

Addenda

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE 
MARTIN

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWSLETTER

JUNE 29, 2009

YOUTM

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE 
MARTIN

• The Tennessee Department of Health and Human Services recently approved a \$2,000 grant for a proposal through the Reducing Health Disparities in Women program. UT Martin led in the collaborative effort with McCabe United Methodist Church in Martin, Fuller Street Baptist Church in Dresden and Pleasant View Baptist Church in Greenfield, as well as the local chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for a Heart Disease Awareness and Risk Management Health Fair for Women and African Americans at the local churches in June. **Ruby Black**, professor of nursing, served as project director.

• **Dr. Ann Gathers**, assistant professor of biological sciences, and her research student, Jason Greenhagen (UT Martin May 2009 graduate from Dickson) attended the American Psychiatric Association annual conference in San Francisco, Calif., May 17-19, where Greenhagen presented a scientific poster of

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Tuition increases 7 percent, '09-'10

The UT Board of Trustees approved a 7 percent instate tuition increase for students attending the UT Martin effective for the 2009 fall semester. The approval came during the board's annual meeting this week in Knoxville.

Instate tuition and fees, including the new tuition rate, will now cost undergraduate students \$2,885 per semester to attend UT Martin. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is a minimum of 12 hours. Out-of-state undergraduate tuition will increase 7 percent. Total cost will be \$8,578 per semester.

"We have worked carefully to make strategic decisions leading to the 7 percent tuition increase," said Chancellor Rakes. The increase will enable UT Martin to maintain a high level of quality in academic programs and student services while still holding tuition levels below many public and private institutions in the nation."

Tuition for instate graduate students at UT Martin will increase by 7 percent. Total cost for instate graduate students will be \$3,329 per

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Local conditions now available

Students design weather station

Weather. It's probably the most common conversation topic. Regardless of your political philosophy, knowledge of world events, thoughts on food or fashion, you likely have something to contribute when someone mentions "the weather."

Three engineering students have made a conversation about the weather even easier. But that's just the start. More importantly, they've made current local (Martin) weather conditions data available for safety, research, planning and even forecasting - all at the click of a mouse. Previously, weather conditions information reflected online and via the media was derived from weather stations in Jackson, Dyersburg or Paducah.

Kramer Nance, of Martin, Brian Mink, of Memphis, and Luis Herrera, Hendersonville, designed and constructed a wireless weather data collection station and placed it atop the Johnson EPS Building on campus as their capstone design project.

As part of graduation requirements at ABET (Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology)-accredited colleges and universities, students must complete a capstone design project. At UT Martin, that requirement is fulfilled in a yearlong sequence of courses that culminates in the demonstration of the project in the spring.

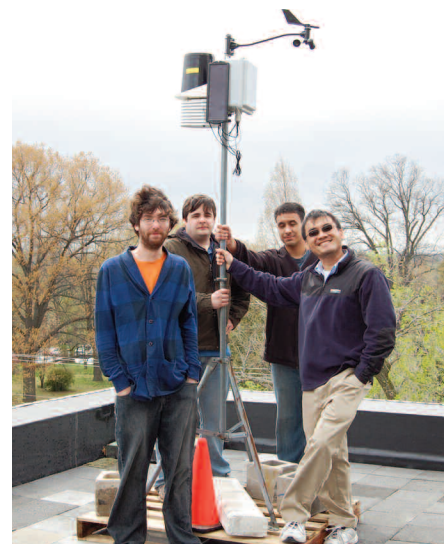
The trio's project, which received William and Roberta Blankenship College of Engineering and Natural Sciences Research Endowment funding, really is just the beginning. Future students can choose to expand on their work and add forecasting and other functions to the wireless data collection functions of the current station.

The weather station's unassuming appearance belies its durability, collection capabilities and the value of the data that is con-

stantly uploaded and available at www.utm.edu/staff/knance or via a mobile application, e.g. iPhone or iPodTouch, with a user-friendly interface.

"It's constantly collecting data and archiving data that can be used by anyone interested," said Nance. "Anyone has access to it." As examples of the varied data use, he explained that Department of Safety and Security can monitor threatening local weather conditions. Professors can use it in ongoing research, and middle and high school students can incorporate it into science projects. Since it's available on the

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Engineering students who designed a weather station on campus are, from left, Kramer Nance, Brian Mink and Luis Herrera. They are pictured with Dr. Somsak Sukittanon, assistant professor of engineering.

Powell semifinalist; Turner receives honor

Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Hannah-Wade Powell, a UT Martin sophomore criminal justice major from Alamo, was among the semifinalists in the 2009 Miss Tennessee Pageant.

The weeklong competition ended Saturday night at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson.

Powell, 20, was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship from the pageant's fund of \$62,000. It was the second time as a semifinalist for Powell, who also received the honor in 2008.

Miss UT Martin, Katelin Turner, 20, a sophomore pre-med student from Union

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Tuition

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semester this fall. Out-of-state graduate tuition will increase 7 percent. Total cost for out-of-state graduate students will be \$9,022 per semester. Full-time graduate enrollment is nine hours per semester.

Other actions involving UT Martin included the following.

- An academic enrichment fee in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources was approved for students taking specific courses. Fee amounts will be \$20 for selected courses.

- The UT Online course fee was increased by \$10 to \$56 to support increasing costs for online courses.

- UT Martin was approved to implement a previously approved \$103 per semester debt service fee beginning this fall to support the new Student Recreation Center.

- Consolidation of six academic areas with existing programs was approved. Included are Geology and Geography merging into the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources; Physics merging into the Department of Chemistry and Physics; Political Science merging into the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science; Computer Science and Information Systems merging into the Department of Management, Marketing, Computer Science, and Information Systems; Psychology merging with Sociology, Criminal Justice and Social Work into the Department of Behavioral Sciences; and Modern Foreign Languages merging into the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

- Discontinuation of the bachelor of science with a major in health sciences in the Department of Biological Sciences, as recommended by the Faculty Senate and campus administration, was approved.

- A capital project was approved to repair wind-damaged Paul Meek Library soffits with funding from capital maintenance savings and insurance proceeds.

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Consultant at REED Center

The Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center offers aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners one-on-one consulting each month. The center also offers approximately 20 small-business seminars each year for little or no cost to assist area business people in a variety of decisions.

The next opportunity to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues from Ron Acree, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant, will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m., July 9.

The REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise. The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell St., Martin, TN 38237. For additional services offered by the REED Center, go to www.utm.edu/reed.

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their recent findings titled "Age-related changes in the visual processing of faces: Potential supportive interventions for persons with dementia."

Powell

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City, tied with Miss City Lights, Kayla Hockett, of Humboldt, for Friday night swimsuit honors. Turner also received one of five non-finalist awards.

July 4th holiday
observed on
Friday, July 3

Weather

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Internet, applications are as endless as the data collected.

"The senior design project was to construct a functioning weather station equipped with a wireless communications system," said Nance. His responsibility was to design the wireless network and the user interface for both the Web and mobile applications. Herrera was responsible for the microprocessor design and Mink, the hardware station design that included the sensors and fabrication.

The group, mentored by Dr. Somsak Sukittanon, UT Martin assistant professor of engineering, and Lee Bennett, Department of Engineering technician, spent the first several months of the project researching the technology and what it would take to design and construct the station. They studied sensors and specifications and protocols they would have to meet to develop an industrial-type weather station.

"You have to follow a lot of wireless networking protocols and specifications for it to work, be expandable and fit in with any sort of hardware that might be used in the future," said Nance.

"It can be put anywhere. It works off a mesh network so you can add other stations. It will automatically pick them up and fit them into the network and send data wirelessly back into this building (EPS)."

The station uploads the data to a database on the Web, and then anyone can access the data

through the Web site. It can be graphed, downloaded and imported into an Excel file. "It can also be accessed through mobile apps with an iPhone. That's what's supposed to be unique about it," said Nance. And, it's the only weather station in the local area. "That was the motivation for doing this - to see actual data from Martin. There was a use for this project."

"We would like to thank the sponsors for the financial support in this research. It is an exciting and rewarding experience for the students to design, build and test the device that can benefit many people in Martin," said Dr. Sukittanon. "This project is also a stepping stone for the research in sensor networks on mobile application."

"This can be the foundation for future projects," said Bennett, "Other students can add more features like weather prediction."

Nance said he was more interested in how to develop a wireless network, collect the data and get it on the Web for people to view and use. "This happened to be weather data. It could have been any type of data." He added, "I didn't know the steps you had to take to get the temperature, wind speed or the pressure from 'the world' and put it on the Internet . . . for people to use." Nance also had to learn several programming languages to complete all the steps.

"That's the main point of the project. You pick something you don't know how to do . . . you figure it out."

CALENDAR

June 29-July 12

Thursday, July 2

- First half of summer courses end (Finals will be given on last scheduled day of class.)

Friday, July 3

- Independence Day Holiday observed

Thursday, July 9

- Each semester, each student must confirm attendance. All classes will be removed from the student's schedule if the student has not submitted a plan to the business office.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

Addenda

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