyond KDP, including serving on the board of directors for the Tennessee Education Association; as secretary of the National Education Association Caucus for Educators of Exceptional Children; and as past-president of the Tennessee Council for Exceptional Children.

Since the award’s establishment in 2011, KDP has named a very select few from around the world as Master Teachers of Honor. To earn this designation, an educator must have more than 15 years of classroom teaching experience, submit evidence of professional development, leadership, community service, and exceptional contributions to the education profession, and demonstrate a commitment to integrity and high standards in the classroom. The award recognizes teachers of all levels, from early childhood instructors to university faculty members. To learn more about the designation, go to http://www.kdp.org/education/teacherofhonor.php.

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About Kappa Delta Pi
Kappa Delta Pi, international Honor Society in Education, is a 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1911 to recognize and promote excellence in education, provide a united voice for significant issues, and link learning communities of educators. Through its programs, services, and strategic partnerships, KDP supports the professional growth and teaching practices of educators throughout all phases and levels of their careers. The organization currently has more than 600 chapters and an active membership that exceeds 40,000 worldwide.
University of Tennessee at Martin's Clinton Smith Named Kappa Delta Pi Master Teacher of Honor

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Carter Arnold and his mother, Amy Arnold of Union City, recently attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Honors Preview Day. Students had the opportunity to tour the UT Martin campus and meet with faculty and staff to learn about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.

John Alex Warner (left) and Cody Robertson, both seniors at Union City High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s recent Honors Preview Day. Students had the opportunity to tour the UT Martin campus and meet with faculty and staff to learn about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.
"The Little Rose' to debut at UTM Vanguard Theatre

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Vanguard Theatre will premiere Sheri Fink's No. 1 best-selling, award-winning children's book as a play adapted by Leon Scioscia and Sheri Fink.

"The Little Rose" will debut at 7 p.m. Dec. 6-7 in the newly-renovated Fine Arts Building's Little Theatre.

Admission is free and general seating will be available.

Seating for performances will begin at 6:30 p.m. Call (731) 887-7090 for information.

"The Little Rose," Ms. Fink's first children's book, enjoys massive popularity because of its heartfelt central message: be yourself, even in the face of bullying. Scioscia and Ms. Fink knew the story was perfect for the stage, so they teamed up to develop, adapt and write the theatrical version of the book.

"I'm so grateful to have worked on this with Leon," Fink said. "Together we were able to translate the universal themes into a memorable stage event. I know that my fans will love 'The Little Rose' play as much as they have loved 'The Little Rose' book."

"Sheri's version of 'The Little Rose' reaches out and touches young and old," Scioscia said. "She has created a timeless story that tugs at the heart and makes you think about right and wrong. I am honored to have had the opportunity to adapt the story, with Sheri, because of its worldwide appeal."

Ms. Fink is an international best-selling, award-winning children's author and international speaker. She created "The Whimsical World of Sheri Fink" children's brand to inspire and delight kids while planting seeds of self-esteem that can have lifelong benefit. Her books include "The Little Rose," "The Little Gnome," "Exploring the Garden with the Little Rose" and "The Little Firefly."

Scioscia has written more than 14 plays, several short stories and poetry. His day job enables him to support his writing desires. He has worked for theatre companies all over the United States.

THE JACKSON SUN • FRIDAY, NOV. 29, 2013

Briefs
Continued from Page B1

at the REED Center, 406 S. Lindell St. in Martin. Before you apply for a business loan, first attend a free financing workshop. A SBA (Small Business Administration) representative and a SBA business counselor will answer all of your financing questions and give you advice on what steps to take to achieve your goals of starting or expanding a business.

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The Thanksgiving that almost didn’t happen

By Arthur W. Hunt III

Editor’s note: Read an unabridged version of this column on jacksunsun.com.

For 65 days the passengers of the Mayflower remained sandwiched between the ship’s upper and lower decks in a space the size of a household basement.

Below them were the provisions they had brought along for the new settlement: Beer, wine, hardtack, dried peas, fishing supplies, muskets, armor, clothing, tools, and trade goods for the Indians.

Above them were the sailors who at every opportunity made it a point to mock the more pious passengers. One sailor said he hoped to cast half of them overboard at journey’s end.

But the English separatists were used to this kind of treatment. The Pilgrims were Calvinists who had left England so they could worship God as they pleased.

Joining the Pilgrims were a group of unsympathetic non-separatists from London. Counting the crew, separatists, and non-separatists, there were a total of 102 travelers.

Those on the Mayflower knew they faced insurmountable odds. If the trip across the Atlantic didn’t kill you, then disease would.

And then there were the Indians. The Pilgrims had read accounts of how the natives delighted in tormenting men; “flaying some alive with the shells of fishes, cutting off the members and joints of others by piecemeal and broiling on the coals.” Despite these kinds of terrors, the Pilgrims still wanted to evangelize them.

The group soon realized the only way to survive was for all parties to work together. Before they reached land they entered into a “civil body politic” to ensure order and preserve the colony. We know the document today as The Mayflower Compact.

On Nov. 9, 1620, after two months at sea, the passengers saw land. Their original destination was the mouth of the Hudson River, but they missed it by 220 miles and ended up at Cape Cod, a peninsula jutting out of present-day Massachusetts.

Cape Cod had been fished by Europeans for years. However, it soon became obvious that its peninsula was inadequate for a permanent settlement. While exploring the cape they got their first glimpse of Indians, who quickly darted back into the woods.

Further exploration revealed a sheltered bay suitable to drop anchor. On shore a scouting party discovered “diverse cornfields and little running brooks,” a place they said, “fit for situation.” Because they were approaching the heart of winter, no effort was made to look for another home. This would become Plymouth Plantation.

Yet something was wrong. The place was eerily vacant. Earlier maps had shown the area inhabited by Indian villages, but none were to be found. Four years prior to the landing of the Mayflower, the native population of New England had been decimated by disease.

The Pilgrims began immediately to build houses for the winter. Each evening at sunset, yelps and cries could be heard from the forest. The Indians were watching.

Soon after, the colonists began to die. Sometimes two and three people would die in a single day during the months of February and March. Three
Pilgrims
Continued from Page B1

families were entirely wiped out. Of the 102 who had crossed the Atlantic, only 50 survived the winter.

Miles Standish was chosen to be the colony’s military leader and began to prepare for the worst. When the natives appeared on a distant hilltop, an alarm would sound, prompting the sick to be pulled from their beds and propped up against trees with muskets in hand.

As the Pilgrims were suffering through the winter, Massasoit, the local chieftain, was planning a slaughter.

Enter Squanto, who had recently been traded back to the tribe after being a slave in Europe. Squanto was more sympathetic toward the English, and therefore told Massasoit that while these newcomers had muskets and cannons, their real weapon was in the wooden barrels taken off the ship. Inside those barrels, Squanto said, was the plague. The Indian chief began to have second thoughts about an invasion.

Massasoit observed these Englishmen to be different from the ones he had encountered in the past. For one thing, they had brought along their women and children. These English meant to stay.

The chieftain sent a representative named Samoset into the camp. When intercepted he exclaimed, “Welcome, Englishmen!”

Soon a peace treaty was agreed upon, whereby the Pilgrims and natives pledged to look after one another. Massasoit allowed Squanto to stay as an interpreter and to show the English how to plant corn. That fall, the settlement harvested corn, squash, beans, barley, and peas.

Every year, numerous migratory birds gathered at Plymouth Harbor. William Bradford, who became the colony’s governor, writes that in just a few hours of fowling enough game was taken to feed the settlement for a whole week. Bradford also notes a “good store of wild turkeys” in the autumn of 1621.

The first Thanksgiving resembled a traditional English harvest festival where the celebrants ate, drank, and played games. There were no white table clothes. Indeed, when Massasoit and a hundred of his tribesmen showed up with five freshly killed deer, most everyone probably had to stand, squat, or sit on the ground.

On the first Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims and Indians sat around fires eating with their hands and knives and drinking newly brewed beer.

The picture is remarkable, considering the way things could have gone.

Arthur W. Hunt III is an associate professor of communications at the University of Tennessee at Martin.