The American Meteorology Society (AMS) UTM Chapter had six students participate in the American Meteorological Society’s Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona in January.

Those that went included Chapter President John Reasons, James Dollahite, Lauren Dollahite, Lane Gandy, Zach Hatcher, and Nick Morgan. They were accompanied by their faculty advisor, Dr. Mark Simpson, and Dr. Chris Karosky.

Dr. Karmosky also presented a poster entitled The Need for Recalibration of Coupled Optical/Thermal MODIS Infrared Surface Melt Magnitude Retrieval During the Spatially-Extensive 2012 Greenland Ice Sheet Melt Event. (Authors include Karmosky, C; Lampkin, D.J.; Reusch, D.; and Reasons, J.).

The group traveled through ten states and visited such landmarks as the Grand Canyon, Canyon de Chelly, the Painted Desert, the Petrified Forest, all in Arizona, and Sandia Peak and Roswell in New Mexico.

On the way back, they visited The National Weather Center in Oklahoma City. During their trip, they encountered all manner of meteorological events including heavy rain, sleet, ice, snowfall, bitter cold weather, and 70 degree weather, making the excursion a rolling meteorological, geological, and geographical field trip.
During winter break, ten UT Martin students went on the Guatemala Travel Study and helped impoverished families in the cities of Magdelana Milpas Atlas and Buena Vista.

They worked and stayed with The Steed Family, who operates the 12x12 Love Project, an effort to eradicate desperate and dangerous living conditions in Magdelana and the surrounding villages, while ministering the families in the project on a daily basis.

The students had many projects during the weeklong trip, from painting houses and kitchens to replacing roofs and installing stoves. They even delivered food baskets to five families and toured a coffee plantation. A typical day consisted of waking up and having breakfast, heading out to do work projects, returning to the Stead’s for lunch and a short break, and going back out into the village to finish the projects. In the evening, they would have supper, group time, and head to bed to wake up and begin again the next day.

They also put on a Christmas dinner for the less fortunate children in Guatemala that included a visit from Santa, a clown act and a devotion. Holly Cannady, an HHP major at UTM, says that this was her favorite part about the travel study. Cannady said, “It’s very rewarding to see the smiles on their faces when they receive a full-cooked meal and a present.”

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August and December 2014 Family and Consumer Sciences graduates show their joy.

Five Dietetics students and three faculty attended the national FNCE (Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo) conference in Atlanta in fall 2014.

UTM officials recently congratulated the 2013-14 Dietetics interns who earned the distinction of having a 100 percent pass rate on the Registered Dietitian Examination. Pictured are, from left, Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs; Dr. Sue Byrd, chair, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; interns Emily Turbeville, Chelsea Geutherman, Hannah Christiansen, Kristen Hagarty and Denise Bell. Also pictured is Dr. Todd Winter, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
FCS hosts Nutrition Symposium March 13

The Family and Consumer Sciences Department is hosting The Joe and Pat Johnson Nutrition Symposium. This one-day nutrition seminar will include presentations on up-to-date research findings and information on various topics of interest to the nutrition professional.

The event is approved for 6.0 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours for registered dietitians and dietetic technicians. This six-hour workshop also conforms to guidelines for continuing education units (CEUs). Attendance at the entire workshop carries .6 CEU credits. CEUs and a certificate of completion from The University of Tennessee at Martin will be awarded at the conclusion of the program.

The Symposium will take place on Friday, March 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at The University of Tennessee at Martin in the Boling University Center, Watkins Auditorium. The registration fee is $25 per person, which includes material handouts, refreshment breaks and lunch.

For those serving as UTM DI/DPD Program Preceptor during 2014-2015, the registration fee is $15. The registration deadline is March 6. You can register by phone at 731-881-7082 Extended Campus and Online Studies (ECOS), online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree_registration.php, or in person at 110 Gooch Hall, Martin, TN between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The day will prove to be very informative and educational. The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences encourages those in the nutrition profession to attend.

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This was Cannady’s second time on the travel study. When asked about the experience as a whole, Cannady said, “I’ve always wanted to help others, so the travel study gave me the opportunity to do that. I went for a second time because I enjoyed it so much the first time, and I’m probably going back again in 2015. The greatest challenge during the trip is the language barrier. I don’t speak Spanish fluently and not being able to communicate effectively was hard. The travel study is an eye-opener. It makes you realize that there are a lot of people less fortunate than you. Everyone takes things for granted here, but some Guatemalans may have one change of clothes per week and barely get food. It makes you more appreciative and want to help them more than you actually can.”

The group included ten girls and was led by Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn, Agricultural Engineering Professor. When asked about adjustments that had to be made during the trip, Mehlhorn said, “In Guatemala, you can’t flush the toilet paper because the pipes are too small, so having to put toilet paper in the garbage can is the biggest adjustment. For us, it seems nasty, but it’s perfectly normal for them. Also, when we’re out visiting families, there are no bathrooms. You have to use an outhouse. The whole bathroom situation was an adjustment.”

Mehlhorn started the travel study in January 2013, and this was the third group of students she has taken. Mehlhorn advises students interested in the trip to be thinking about it now. The deposit for the Guatemala Travel Study is due in mid-September, soon after the fall semester begins. Since the travel study began, Mehlhorn and her students have impacted the lives of fifteen families in need. Overall, the Guatemala Travel Study is an educational and life-changing experience for college students.

FCS reaccredited

The UT Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) has been granted reaffirmation of accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

The program first received accreditation in 1973. The department was commended for forward-thinking faculty who engage students in a variety of scholarly and outreach activities and provide quality advisement. The FCS advisory council was also commended for its effectiveness in offering input to maintain quality programs, speaking to classes about their careers and conducting mock interviews to prepare students for entering their careers.

The accreditation process includes bi-yearly reports with a full self-study and site visit for reaffirmation every 10 years.

The next edition of the CAAS newsletter will be distributed in April 2015.