

Addenda

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE 
MARTIN

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWSLETTER

DEC. 7, 2009

Fossil donation comes with visit, explanation by collector

A collection of trilobites recently joined other fossil collections at UT Martin. The collector, George Stone, of Carterville, Ill., delivered to the university a large number of museum-quality trilobites and, while he was on campus, spoke to students in Dr. Michael Gibson's paleontology class. The trilobites will be the focus of a hallway display, with some (on loan from UT Martin) going into Discovery Park in Union City.

Trilobites, similar to today's horseshoe crabs, are part of a fossil group of extinct marine arthropods that form the class Trilobita. Trilobites first appeared in the fossil record during the Early Cambrian period (540 million years ago), thrived throughout the lower Paleozoic era before facing extinction when, during the Devonian, all trilobite orders, with the sole exception of Proetida, died out. Trilobites finally disappeared in a mass extinction at the end of the Permian about 250 million years ago.

The trilobites were collected by Stone and his wife, Janet, at a site in Bowling Green, Mo. The fossils were found in Maquoketa Shale. These trilobites be-

long to the genus *Isotelus*, several species of which are sometimes found in Tennessee. The Stone Trilobites are special because of their unusually good preservation, even after 500 million years. Most of the specimens are complete, meaning the animals did not go through the typical molting stage to shed their shells to grow larger than usually fragments the exoskeleton. Most likely this is due

to rapid burial on the ancient seafloor. The good preservation makes teaching trilobite anatomy and physiology to students much easier. Stone has donated specimens to a number of institutions in multiple states. Retired as president of the Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield) Foundation, he has spent considerable time amassing his collection, beginning in 1983. He is joined frequently on his quests by his wife, who retired as deputy director of health protection for the state of Illinois. In fact, the couple's first date was to fossil hunt.

"It gives you a glimpse of the life of the Ordovician time (second period of the Paleozoic Era, from about 505 to 438 million years ago)," said Stone. "These only lived

about two million years. They lived in a marine environment that is now above water." Mrs. Stone explained the donations to colleges and universities saying, "It is important that they (students) be able to feel them, to touch them, see how they're put together and how they broke apart and know



Students in Dr. Michael Gibson's paleontology class get hands-on experience with trilobites, part of a collection donated by George Stone and his wife, Janet. From left are Gibson, left, Dustin Tucker, Huntingdon senior geology major, and Stone.

that they were real."

"We are honored that he has chosen UT Martin as home to part of this collection," said Gibson. "Dr. Stone's collection joins other significant fossil collection donations to the university, including the Witherspoon Collection, Vanderbilt Collection and Hammons Collection." For more information contact Gibson at ext. 7435.

Y O U T M

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• **Dr. Brian Donavant**, assistant professor of criminal justice, has been selected to co-chair the Research and Theory Special Interest Group of the Commission of Professors of Adult Education (CPAE) within the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE). The purpose of the Research and Theory Group is to promote critical discourse about a range of research-related issues within the field of adult education, especially those with interesting theoretical implications or that have used innovative research methodologies. Donavant's duties will include proposal review and the selection of topics for presentation at next year's AAACE National Conference in Clearwater, Fla.

Band lauded for state event performance

The Skyhawk marching band served as a musical ambassador for UT Martin as it performed at the Tennessee Division I and Division II State Marching Band Championships in Nashville and Murfreesboro. More than 5,000 enthusiastic high school students and their families responded with standing ovations as the UT Martin band performed its 2009 production of "Shake." Charley Deal, UT Martin's assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations, received the following message regarding the band, "Well I have just seen one of the best band performances. UTM just performed at the invitational in Thompson Station, and boy did they make this alumni proud. My compliments!"

The band is under the direction of Dr. Nola Jones. In addition to performing at UT Martin football games, the band performs exhibitions at area events to assist in recruiting students and fostering alumni relations for the university.

Weather-related Closings

During periods of inclement weather, please refer to the UT Martin homepage news headlines and the portal for current university weather-related closing information.



West Tennessee Baja's entry in the Tecate SCORE Baja 1000 approaches the starting line Nov. 19 in Ensenada, Mexico, for the team's first-ever professional off-road race. The car was one of 22 entries in the class. Team leader and driver Dr. Bob LeMaster described the race as "a good experience" and is optimistic about future races.

First race 'a good experience' for Baja team

The West Tennessee Baja racing team didn't finish what they started Nov. 19 at the Tecate SCORE Baja 1000, a 24-hour off-road race in Ensenada, Mexico. Although the team's car was unable to complete its inaugural race, engineering professor Bob LeMaster described the competition as "a good experience" while he looks ahead to future races.

LeMaster led the 12-member West Tennessee Baja team to build a Class I desert racecar to compete in the Baja SAE Series. The 4,000-pound, 650-horsepower vehicle was built to compete in rugged off-road terrain. He became interested in building the car through the university's participation in the Little Baja Project. His UT Martin engineering students build a small Baja racecar each year that competes against racing teams from other universities.

Although his West Tennessee Baja team was prepared for adverse racing conditions, "extremely fine" dust proved to be the car's undoing. "Our air filters kept getting clogged, which caused the engine to quit," LeMaster said in a post-race summary. "When the

engine quit, the power steering would go out, and we would lose control for short periods of time.

"We also lost a lot of power because the engine couldn't get enough air. We decided that this was an unsafe condition and packed it in before entering a mountainous region that had 1,500 foot drop-offs along the side of the road." Ironically, LeMaster said that the team had a second filtration system that would have handled the dusty conditions much better, but they chose not to bring it to Ensenada.

LeMaster's original goal was to start and finish this first race (8 of the 22 cars that started the race did not finish), but he's far from discouraged. "Everyone was impressed with our car and were surprised that we designed and built it ourselves," he said. "We made a lot of contacts and now have a better understanding of the environment that we'll be racing in."

More about the November race can be found at <http://www.score-international.com>, while information about West Tennessee Baja can be found at <http://west-tennessee-baja.com>.

Submit upcoming events to Web calendar

The Web Events Calendar, accessible from the home page, is managed by Boling University Center Information Center.

Campus departments/organizations hosting or facilitating events must submit information to the Information Center in order for an event to be posted on the Web calendar. The calendar also is the source of the Addenda calendar content. Use the form, at www.utm.edu/infocenter, or call ext. 7000.

Addendas are archived at

http://www.utm.edu/departments/univrel/addenda/addenda_archives.php

CALENDAR

Dec. 7-13

Monday, Dec. 7

- 5 p.m. - Visual and Theatre Arts Faculty Art Exhibition, Paul Meek Library (Dec. 9-18)

Tuesday, Dec. 8

- 7:30 p.m. - Voice Studio Recital, Trinity Presbyterian Church

Thursday, Dec. 9

- 7 p.m. - Skyhawk women's basketball @ Indiana

- 7:05 p.m. - Skyhawk men's basketball @ Missouri State

- 8 p.m. - Gospel choir concert, Oak Grove Baptist Church

Friday, Dec. 10

- Classes End

Sunday, Dec. 12

- 6 p.m. - Skyhawk men's basketball vs. Central Arkansas, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Santa's Village is scheduled Dec. 10-13

Santa's Village will celebrate its 25th year on Dec. 10-13. The holiday fantasyland, which provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas and benefits local service agencies, is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin. It is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 10-11; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 12; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 13. Admission is a suggested donation of \$5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

'Guide to Speakers, Sources' is updated

Several updated features are available on the Web. At the "Resources" link on the Office of University Relations home page: UT Martin Publications, Printing & Style Manual (updated) and PowerPoint Template Documents. At the Welcome Center link on the university home page: access the UT Martin video and 30-second TV commercial. For details, call the Office of University Relations, ext. 7615.

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- Dr. Jan Simek - Interim President, University of Tennessee System
- Dr. Tom Rakes - Chancellor, University of Tennessee at Martin
- Rita Mitchell - Addenda Editor, University Editor

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