

Addenda

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE **UT**
MARTIN

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWSLETTER

AUG. 17, 2009



Pictured at the ribbon-cutting and grand opening of the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer expansion, from left, are Bill Dillard, owner/manager, Keystone Construction Co. Jackson; Selmer Mayor David Robinson; 71st District State Rep. Vance Dennis; 26th District State Sen. Dolores Gresham; Chancellor Tom Rakes; Center Director Deidra Beene; UT Interim President Jan Simek; McNairy County Mayor Jai Templeton; 82nd District State Rep. Craig Fitzhugh; 73rd District State Rep. Jimmy Eldridge; and Jerry Hartsfield, principal, TLM Associates, Inc., Jackson.

Center expansion marked with ceremony

Community residents and elected officials joined University of Tennessee leadership and others recently celebrated completion of a UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer expansion project. The ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening celebration drew a large crowd to the facility that was originally constructed in 1997. The expansion was funded by a one-time \$500,000 state appropriation in a joint venture with the city of Selmer and McNairy County and each contributing \$60,000.

Dr. Jan Simek, UT interim president, said that “the university and all of its parts is a better university today than it’s ever been.” He later added, “This center represents, I think, the very essence of the statewide mission of the University of Tennessee. It brings together all of our strategic priorities, facilitating especially student access and student success. These are the foremost goals of the university today and provide outreach to all Tennesseans. The outreach here will provide expanded educational opportunities for people in this part of the state.”

Chancellor Rakes thanked all who made the center and the recent expansion possible. “And even in tough times, growth is still available,” he said of the center’s expansion. “It (growth) still happens, and the state finds a way to support what we do.” He added, “The faculty love to be here. They love to be involved with what’s going on here. We have some good full-time folks here as well, and we feel like we’re part of what’s going on in Selmer.”

26th District State Sen. Dolores Gresham said that an
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Summer enrollment increased over 2008

Summer enrollment of 2,166 students increased over 2008, and fall early totals point to continued growing student numbers. Enrollment increased by 5.4 percent compared to summer 2008. The increase includes students who enrolled in “Maymester,” a three-week mini-term offered this year.

Undergraduate students totaled 1,798 compared to 1,714 in summer 2008. Graduate students totaled 368 compared to 342 last summer.

“The 2009 summer enrollment numbers are encouraging,” said Chancellor Rakes. “Once again, our early enrollment numbers for fall 2009 compare positively to the same period last year when a record

fall enrollment was posted. Our faculty and staff continue to provide the personal touch that has become the hallmark of UT Martin.”

So far, students enrolled for fall classes following the fourth and final Summer Orientation and Registration session total 6,355 compared to 5,873, an 8.2 percent increase, for the same point in fall 2008. A record 7,578 students enrolled for fall 2008 classes.

All enrollment numbers are compiled and reported by the university’s Office of Institutional Research.

Registration for fall semester continues with classes set to begin Aug. 31.

Holder on SunGard committee

Larry Holder, Information Technology Services database administrator, recently was appointed to the global SunGard Higher Education (SGHE) Steering Committee for its Community Source Initiative. SGHE is the owner of the Banner student information system software that UT Martin has been using since 1997, and which is now the common software product for all public universities across Tennessee.

Initially announced at the March 2009 Summit in Philadelphia, the steering committee has been pursuing the goal of providing a process for individual universities to submit custom enhancements for inclusion in the baseline Banner product, using Open Source as a model. Open Source enables software design and development to extend beyond the personnel and resources of a particular company such as SGHE, and is responsible for a significant number of software products that people enjoy

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YOUTH

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- **Dr. Glenda Rakes**, professor of education, co-authored a paper with Dr. Karee Dunn of the University of Arkansas and presented at the 117th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association in Toronto, Canada. The paper was titled “Concerning Learner-Centered Education: The Influence of Preservice Teacher Concerns on Their Learner-Centeredness.”

- **Patty Flowers**, senior research associate in the Office of Research, Grants, and Contracts, recently was elected to a two-year term as secretary of the Tennessee Science, Technology,

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Center

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important principle has contributed to the center's success. "Feed them, and they will come," she said. "There is this hunger for education here, and I appreciate the leadership of the University of Tennessee for acknowledging that hunger."

82nd District State Rep. Craig Fitzhugh added, "Education is not a quick fix. It is not something that happens overnight, but it is the only fix. You understand it here, and you've seen by this center, the success of this center over a 10-year period and now the huge expansion, that people in this city and this county know what education's all about."

73rd District State Rep. Jimmy Eldridge noted, "Education is not a quick fix. It is not something that happens overnight, but it is the only fix. You understand it here, and you've seen by this center, the success of this center over a 10-year period and now the huge expansion, that people in this city and this county know what education's all about."

Referring to the center expansion, and thanking the University of Tennessee for the expansion, he said, "It's going to be great for not only McNairy County, but all of West Tennessee. ..."

Beginning this fall, the 4,330-square-foot expansion will provide four additional classrooms and office space. The center, located at 1269 Tennessee Ave., Selmer, originally opened in 1998 as the first of four UT Martin extended-campus sites. McNairy County Mayor Jai Templeton also thanked all who made the center possible and noted the cooperation among elected officials. He also acknowledged the students who take advantage of the center's opportunities. "... This is a wonderful place for a fresh start and a new beginning, right here in McNairy County, Tennessee, and in Selmer, and I'm grateful to them." Along with the area's work force, he described the center as "the crown jewel" of what the county offers to the area and region.

Those attending were invited to tour the expanded facility, which also includes additional classroom space, art studio, conference room, computer lab, student lounge, science lab, administrative

offices, library and distance-learning classroom.

Selmer Mayor David Robinson thanked former 71st District State Rep. Randy Rinks and former Lt. Gov. John Wilder for their efforts in securing the \$500,000 grant from the state of Tennessee for the addition. He also thanked UT Martin faculty and staff for their role in the center's success. "And I hope this is the very first of many expansions to come," he said.

Deidra Beene, center director, also thanked the center's supporters, donors and the Higher Education Committee and said, "I also want to tell you that the reason I come here every day is because people's lives are changed for the better here at this center." She told of an education graduate from the center who recently was hired as a teacher. "He is now Mr. (Jonathan) Hooper to 90 fifth graders at Bemis Intermediate School. This is why I come to work every day - to witness successes like the one I just related to you."

In 1997, UT Martin and local officials approved an agreement for the university to manage a new McNairy County Center of Higher Education that was constructed with local funds. UT Martin agreed to certain financial commitments, including funding for a one quarter-time coordinator, some operating funds and university assistance in raising private monies to fund some equipment purchases.

In 2006, a pavilion was constructed with donor funds and student activity fees, In 2007, a \$75,000 upgrade to the distance-learning room was completed, and a digital sign was recently funded by a \$50,000 Tennessee Department of Transportation grant.

For more information about the center and the courses offered, contact Beene at dbeene@utm.edu or call 731-646-1636.

Holder

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today, particularly on the Internet.

In conjunction with the steering committee, the Functional and Technical Review Boards have started to review the 20-plus submissions that focus on the Banner student, financial aid and accounts receivable areas from participating institutions. The intent is to select a few simple modifications for the first release as a means to learn and test the community sourcing process. Holder was simultaneously asked to serve as the lead on the Technical Review Board by Jack Kramer, SGHE vice president, as a result of his many years of active involvement and service in the area of technical support among universities using the Banner software. Holder is internationally recognized for his contributions to the Information Technology community that provides Banner support at hundreds of universities around the world, and is also a key contributor to the ongoing implementation of Banner among the other UT schools in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Memphis.

"It is an honor to be asked to serve on both the steering and technical review committees," said Holder. "The initiative is the culmination of many years of dialog between the user community and SunGard, and I look forward to seeing the first custom enhancements incorporated into the Banner product. It is also an honor to represent the University of Tennessee at Martin, my alma mater, in this manner."

Holder is the son of Dr. Lee Holder, who founded the College of Allied Health at the UT Health Science Center in 1971 under then-chancellor Joe Johnson. He credits his father with fostering the desire to join and serve the UT system, as well as to become involved in global community initiatives within his profession.

Mansfield, instructor of geology, dies on Aug. 7

Gloria Ann Chappell Mansfield, of Martin, died Aug. 7 at her home. Funeral services were Aug. 10 at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church with burial in Cates Cemetery. Murphy Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

She is survived by her husband, Gary Mansfield of Martin; daughter, Kelly Mansfield of Nashville; sons,

Terry Mansfield of Hooper, Utah, and Trevor Mansfield of Nashville; sister, Brenda Chappell Jones of Springfield; and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, L.C. and Sue Chappell.

She was a UT Martin alumnus and an instructor of geology at UT Martin prior to her retirement in January 2009. She was a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Memorials may be sent to the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Building Fund.

YOUTM

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Engineering and Mathematics Education Leadership Council. The Tennessee STEM Education Leadership Council is made up of leaders from higher education and other organizations who are interested and invested in furthering STEM education in Tennessee.

• **Dr. Linghong Li**, assistant professor of physics, recently presented a paper, "Using Interactive Lecture Demonstrations in Electricity and Magnetism," at two different national meetings: American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) and the Sargent Welch (formerly CENCO) physics commercial workshop, "Bringing the Universe into Your Classroom" in Ann Arbor, Mich.

CALENDAR

Aug. 17-23

Wednesday, Aug. 19

- 3 p.m. - Skyhawk soccer vs. Bethel (exhibition)

Sunday, Aug. 23

- 2 p.m. - Skyhawk soccer vs. Rhodes (exhibition)

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