

Photographs offer birds-eye view at UT Martin Museum

Get a birds-eye view of Northwest Tennessee without ever leaving the ground. A museum exhibit featuring aerial photographs of parks, industries and other points of interest in the area will open at the University Museum Feb. 18.

The exhibit, "Remote Flying Camera Views of UT Martin and Vicinity," runs through March 29. The display will feature remote controlled airplanes and a remote controlled helicopter, as well as the photographs generated by a camera mounted on these miniature aircraft.

The photographs, which will include views of the UT Martin campus, are the work of Lee Bennett, electronic technician for the department of engineering at UT Martin. Lee also assembled and manipulated the aircraft.



Photo by Lee Bennett

An overhead view of the UT Martin campus. Crisp Hall is in the upper left corner.

Bennett said his appreciation for mountain views inspired him to capture aerial perspectives of flat Northwest Tennessee. "There are no mountains around here, so I thought the next best thing was to send a

camera up in a radio controlled airplane and take pictures," he said.

Bennett began taking pictures from an RC Aircraft about two years ago. The airplane has an 8-foot wing span and features a rudder, elevator and throttle control. The camera shutter is controlled from the ground using a remote-control channel. Bennett has also experimented in using radio to transmit live video camera pictures from his remote controlled helicopter.

The UT Martin University Museum, located in the Holland McCombs Center on campus, is under the direction of Dr. S.K. Airee. The museum is open from 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. To set up tours or for more information, contact Airee by phone at extension 7454 or by e-mail at skairee@utm.edu.