Founded in the 1970’s, UTM’s program is the oldest chartered collegiate FFA in the state. Adviser Dr. Jimmy Butler, professor of Agricultural Education, calls it a continuation of the high school program, but in different aspects. The chapter started with about six members and has since grown to as many as 75.

“The membership numbers are generally about 45, with a handful of students who actively participate. The students are responsible for FFA events we host on campus for the high school chapters throughout the year,” said Butler.

UTM Collegiate FFA hosts various events on campus including the livestock and horse judging CDEs held at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex, also known as the ag pavilion. Members attend National FFA Convention and State FFA Convention to assist and recruit future students. They also host a state officer prep course to help potential state officers prepare to run for office state convention. At the collegiate level, it’s more about giving back to the organization and community service than it is about competing.

However, collegiate members do have the opportunity to test their skills once a year at Tennessee FFA Alumni Convention. Collegiate FFA programs from Tennessee Tech University, Tennessee State University, Middle Tennessee State University, UT Martin and UT Knoxville gather at Montgomery Bell State Park to compete for Top Chapter of the Year. Members participate in public speaking events, mock job interviews, quiz bowl and discussion meet. There is also an award for the chapter that has the best scrapbook.

The chapters have been competing in these events for 11 years, and UTM claimed its ninth win at alumni convention held at Montgomery Bell State Park. With two 3rd place finishes, one 2nd place finish and an impressive seven 1st place finishes, UTM stole the show at the awards banquet held on February 21. The only other school to win Top Chapter of the Year is Tennessee Tech University.

See FFA, page 3
FCS Students participate in Conferences and Visits to Legislators

FCS students went to Nashville during Spring Semester to advocate for issues that affect the quality of life for individuals and families.

Professor Lori Littleton (Assistant Professor Nutrition/Dietetics) and a group of dietetics students attended Hill Day, in Nashville, TN for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Students met with local representatives including legislators and senators about bills concerned with nutrition specifically food deserts in Tennessee.

Dr. Martha Herndon (Professor, Child and Family Studies) took students to Children’s Advocacy Day in Nashville, TN with a focus on issues that affect children and families.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) and provides updates from leaders in state government, legislative updates, inspirational advocacy messages, and opportunities to visit with legislators and network with other professionals.

In early April, Family and Consumer Sciences students Barbara Manning and Mike Davis accompanied Dr. Martha Herndon to the Southern Gerontological Society Annual Conference in Little Rock, AR.

The conference theme was Building a Bridge to the Future: 21st Century Families. They attended conference sessions that included research and practice in the field of gerontology.

Dr. Herndon said, “Meeting professionals from all over the southeastern United States and gaining valuable knowledge which can be put to use in our new gerontology concentration and minor in Family and Consumer Sciences at UT Martin was the highlight of the entire event.”

Family and Consumer Sciences receives accreditation

The UT Martin Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) has completed a successful site visit from professionals representing the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS).

The site team met (April 6-9) with various groups across the UTM campus as well as alumni, advisory council members and professionals who work with students during their field experiences.

The resulting report commended administrators, faculty, students, alumni and advisory council members for the excellence of programs offered by FCS.

The final determination of continued accreditation will be made November 2014 by the Council for Accreditation.
“It is an honor to represent UT Martin in competition. Knowing that my first place finish helped elevate us to the number one chapter is a great feeling. Before I came to here, I was impressed that Martin was unquestionably an elite collegiate FFA chapter, so helping us keep that reputation is one of my proudest moments as a member,” said Stephen McBride, former Tennessee FFA State President and current UTM Collegiate FFA member from Beech Grove.

Under the direction of adviser Dr. Butler, UTM Collegiate FFA has established a tradition of excellence. He came to UTM in 1995 and turned a struggling program into the top collegiate FFA chapter in Tennessee.

“Jimmy has always done a great job and continues to do well. They [the FFA chapter] are always doing something. It really is an outstanding chapter,” said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Professor and Interim Chair of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources. Mehlhorn is quick to mention that students involved in FFA tend to be better public speakers, are more comfortable interacting in the classroom and give a sense of leadership, communication skills and a love for agriculture. He also says that having the top collegiate chapter is a great recruiting tool when looking for future students.

FFA’s motto is “Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.” Members of UTM’s collegiate FFA are truly carrying out the last part of the motto by living to serve. It’s not just about cows, sows, and plows anymore, but rather about thinkers, beakers and speakers.

Regardless of each member’s major or career interest, collegiate FFA members strive to make UTM the best chapter in the state and continue the legacy of success that former members have established.

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences has had a great year recruiting potential UTM students. Beginning in the fall of 2013, students were selected to become FCS Ambassadors. Ambassadors are students who embody the qualities needed to be successful in all fields within the Family and Consumer Sciences degree program. These ambassadors, along with a professor or graduate assistant, go to West Tennessee schools to inform potential students about concentrations within Family and Consumer Sciences as well as career possibilities. We have gone to 10 schools during 2013-14 school year giving presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and college preparatory skills in FACS classes.
AGRICULTURE
Outstanding Freshmen in Agriculture
Tanna Norman
Zachary Whitney
William Dunnivant
Katrina Klaes
Mitchell Arnett
Ashley Tuttle
Travis Pruett
Elaina Henson
Heath Alexander
Sydney Dressler
Kelsey May
Rachael Wolters
Callie Croom
Jordynne Walker

John E. McMahan Horticulture Award
John Brewer
Outstanding Agronomy Student
John Brewer
Outstanding Agricultural Business Student
Jacob Stults
Outstanding Agricultural Communication Students
Jesi Ogg
Syrena Flowers

Outstanding Agricultural Education Student
Emily Keeton
Outstanding Agricultural Science Students
Shawn Butler
Derek Giffin

Outstanding Veterinary Technology Student
Rachel Carter
Outstanding Veterinary Science Students
Kelley Wigington
William Bishop

Outstanding Animal Science Student
Katherine Bivens
Outstanding Plant and Soil Science Student
Colton Jones
Outstanding Pre-Professional Student
Samantha Storey
Outstanding Ag Engineering Technology Student
Caleb Wilson
Future Surveyor Award
Tyler Strait

Outstanding Dual Enrollment Students
Teri Allred
Whitney Wilhite

GEOSCIENCES
Outstanding Freshman in Meteorology
Erik Sitz
W.A. Tarr Award
Brandt Gibson
Geology Student Leadership Award
William Abrams
Geology Student Research Award
Taylor Wilson-Primm
GEOSCIENCES, continued
Geology Student Service Award.................................................................Brandt Gibson
William Abrams
Outstanding Geography Student Service Award.............................................John Reasons
Outstanding Meteorology Student.................................................................William “Billy” Schwind
Awards for Academic Promise in Geology..................................................Matthew Adams
Amelia Coalter
Micki Carlton

NATURAL RESOURCES
Outstanding Freshmen in Natural Resources Management..........................Dalton Smith
Gina Beckman
Leslie Duke Outstanding Junior in Park and Recreation Admin..................Rachel Lewis
Silver Park Outstanding Senior in Park and Recreation Admin................Henry Thompson
Outstanding Soil and Water conservation Student...........................................Kiah Ewer
Outstanding Environmental Management Student....................................Brandon “Cole” Liggett
Outstanding Wildlife and Fisheries Students.............................................David Ferrell
Jessica Cobb
Geology Student Service Award.................................................................Brandt Gibson
William Abrams
Outstanding Geography Student Service Award.........................................John Reasons
Outstanding Meteorology Student.................................................................William “Billy” Schwind
Awards for Academic Promise in Geology..................................................Matthew Adams
Amelia Coalter
Micki Carlton

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
Outstanding Freshmen in Family and Consumer Sciences........................Tabitha Edwards
Megan Crow
Madison Crow
Tierra Williams
Outstanding Undergraduate Student.........................................................Morgan Cogar
Outstanding Graduate Student.................................................................Stephanie Sides
Outstanding Child and Family Studies Student........................................Emily Reese
Outstanding Dietetics Student.................................................................Riley Auvenshine
Outstanding Fashion Merchandising Student............................................Miranda Paschall
Tierra Williams
Outstanding Undergraduate Student.........................................................Morgan Cogar
Outstanding Graduate Student.................................................................Stephanie Sides
Outstanding Child and Family Studies Student........................................Emily Reese
Outstanding Dietetics Student.................................................................Riley Auvenshine
Outstanding Fashion Merchandising Student............................................Miranda Paschall
Outstanding Family and Consumer Sciences Education Student...............Whitney Pope
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES, continued
Outstanding Interior Design Student .......................................................... Budtaka “Bua” Rojanai
Fashion Merchandising Association Outstanding Member Award ..................... Kanara West
American Assoc. of FACS Student Group Senior Award .................................. Darlene Bratcher
American Assoc. of FACS Student Group Outstanding Member Award ................ Amber Woodruff
Student Dietetic Association Award ............................................................... Karly Hines
Outstanding Ambassador Award ................................................................. Andrea “Andi” Lindley

MILITARY SCIENCE AND LEADERSHIP
Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award MS I ...................................... Hunter Herring
Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award MS II ...................................... Lora Cooper
Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award MS III .................................... Paul Jordan
Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award MS IV .................................... Jason Benne
BG G.H. Weems Memorial Scholarship .......................................................... Kelly James
                                      Paul Jordan
                                      Kristen Mitchell
COL Tom Elam Alumni Scholarship ............................................................... Joseph Barber
COL Jerry Bussell ROTC Scholarship ............................................................. Jason Benne