Union City's Veterans Park hosted more than 100 engineering students representing 14 universities from across the Mid-South Friday. Students from as far away as Louisiana State University unloaded their colorful concrete canoes into the pond on the north side of town for a day of canoe sprint races and canoe slalom races. The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted the American Society of Civil Engineers Deep South Conference for the first time this past weekend. Among those navigating around the shores of the pond Friday morning were Andy Odenthal (left photo, back of canoe) and Trey Triplett, both of Mississippi State University. Students competed in concrete canoe events and steel bridge contests.
SCHS student named Beta Scholar

The National Beta Club has announced that Christy Chicas has been named a Beta Scholar, which entitles her to a scholarship award of $1,000.

Chicas, a senior at Station Camp High School, competed against more than 700 candidates nationwide for this honor, and 221 scholarship recipients were chosen.

She plans to attend the University of Tennessee in Martin. She was recommended for this award by the SCHS Beta Club sponsor, Doreen Brown and Principal Art Crook.

"This outstanding young person represents the true spirit of National Beta, having excelled not only academically, but also in leadership and service to her school and community as well," said Ken Cline, executive director of National Beta.

She is the daughter of Carlos Chicas and Sonia Arriaza. Her grandparents are Andres Chicas and Ricardo and Marie Arriaza.

For the Gallatin News Examiner
IN HONOR OF PAUL MEEK LIBRARY — Past presidents and members of Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 127 gathered March 23 for the rededication of the Phi Kappa Phi wall of honor in the Paul Meek Library. On hand for the rededication were (front, from left) Dr. Marvin Downing, Dr. Nell Gullet, Dr. Lonnie Maness, Anna Clark, Dr. Lynn Alexander, Brian Johnson, Jenna Wright, Dr. Ernie Moser, (back) Dr. Otha Britton, Dr. Bob Duck, Dr. Jim Clark, Dr. Jim Byford, Dr. Nick Dunagan (former chancellor), Dr. Jerald Ogg, Dr. Frank Black and Chancellor Tom Rakes.

(Photo submitted)

Phi Kappi Phi rededicates wall

On March 23 a group of past and present presidents of the Phi Kappa Phi honor’s society at the University of Tennessee at Martin gathered to rededicate its tradition of academic excellence on the UT Martin campus.

On the second floor of the Paul Meek library, a series of plaques and honors now hang on one wall dedicated entirely to the UT Martin Phi Kappa Phi chapter.

“The history of Phi Kappa Phi with this chapter, is within each one of us,” said Anna Clark, instructor of English and Phi Kappa Phi nominating committee chair. “I think anyone that’s had any part of academics on this campus understands what this means to us,” said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs.

The National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi was created in 1897 to encourage superior scholarship and integrity in all academic disciplines. Chapter 127 of Phi Kappa Phi at UT Martin received its charter in 1971.

MIT aeronautics professor to speak

Wesley Harris, the Charles Stark Draper professor of aeronautics and astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will present a lecture at 7:30 p.m. today in Watkins Auditorium on the main campus of the University of Tennessee Martin.

Harris is also the associate provost for faculty equity and the director of the Lean Sustainment Initiative at MIT. He served as the associate administrator for aeronautics, responsible for all programs, facilities and personnel in aeronautics at NASA from 1993 to 1995.

He served as vice president and chief administrative officer of the University of Tennessee Space Institute in Tullahoma from 1990 to 1993. Harris has conducted academic research associated with unsteady aero-dynamics, aeroacoustics, rarefied gas dynamics, sustenainment of capital assets, and chaos in sickle cell disease and has made seminal contributions in each of these research fields, according to a news release.

His lecture is co-sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs, the Sigma Xi Research Society, the College of Engineering and National Sciences and the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

The presentation is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 881-7436, or email lcrews@utm.edu.
DANCING FOR A CAUSE

Members of the UT Martin Relay for Life team danced the night away Wednesday to raise money for the upcoming Weakley West Relay for Life event. Brian Johnson and Angie Morrow (right) performed two waltzes that evening. They joined Mandy and Brent Hinson; Laura Brown and Todd Sherman; Michelle and Cam Merwin; and Ann Gathers and John Sallee in a "Dancing with the Stars"-style competition. Audience members paid $1 per vote and chose their favorite celebrity couple. The Merwins took away bragging rights that evening and the event raised $1,509.

To view more photos, visit The Weakley County Press on Facebook.

Photo by Matt Hubbard

TBI Releases Crime on Campus Report

The director of University Relations at UT Martin is happy with the Tennessee Bureau Investigation report and credits the on-campus police for keeping the campus safe.

"Public safety clears a lot of these crimes when they do happen a high percentage, so we feel like that’s a deterrent. If somebody is going to do something that’s against the law here they’ve got a good chance of getting caught," said Bud Grimes.

Grimes said though they do have some crime on campus, it could be a lot more.

WBBJTV West Tennessee's News Channel

To keep the numbers down, they discuss safety practices with incoming students at the beginning of the semester.

"We talk to students continually to keep up with their belongings and that greatly prevents the number of opportunity thefts that we have," said Officer Charlie Jahr.

Over at Union University, the director of security said the report is on par to what they experience.

He said the biggest help they could have in preventing crime on campus is the community.

"If we can educate the community on if they see things that are out of the ordinary or don’t make sense...give us a call," said Union University Director of Security, Carson Hawkins.
Locals receive UTM scholarships

Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Included are:
• Tucker Green, son of Tom and LeAnne Green of Trenton, will be a freshman; he received the UTM McWhorter Scholarship/Workshop;
• Karleigh Richard, daughter of Kenny and Julienne Richard of Humboldt, will be a freshman; she received the Deans Scholarship;
• Anna Santaniello, daughter of Nick and Amy Santaniello of Medina, will be a freshman; she received the UTM McWhorter Scholarship/Workshop;
• Catrina White, daughter of Katrina White of Milan and Tracy White of Bradford, will be a freshman; she received the Leaders-in-Residence Award and the Harold Conner Scholarship;
• Aubrey Walgren, daughter of Craig and DeLynn Walgren of Milan, will be a freshman; she received the UTM McWhorter Scholarship/Workshop.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UTM's Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238. In-state residents phone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.

Reeves named to Who's Who

Jennifer Reeves of Trenton was one of 64 students at the University of Tennessee at Martin to be honored Sunday, February 12, as a new member of Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges. Each student was nominated by a faculty member and had to complete an extensive application process before being selected by a trained committee. Chancellor Tom Rakes personally presented each award.

UTM plans ‘Maymester’

May 14-June 1

“Maymester,” a special three-week mini-term, will be offered in May at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The term will span May 14-June 1.

“Maymester has grown in each of its first three years, so I am expecting another action-packed three weeks for 2012,” said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs. “The deans and I understand the accelerated format is not appropriate for every course, but it works very well for others. We’re excited to offer yet another tool to help our students stay on track to graduate.”

Each in-person class will meet daily (Monday through Friday), and the maximum load will be six semester hours.

Registration for the special term will begin April 2 and end at 5 p.m., April 10. Late registration will be available until 5 p.m., May 15, and fee payments will be due by 5 p.m., May 15. Financial aid will be available to the same extent there is assistance available during the regular summer terms.

The mini-term will be followed by two five-week summer terms, one beginning on June 4 and the second on July 10.

Book loans and housing for the mini-term courses will also be available.

To see a list of Maymester courses, go to:

For more information, contact the Registrar’s Office at 731-881-7050. For housing information, call 731-881-7730.
University of Tennessee at Martin student and South Fulton native Andrew Moore is known throughout the area for his skills on the piano, but now the music and chemistry double major has a prestigious regional award under his belt.

Moore recently won the Beethoven Club’s Young Artist Competition in Memphis.

“I was completely shocked when I logged onto the Beethoven Club’s website to see my name as the winner of the competition. Honestly, I was not even expecting to place because I was so young. I read my name a few times before finally calling one of my friends to log on to the site and verify that I wasn’t just seeing things. It was very exciting,” Moore said.

Open to pianists in Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Missouri and Kentucky ages 21-30, it was only the second competition in which Moore has competed in college, but he will receive a $300 monetary prize at a winner’s concert on March 18 in Memphis.

Moore has been practicing his pieces, “Danzas Argentinas” by Alberto Ginastera and “32 Variations in C minor, WoO 80” by Ludwig van Beethoven, for several months. He also played them for his senior piano recital in October.

“I get more nervous at competitions than I do in recitals because I’m being critiqued to a much higher degree. It also makes me somewhat anxious to listen to the performers ahead of me because it makes me aware of the competition and talent that I’m up against. When it’s my turn to perform, I just try to imagine that I’m in the practice room, playing for myself, to help calm my nerves,” he said.

Moore started piano lessons at the age of six and began studying under Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music at UT Martin, when he was 14.

He went on to attend the school as a student, which recently became an All Steinway campus, as all of its pianos were replaced with Steinway pianos.

Moore is in the University Scholars program at UT Martin and plans to attend medical school.

He received the Harry Neal Memorial Award for Outstanding Piano Major in 2008, 2009 and 2011, as well as the Outstanding Music Student Award in 2011.

He has also been a pianist for First United Methodist Church in Martin since 2008.

His piano accompaniment featured in Dr. Roberto Mancusi’s “Songs of Nature” record will be released by Centaur Records Inc. this year.

UTM plans special 3-week term

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Book loans and housing for the mini-term courses will also be available.

To see a list of Maymester courses, go to: http://www.utm.edu/departments/registrar/documents/Maymester%202012%20Schedule%20Instructions.pdf.

For more information, contact the Registrar’s Office at 731-881-7050. For housing information, call 731-881-7730.
Leadership Conference scheduled

"Challenges and Opportunities" is the theme of the 14th annual African-American Leadership Conference, set for April 19 from 8:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m. at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson. The conference is made possible by the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program, in partnership with AT&T, the City of Brownsville, City of Covington, FirstSouth Bank, Hardin County government, Tennessee Access & Diversity Initiatives, UT Institute for Public Service, Walmart and West Tennessee Healthcare.

The keynote address will be given by Dr. Reginald Coopwood, president and CEO of Regional Medical Center (the Med) in Memphis. Coopwood joined the Med in March 2010 and was previously the chief medical officer at Nashville General Hospital at Meharry and chief executive officer at Metropolitan Nashville Hospital Authority. He has earned numerous honors for his work in healthcare, including being named one of Tennessee's Healthcare Top 25 in 2007 and 2009, Memphis Magazine's Who's Who in 2010 and The Memphis Business Journal's Health Care Hero in Administrative Excellence in 2011.

Registration and a continental breakfast are slated from 8:30-9 a.m. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and Charley Deal, UT Martin WestStar executive director, will speak from 9-9:15, followed by Coopwood from 9:15-9:45. "Gangs & Meth/Drugs: Things You Need to Know" is the topic from 9:45-10:30, presented by Patrick Willis, captain of special operations of the Jackson Police Department, and Barry Michael, deputy chief of the Jackson Police Department.

There will be free blood pressure and heart assessments during a break at 10:30. At 10:45, a human resource directors panel will be moderated by Melissa Cox-Rayner, business development consultant for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m., followed by a presentation at 12:15 p.m. entitled "The Power of Forgiveness" by the Rev. Guy Hendree, pastor of Elcanaan Baptist Church in Whiteville. At 12:45, "Security & Identify Theft: Loans/Special Programs for Small & Minority Businesses" will be presented by Sharron Murden, site manager of CB & S Bank-Bolivar Branch. The final presentation, "Knowing & Understanding Your Numbers," will be presented at 1:15 by Dr. Theresa Woodard from Dowling &Woodard Medical Clinic in Brownsville.

The day will end with award presentations, remarks and door prizes at 1:45.

Email registrations to Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, at vgrimes@utm.edu or fax to (731) 881-7019. Registration also is available at www.utm.edu/weststar. The registration deadline is April 13. The conference fee is $35 per person or $60 for two. Checks should be made payable to WestStar.

The fee includes breakfast and lunch. For more information, contact Ms. Grimes at (731) 881-7298.

ACT prep course offered at UTM in time for next national exam

A high score on the ACT exam could be worth thousands of dollars in scholarships for incoming college students. High school students who wish to improve their scores are encouraged to enroll in an ACT prep course, available through the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. The course will meet from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturdays, April 21-May 19. (The week of May 21 will be an individual meeting with the instructor.)

Participants will use materials developed by Cambridge Educational Services. Students will learn how to complete test problems based on frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test-taking strategies.

Students will take both a pre- and post-test under real testing conditions to determine individual skills and abilities. Each test is scored by Cambridge and students are given assessment reports with which to create a personal study plan.

The registration fee for the course is per person, which includes two textbooks, two official ACT tests and diagnostic reports. The textbooks for this course are the ACT Cambridge textbook and The Big Book of Skills textbook, both 11th editions.
UTM Host Campaign for St. Jude: The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted its first letter-writing campaign for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital this past October and raised $26,468 for the institution. More than 400 students participated in the campaign and collectively mailed more than 4,000 letters. The board of student directors announced the final total on March 29. Pictured from left to right are Lindsey Jackson, volunteer; Amber Thompson, volunteer; Katie Snider, executive chair; Natalie Medling, public relations chair; Valerie Winters, advocacy chair; Judy Rayburn, faculty advisor and director of UT Martin Admissions; Amy Dysinger, executive director; Laura McFall, logistics chair; Neil Allen, morale chair; Tori Taylor, recruitment chair; and Teresa Fowler, fundraising chair.

Local students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Several Dyer County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

• Lane Duncan, son of Tim and LeaAnn Duncan of Dyersburg, will be a freshman. He received the UTM McWhorter Scholarship/Workshop.

• Emily Gorman, daughter of Chris and Sherri Gorman of Trimble, will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.

• Skyler Larkin, grandson of Randy and Sharon Ashley of Dyersburg, will be a freshman. He received the Deans Scholarship.

• Maryanna McClure, daughter of Mickey and Pollyanna McClure of Dyersburg, will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.

• Clay Perkins, son of Paul and Amy Perkins of Dyersburg, will be a freshman. He received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTMI; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.

Barker Takes Home Honorable Mention

Belinda Barker (left), of Dyersburg, was awarded an honorable mention in the short story category at the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages 2011-2012 writing awards ceremony. Barker is a junior studying English. She is pictured with Mrs. Jenna Wright, associate professor and chair of the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.
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Pictured (on the right) from left to right are: Lindsey Jackson, volunteer; Amber Thompson, volunteer; Katie Snider, executive chair; Natalie Medling, public relations chair; Valerie Winters, advocacy chair; Judy Rayburn, faculty advisor and director of UT Martin Admissions; Amy Dysinger, executive director; Laura McFall, logistics chair; Neil Allen, morale chair; Tori Taylor, recruitment chair; and Teresa Fowler, fundraising chair.

Past presidents and members of Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 127, gathered on March 23 for the rededication of the Phi Kappa Phi wall of honor in the Paul Meek Library. Pictured (front row, left to right): Dr. Marvin Downing, Dr. Nell Gullet, Dr. Lonnie Maness, Anna Clark, Dr. Lynn Alexander, Brian Johnson, Jenna Wright, Dr. Ernie Moser; (back row, left to right): Dr. Otha Britton, Dr. Bob Duck, Dr. Jim Clark, Dr. Jim Byford, Dr. Nick Dunagan (former chancellor), Dr. Jerald Ogg, Dr. Frank Black, and Chancellor Tom Rakes.

On Friday, March 23, a group of past and present presidents of the Phi Kappa Phi honor's society at the University of Tennessee at Martin gathered to rededicate its tradition of academic excellence on the UT Martin campus.

On the second floor of the Paul Meek Library a series of plaques and honors now hang on one wall dedicated entirely to the UT Martin Phi Kappa Phi chapter.

"The history of Phi Kappa Phi with this chapter, is within each one of us," said Anna Clark, instructor of English and Phi Kappa Phi nominating committee chair.

"I think anyone that's had any part of academics on this campus understands what this means to us," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs.

The National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi was created in 1897 to encourage superior scholarship and integrity in all academic disciplines. Chapter 127 of Phi Kappa Phi at UT Martin received its charter in 1971.
First computer-based GED taken at UT Martin

On Tuesday, March 28, for the first time in the state of Tennessee the GED(r) test was taken on a computer.

The University of Tennessee at Martin partnered with the GED(r) Testing Service to offer the first test, which provides some benefits for test takers.

"They will receive an instant score at the end of the test, for all parts except the writing. So they will receive an unofficial score at the end of the day and an official score two weeks later," said Sharon Robertson, assistant director of the UT Martin Student Success Center, which has been offering the GED(r) on paper since 1954.

Tennessee is the seventh state to offer computer testing, which gives students more scheduling flexibility, as well as the opportunity for technology minded generations to test on a comfortable format.

"They will have more opportunities at their discretion as to when to take the exam. They can take it on weekends," Robertson said, contrasting the twice-a-month paper exam offerings.

Debi Faucette, senior director of program management with GED(r) testing service, was on hand for the inaugural event.

"In the paper-based world everybody has to start at the same time; they must move in regimented blocks of time. You can't move from one test to the next until the time limit is up or until everybody has finished. The beauty with this is that they can look and they can schedule the test they want to take at the time that fits their schedule. There's no more waiting in a group to move through the testing experience," Faucette said.

Two students were on hand Tuesday taking the computer-based exam, which was encouraged by the Weakley County Center for Adult and Continuing Education (WCCACE).

"We're especially excited to be the first in Tennessee to be testing on the computer," said Mitchell Parham, WCCACE director.

Austin Weldon, of McKenzie, was one of the two first test-takers, and said the computer test process was simple.

"You just have to create a profile online, come in, and everything else is pretty simple," he said.

The first computer-based GED(r) test was taken on Tuesday, March 29, at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Student Success Center. Student Success Center staff and officials from the GED(r) testing service gathered for the inaugural event. Pictured (left to right): Jill Moore, program manager of GED (c) testing service; Sharon Robertson, Student Success Center Assistant Director; Susan Doughty, State Director of GED(c) Testing Service; George Daniel, Student Success Center Director; Suzie Smith, UT Martin Testing Administrative Specialist; Ely Goddard, UT Martin Testing Services Administrator; Celia Johnson, UT Martin Testing Services Administrator; Debi Faucette, Senior Director of Program Management of GED(c) Testing Service; and Mitchell Parham, Weakley County Center for Adult and Continuing Education Director.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, Wednesday, April 4, 2012

UT Martin plans ‘Maymester,’ special three-week mini-term

"Maymester," a special three-week mini-term, will be offered in May at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The term will span May 14-June 1.

"Maymester has grown in each of its first three years, so I am expecting another action-packed three weeks for 2012," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "The deans and I understand the accelerated format is not appropriate for every course, but it works very well for others. We're excited to offer yet another tool to help our students stay on track to graduate."

Each in-person class will meet daily (Monday through Friday) and the maximum load will be six semester hours.

Registration for the special term will begin April 2 and end at 5 p.m., April 10. Late registration will be available until May 15, and fee payments will be due by May 15. Financial aid will be available to the same extent there is assistance available during the regular summer terms.

The mini-term will be followed by two five-week summer terms, one beginning on June 4 and the second on July 10. The Parsons, Ripley and Selmer centers are also planning to offer courses during the "Maymester" in addition to the summer terms.

Book loans and housing for the mini-term courses will also be available.

To see a list of Maymester courses, go to: http://www.utm.edu/departments/registrar/documents/Maymester%202012%20Schedu le%20Instructions.pdf.
The top ten juniors from Gleason High School were invited to an awards banquet hosted by the University of Tennessee Alumni Association on March 12. Representatives from each Weakley County high school were present. Each attendee was honored for his or her academic accomplishments and presented with a certificate. Pictured are (from left to right) Briana Jones, Jaclyn Montgomery, Christine Hill, Will Freeman, Kin Lee and Breanna Martin. Not pictured are Tucker Kail, Conner Nolen, David Perry and Blake Taylor.

The top ten juniors from Dresden High School were invited to an awards banquet hosted by the University of Tennessee Alumni Association on March 12. Representatives from each Weakley County high school were present. Each attendee was honored for his or her academic accomplishments and presented with a certificate. Pictured (from left to right) are: Halston Matheny, Clayton Spann, Clay Palmer, Austin Parsley, Katelin Brown, Devan Raymer and Hunter Cochran. Not pictured are Mallory Hammonds, Taylor McAlpin and Kallie Wales.
The top ten juniors from Westview High School were invited to an awards banquet hosted by the University of Tennessee Alumni Association on March 12. Representatives from each Weakley County high school were present. Each attendee was honored for his or her academic accomplishments and presented with a certificate. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Samantha Dailey, Brooke Baker, Paulina Castro and Yvannah Garcia; (back row, left to right) Georgia Brown, Katelin Luthi, Austin Hazlewood, Beth Ann Ogg, Hailey McGehee and Meagan Prince.

The top ten juniors from Greenfield High School were invited to an awards banquet hosted by the University of Tennessee Alumni Association on March 12. Representatives from each Weakley County high school were present. Each attendee was honored for his or her academic accomplishments and presented with a certificate. Pictured are Austin Stutts (left), Callie Croom (center) and Rachel Roberts (right). Not pictured are Emily Allen, Lauren Coleman, Hunter Crouse, Jessica Doster, Kelly Farley, Andrew Lannom and Anthony Robertson.

Local student wins at University Writing Competition

Misty Dunlap, of Martin, was awarded the first place prize in the poetry, personal essay or creative nonfiction, and scholarly essay categories at the 2011-2012 Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages writing awards ceremony. Dunlap is a graduate student at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Weakley County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

* Abbey McDaniel, daughter of Steve and Daphne McDaniel of Greenfield, will be a freshman. She received the UTM McWhorter Scholarship.

* Kyle Reynolds, son of Joel Reynolds of Sharon and Melissa Reynolds, will be a freshman. He received the Deans Scholarship.

* Michelle Turner, daughter of Katherine Turner of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Cone Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Finanical Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.

Area Collegiate Chemistry Meeting April 14

The 35th annual Area Collegiate Chemistry Meeting, sponsored by area chapters of Student Members of the American Chemical Society, will be held on April 14, at the Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Colleges participating in the meeting are Murray State University, Union University, UT Martin, Christian Brothers University, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center. More than forty student research presentations will be featured at the meeting.

The keynote speaker will be Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Dr. Stanley E. Manahan. Manahan has written books on environmental chemistry and is the author/co-author of about 90 research articles. He received his Artium Baccalaureatus Degree in chemistry from Emporia State University in Kansas in 1960 and his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Kansas in 1965. Since 1968, his primary research and professional activities have been in environmental chemistry, with recent emphasis on hazardous waste treatment. His latest research has involved gasification of wastes and gasification of sewage sludge and crop byproduct biomass for energy production. Additionally, Manahan has lectured on environmental chemistry, hazardous wastes, toxicological chemistry and analytical chemistry across the United States and in several foreign countries.

Student research presentations will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by group pictures at noon. At 12:30 p.m., there will be a banquet followed by the keynote address on “Green Chemistry: Sustainability and the Environmental Chemistry Connection,” by Manahan. The program will end by 3 p.m., and there is no registration fee. The banquet requires reservation and will cost $10. The program can be found at http://www.utm.edu/staff/skairie/accm2012_000.htm.

UTM among safest colleges

The University of Tennessee at Martin is among the safest of the four-year public institutions in Tennessee in the most recent statewide crime statistics released for reported crimes.

According to crime statistics for 2011 released this week by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, UT Martin was the safest in the more serious crimes per 1,000 campus population and second safest in the lesser offenses per 1,000.

In addition, for more serious crimes and lesser offenses that are committed, the UT Martin Department of Public Safety has the best clearance rates for cases solved.

“Campus safety continues to be an important priority for us, so we are pleased to see the results from this report,” UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes said. “We hope the recent replacement of our old campus lighting with brighter lamps, covering more areas of campus, will further increase safety for our students.”

The statistics released also reported UT Martin had the least number of reported offenses among four-year Tennessee Board of Regents and UT institutions.

“The statistics show once again that UT Martin is among the safest universities in the state and also the Southeast,” Scott Robbins, UT Martin director of public safety, said. “The improvements made in video surveillance systems around campus did help with our improved clearance rate numbers, but the main reason for those numbers is the fact that the people that attend and work here at UT Martin have a genuine concern for the welfare of one another and do not hesitate to get involved and sound the alarm when they see suspicious activity.”

During the last decade, the UT Martin crime rate has consistently been lower than the national and statewide averages for college campuses.
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Austin Weldon of McKenzie was one of the two first test-takers, and said the computer test process was simple.

"You just have to create a profile online, come in, and everything else is pretty simple," he said.
WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS HONORED AT UT MARTIN BANQUET – The top 10 juniors from Westview High School were invited to an awards banquet hosted by the University of Tennessee Alumni Association March 12. Representatives from each Weakley County high school were present. Each attendee was honored for his or her academic accomplishments and presented with a certificate. WHS juniors awarded were (front row, from left) Samantha Dailey, Brooke Baker, Paulina Castro and Yvannah Garcia; (back) Georgia Brown, Katelin Luthi, Austin Hazlewood, Beth Ann Ogg, Hailey McGehee and Meagan Prince.

DRESDEN HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS HONORED AT UT MARTIN BANQUET – The top 10 juniors from Dresden High School were invited to an awards banquet hosted by the University of Tennessee Alumni Association March 12. Representatives from each Weakley County high school were present. Each attendee was honored for his or her academic accomplishments and presented with a certificate. Dresden High School juniors awarded were (front left) Halston Matheny, Clayton Spann, Clay Palmer, Austin Parsley, Katelin Brown, Devan Raymer and Hunter Cochran. Not pictured were Mallory Hammonds, Taylor McAlpin and Kallie Wales.
Gleason High School juniors honored at UT Martin banquet

The top 10 juniors from Gleason High School were invited to an awards banquet hosted by the University of Tennessee Alumni Association March 12. Representatives from each Weakley County high school were present. Each attendee was honored for his or her academic accomplishments and presented with a certificate. Gleason High School juniors awarded were (from left) Briana Jones, Jaclyn Montgomery, Christine Hill, Will Freeman, Kin Lee and Breanna Martin. Not pictured were Tucker Kail, Conner Nolen, David Perry and Blake Taylor.

Greenfield High School juniors honored at UT Martin banquet

The top 10 juniors from Greenfield High School were invited to an awards banquet hosted by the University of Tennessee Alumni Association March 12. Representatives from each Weakley County high school were present. Each attendee was honored for his or her academic accomplishments and presented with a certificate. Greenfield High School juniors awarded were Austin Stutts (left), Callie Croom (center) and Rachel Roberts (right). Not pictured were Emily Allen, Lauren Coleman, Hunter Crouse, Jessica Doster, Kelly Farley, Andrew Lan-nom and Anthony Robertson.

Photos submitted
The students said the foundation for recycling is already in place within the community; with a truck, workers and funding, the idea of a curbside pick-up service is within reach.

Thus far, there have been approximately 15-25 hours of volunteer time donated by each student for the curbside pilot project in Scenic Hills. Plans are to be finished with the project April 28.

Each week, the crew will collect paper, plastic, glass, aluminum and steel for the subdivision.

Since the project began, paper pick up has grown from 239 gallons to nearly 479 gallons each week; plastic pick up has grown from 119 gallons to 239 gallons; glass collected averages from 6 to 12 gallons, aluminum collection has grown from 2 gallons to 18 gallons and steel pick up ranges from 4 to 6 gallons.

The group plans to update the board with final numbers once the project is complete.
UTM engineering dept. receives $20,000 grant

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Engineering’s Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners recently awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Engineering over $20,000 for the purchase of laboratory equipment. The funds will be used to purchase equipment for the civil engineering labs, specifically the pavement design, steel design and surveying labs.

“This grant enables our students to have the best possible lab experiences in order to prepare them for entry into today’s competitive job market. We are grateful to the Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners for the lab enhancements made possible by this grant,” said Dr. Ed Wheeler, Department of Engineering chair.

Dr. Rich Helgeson, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, further emphasized the importance of the award.

“An engineering degree program requires a continual infusion of funds to support the acquisition of new equipment to keep us current in technology and to best prepare our graduates for an ever changing professional environment in our state’s economy. The continued financial support from the state licensing board is an important piece of this ongoing process, and is very much appreciated,” he said.

The Bachelor of Science in Engineering program enrolls about 270 students who study a concentration of civil, electrical, industrial, or mechanical engineering. The program emphasizes both theoretical foundations and practical applications through hands-on laboratory experiments, state-of-the art computer software and real-world design projects.

How to do business with the government

Small business owners and employees are invited to attend a seminar hosted by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center, scheduled from 10 a.m.-noon April 17 at the University of Tennessee at Martin REED Center.

The seminar, “Doing Business with the Government—Government Contracting,” will help business owners understand the basics of selling to the government and private industry.

Participants will also gain the technical resources necessary to establish support networks for securing and performing both government and private contracts.

Instructors Saundra Jackson, with the Small Business Association, and Russell Toone, with the University of Tennessee Procurement Technical Assistance Center, will focus on how businesses can prepare for federal government contracting and how to successfully market and build relations with buyers and contracting officers.

This workshop is free and open to the public.

The UT Martin REED Center is located at 406 S. Lindell Street in Martin.

For more information, contact Landy Fuqua at 587-7333 or register online at www.utm.edu/reed.

Peace pole ceremony planned April 10

The Interfaith Student Center at UT Martin will hold a Peace Pole planting ceremony April 10 at 5:30 pm.

A Peace Pole is a handcrafted monument that displays the message and prayer “May Peace Prevail on Earth” on each of its six sides. The message on the Interfaith monument will be repeated in 12 different languages, including English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, Cherokee, Swahili, Hebrew, Korean, Portuguese and Russian.

“Our hope is that the Peace Pole will help to unite all members of our community by calling us all to work and pray for peace,” says Interfaith alumnus April Merritts.

According to the Peace Pole Project, which manufactures the monuments, there are tens of thousands of Peace Poles in 180 countries all over the world dedicated as monuments to peace. They serve as constant reminders for individuals to visualize and pray for world peace.

The Interfaith Student Center is located on the eastern edge of the UTM campus at 312 Lovelace Ave. For more information, contact the Rev. Jolanne Balentine-Downey at 587-2603.

UTM plans tennis fan day

UT Martin will host a UTM Tennis Fan Day Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the UTM Varsity Tennis Courts. Hot dogs will be given away during the event. The community is encouraged to come out and support the Skyhawks.
Collegiate chemistry meeting planned

The 35th annual Area Collegiate Chemistry Meeting, sponsored by area chapters of Student Members of the American Chemical Society, will be held April 14 at the Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Colleges participating in the meeting are Murray State University, Union University, UT Martin, Christian Brothers University, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center. More than 40 student research presentations will be featured at the meeting.

The keynote speaker will be professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Dr. Stanley E. Manahan. Manahan has written books on environmental chemistry and is the author/co-author of about 90 research articles. He received his Artium Baccalaureatus Degree in chemistry from Emporia State University in Kansas in 1960 and his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Kansas in 1965. Since 1968, his primary research and professional activities have been in environmental chemistry, with recent emphasis on hazardous waste treatment.

His latest research has involved gasification of wastes and gasification of sewage sludge and crop by-product biomass for energy production. Additionally, Manahan has lectured on environmental chemistry, hazardous wastes, toxicological chemistry and analytical chemistry across the United States and in several foreign countries.

Student research presentations will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by group pictures at noon. At 12:30 p.m. there will be a banquet, followed by the keynote address on "Green Chemistry: Sustainability and the Environmental Chemistry Connection," by Manahan.

The program will end by 3 p.m., and there is no registration fee. The banquet requires reservation and will cost $10. The program can be found at http://www.utm.edu/staff/skairc/accm2012_000.htm. For more information, contact Dr. S.K. Airee, professor of chemistry, at 881-7454 or SAACS@utm.edu.

AgStar Program graduation held in Jackson

Joseph Townsend was honored March 12 for completing the AgStar program. AgStar is a leadership program designed for current and future agricultural leaders. The program included six sessions in which the participants covered subjects such as lobbying, media communication skills, issues facing agriculture and involvement in local government. One session included a two-day trip to the State Legislature in Nashville.

Townsend received a graduation plaque from Joe McKinnon, TN Farm Bureau, and Tim Burcham, Interim Chair for School of Agriculture at UT Martin. Dr. Burcham spoke to the graduates about the importance of agriculture to the world's future during the March 12 graduation banquet held in Jackson.

The Mission of AgStar is to empower agricultural producers and agri-business people with the leadership, technological, communication and policy skills to advance the agricultural industry and promote the quality of rural life. AgStar is open to anyone interested in the field of agriculture in the West Tennessee area, and is sponsored primarily by the West Tennessee Leadership Development Corporation. Other sponsors include Tennessee Farm Bureau, Tennessee Farmers Co-op, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Farm Services Agency and UT Extension Service.
Early retirement was a difficult choice

Happy Easter, West Tennessee, and best wishes for a relaxing day.

If you celebrate the resurrection of Christ, there's nothing like the warmth you feel on this special day. It is a time for reflection, thanksgiving and renewal.

And this year, it is a time of farewell for me.

After 37 years and nine months at The Jackson Sun, I have accepted a buyout for early retirement from Gannett, our parent company. My last day is Friday.

This was among the most difficult decisions of my life. Sharing time with you each week is a true joy, and I have cherished each opportunity.

You have honored me by reading my columns, often responding with a letter, phone call or e-mail. Allowing me to share your stories with our readers has been a privilege not taken lightly, and I am sincerely grateful.

Who knows? After one year, the buyout agreement says I might be allowed to resume writing for The Sun on a freelance basis. So perhaps this is a temporary exit.

For my last two columns today and next Sunday, I decided to reflect back on a journalism career that began in September 1968, the start of my junior year in high school. I served two years as sports editor for "Cub Scripts," the campus paper for the Cheatham County Central High School Cubs in Ashland City.

Each story I wrote began with the same four words: The Cheatham County Cubs...

It was a brilliant start.

Along I thought I would become a football and baseball coach. At my Eagle Scout banquet, that's what I said I intended to pursue.

I reconsidered after graduation, reasoning that football coaches get fired if they don't have the personnel to win games. I decided the next best thing was to write about football coaches being fired and sports in general.

That decision wasn't finalized until I went to the University of Tennessee Martin. The folks there asked me to declare a major. I had no clue. But I recognized the word "journalism" on the list, so I checked it.

That set me on the path for a bachelor's degree in communications. My senior year at UT Martin I wrote sports and took photos for the campus paper. Most of my stories began with "The UTM Pacers..." But I dared to try a different approach in a few articles, and those glowing clips caught the eye of Reid Ashe, managing editor of The Jackson Sun at the time.

Actually, Reid needed a sports writer who would work long hours for little pay. He saw on my application that I was willing to start work for $130 a week, the same as I was earning in summer construc-

Morris

Continued from Page B1

tion jobs.

So he offered me a position, and I began work at The Sun on July 17, 1974. I truly expected to be gone by 1976. Two things kept me here.

In my first year I was covering professional and college sports, just like the big-city writers. I reasoned that I would never get an opportunity like that at the metro papers during my early years as a journalist. So I did not pursue other jobs.

Then along came Lisa DePriest, a star basketball player who was born and raised in Jackson. She showed up at my door the Christmas of 1977 with a gift of made-from-scratch chocolate chip cookies. I was hooked.

We married on June 12, 1982, and Jackson became my permanent home. Our children — A.J., 25, and Becca, 23 — grew up here, and it's been a wonderful life.

Next week we will recall some of the highlights of my career at The Sun, which included 30 years in the sports department, Old Fearless and the Tennessee Volunteers.

Until then, here's hoping you have a blessed day this Easter — one that produces many special memories. I have lots of them, especially those Easter mornings when we were kids, rushing to see what the Easter bunny left in our baskets. There was always a chocolate rabbit, candy eggs and other goodies guaranteed to rot our teeth. Man, it was great.

After church, the whole Hudgens clan, 25 or more, gathered at my grandmother's, across the street from our house, for an incredible meal and fellowship. It was tons of fun, and we miss those good times.

On Easter Sunday of 2006, we buried our Dad. And this is my first Easter without Mama, who died March 3.

So it's an emotional day for me, considering Mom, the job and all. But it's going to turn out fine because I have a peace that passes all understanding — the peace that comes through the message of Easter.

Dan Morris is The Jackson Sun's public service editor. He can be reached at 425-9756 or (800) 372-3922, ext. 259756 or by e-mail at danmorris88@charter.net.
Students unearth dinosaur
By Casey Curlin, Special to My Life
Posted April 8, 2012 at midnight

Far from the green wooded landscape of West Tennessee, 11 college geology students stared across a seemingly infinite expanse of plateau dotted with short spurts of grass. They were some of the same students who had worked at Coon Creek, an paleontological dig site in McNairy County owned by the Memphis Pink Palace Family of Museums.

It was May 2011 when the geology students from the University of Tennessee at Martin arrived at the Dighton, Kan., farmland, this time they were joined by two faculty members.

It was hot as they assessed the dry crumby earth, their eyes were constantly tilted toward the ground, searching, searching — and then there was the discovery.

"They uncovered fossils buried for millions of years, some of which are new and significant finds to science," said Dr. Michael Gibson, UT-Martin professor of geology.

He was referring to the mosasaur, a prehistoric marine lizard, and two prehistoric fish fossils from the Cretaceous period that the group found and excavated to be displayed in a museum (a similar fossil, the skull of a mosasaur, is on display at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum that was excavated by a former curator who worked for the museum).

"I mean, to walk along these weathered chalk layers and to find an ancient creature fossilized in time is really just awesome. To think that these specimens were from the Cretaceous period and would date at around 73 million years old, it's nuts!" said UT-Martin senior geoscience major Aaron Scott, who was part of the excavation group.

Ironically, and perhaps appropriately, the great prehistoric discovery was for and financed by Discovery Park of America, the large educational and entertainment complex being erected in Union City, Tenn. It is funded principally by the Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation, and upon its scheduled opening in 2013, will feature an expansive array of exhibits including an extensive natural history section where these fossils will be featured.

"Mr. Kirkland really wanted to be able to have some real fossil specimens," Gibson said. "So the idea I pitched to them was rather than just buy everything, why don't we go and collect some things that would then be on display, and they would own the originals." By the following spring the trip was a go and the hunt on.

"The first day, I couldn't even see the dig site from where we stopped. We were all up on a ridge that overlooked a lower valley, but there were plants covering most of what I could see, so I assumed the site was somewhere else," said senior geoscience major Angela Reddick.

Gibson chose the site in Kansas, rented by Triebold Paleontology Inc., for its reputation as a large fossil hot spot. Still, the first two days of the dig were slow as the students only came across small insignificant fossils.

"I believe it was on the third day we were out there, everyone was starting to feel a little let down because we hadn't found very much," Reddick said. She then described the excitement she felt when she found out that other members of her group found the first large specimen, a huge fish. "It was so exciting then. I just wanted to be a part of digging it out."

Scott, however, was lucky enough to be one who originally spotted a large fossil.

"As I was topping a rise in the chalk I saw jaws sticking out of the ground, called over our group leader, and we began the excavation process.

The three fossils are worth roughly $250,000 in their jacketed form but will be worth more after they are finally prepped, which is the second part of the project. In March 2013, Discovery Park will pay for several of the same geology students to fly to Triebold's laboratory in Colorado to finish readying the fossil samples.

"A vast majority of paleontologists will go through their entire career and never find these," Gibson said.

"The difference of a trip like this and a classroom experience, it is huge," Scott said.

The ocean-way for the group's fish finds is the same time frame and ocean as that of Coon Creek, and the University of Tennessee at Martin's Selmer Center and ECOS (extended campus and online studies) is UT Martin is currently negotiating a partnership with them regarding the site. If you are interested in trying your luck at unearthing a fossilized treasure, you can stake your claim at Coon Creek by becoming a member of the Memphis Pink Palace Museum this month. Once a year, the museum offers members a full-day visit to the site. Guidance from museum staff is available to assist with digging, collecting, cleaning, and preserving any found fossils. This year's event is going to take place at the end of April.

For more information, call the museum's membership office at (901) 636-2406.

Casey Curlin is with the Office of University Relations at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
UT Martin Among Safest Four-Year Campuses In The State

Published Date
Written by Keith Sherley

UT MARTIN AMONG SAFEST FOUR-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is among the safest of the four-year public institutions in Tennessee in the most recent statewide crime statistics released for reported crimes.

According to crime statistics for 2011 released this week by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, UT Martin was the safest in the more serious crimes per 1,000 campus population and second safest in the lesser offenses per 1,000. Additionally, for more serious crimes and lesser offenses that are committed, the UT Martin Department of Public Safety has the best clearance rates for cases solved.

"Campus safety continues to be an important priority for us, so we are pleased to see the results from this report," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. "We hope the recent replacement of our old campus lighting with brighter lamps, covering more areas of campus, will further increase safety for our students." The statistics released also reported that UT Martin had the least number of reported offenses among four-year Tennessee Board of Regents and UT institutions.

"The statistics show once again that UT Martin is among the safest universities in the state and also the Southeast," said Scott Robbins, UT Martin director of public safety. "The improvements made in video surveillance systems around campus did help with our improved clearance rate numbers, but the main reason for those numbers is the fact that the people that attend and work here at UT Martin have a genuine concern for the welfare of one another and do not hesitate to get involved and sound the alarm when they see suspicious activity."

During the last decade, the UT Martin crime rate has consistently been lower than the national and statewide averages for college campuses.

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UTM honor society to initiate members

The University of Tennessee Martin Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi will initiate its newest members at 6 p.m. today.

The initiation ceremony will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center, and a banquet honoring juniors, seniors and faculty members for their academic excellence will follow the ceremony at 6:30 p.m. in the Duncan Ballroom of the university center.

The speaker will be Dr. Keith Carver, executive assistant to UT President Joe DiPietro.

Banquet tickets are on sale at the information desk of Boling University Center for $18 per person. For more information, contact Mary Carpenter at (731) 881-7070 or maryc@utm.edu.

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Free self-defense class offered at UTM

A free course in women’s self-defense and rape aggression defense (RAD) is available through the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

The course will be held from 4-10 p.m. April 23-24 on the main UT Martin campus.

Terry Guthrie, certified instructor in RAD basic physical defense, will instruct the course, focusing on education and awareness.

The course includes lecture, discussion and self-defense techniques, and is suitable for women of all ages and abilities.

Participants are required to attend both days of instruction and will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

The course is open to the general public, including UT Martin students, faculty and staff. Only women are eligible to participate.

The class will also be offered May 21-22.

For more information, contact ECOS at 881-7082.
MALOAN AWARD — Natalie Medling, right, recently received the Spring 2012 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award. The award was presented by Maloan family members, Jennifer and Mike Maloan.

Medling receives Maloan award

The Spring 2012 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award was recently presented to Natalie Medling, a senior communications major who has been employed by the Paul Meek Library for three years.

Medling, a native of Greenfield, oversees the library circulation desk and is responsible for checking books in and out, collecting fines and answering phone calls.

She provides students and visitors with essential information about the library and campus, performs weekly book inventory, and helps to shelve and straighten books.

“She is a contentious and hard worker who assumes responsibility to get work items done without any prodding from her supervisors. She comes into work and sees what needs to be done without any thought of who will get credit. She is a positive person who sees the world as ‘glass half-full’ and is a joy to be around,” said Samuel Richardson, Medling’s supervisor. “Natalie has been a great ambassador for the library and the University of Tennessee at Martin.”

The award, given every fall and spring semester, is a memorial for Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who during her years of service, was a strong advocate for student employment.

Maloan had a vision that more positions would be developed on campus that would challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university’s mission.

Recipients of the award exemplify a strong work ethic and commitment to the university, and receive a $1,000 cash award, an engraved plaque and a nameplate on the perpetual plaque in a place of honor in the Boling University Center.

Contributions to the scholarship award may be made through payroll deduction by employees of UT Martin or by sending a contribution to the Office of Development at UT Martin.

Watkins to present recital

Krystal Watkins of Martin will present a senior trumpet recital to the public at 7:30 p.m., April 19, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Watkins will perform works by a variety of composers, including Karl Pilk, Jeremiah Clarke and Johann Baptist Georg Neruda.

She is a music education major under the instruction of Dr. Kurt Gorman, associate professor of music.

The recital is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Gorman at 881-7404, or by email at kgorman@utm.edu.
Martin native to intern at NASA

A lot of kids say they want to be an astronaut when they grow up, but most eventually change their minds. Matthew Fitzgerald is not most. The senior engineering major at the University of Tennessee at Martin has his sights set on the space program and this summer will have his first taste of the organization when he interns at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Huntsville, Ala.

"We'll do a design and stress analysis of a support structure for a space telescope," Fitzgerald said of his approaching internship duties. "The support structure will actually be what goes on the craft and gets it into space."

Fitzgerald chose to pursue mechanical engineering when he learned that the study focus is recommended to become a mission specialist, and he chose to pursue his engineering degree at UT Martin after touring the campus and meeting the engineering professors.

"I talked to some of the professors and they showed me some of the senior projects that other seniors were doing. I think that was the biggest part of it," he said, explaining that his close relationship with professors has given him an edge on engineering knowledge, which could also have played a part in his being the first choice for the NASA internship. "The guys told me I was the first choice among the applicants."

A large portion of Fitzgerald’s senior year has been has been painstakingly perfecting his own senior engineering project, a balsa wood airplane with its own propulsion system; another part has been packed with graduate school applications and tours. He’s still weighing his options between four graduate school programs: The University of Illinois, UT Knoxville, Baylor University and Auburn University.

"I’ve got to sit down with one of my professors this week and talk to them about it. The schools all have their own pros and cons," he said, and again attributed his professors with his positive graduate school experiences. "UT Martin is awesome, because the professors introduce you to a lot of stuff. When I went to tour these [graduate school] campuses, I met with professors whose specialties are a lot of different things, and I was able to have intelligent conversations with all of them because I had that background."

For now though, Fitzgerald is excited to know that his experience in the summer with Huntsville will be lasting.

"I think the telescope is set to go up like 10 years from now," he said. "So 10 years or so from now I’ll be like, ‘Yes, I did that.’"
UTM among safest colleges in the state

The University of Tennessee at Martin is among the safest of the four-year public institutions in Tennessee in the most recent statewide crime statistics released for reported crimes. According to crime statistics for 2011 released last week by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, UT Martin was the safest in the more serious crimes per 1,000 campus population and second safest in the lesser offenses per 1,000. Additionally, for more serious crimes and lesser offenses that are committed, the UT Martin Department of Public Safety has the best clearance rates for cases solved.

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During the last decade, the UT Martin crime rate has consistently been lower than the national and statewide averages for college campuses.

To view a full copy of the report, visit www.tbi.tn.gov.

Rodeo teams bring home wins from the Ozarks

They’re back — UT Martin cowboy Tyler Waltz and Heather Moore’s award-winning horse, Hero — and their presence was known at the recent Arkansas-Monticello Ozark Region Rodeo.

The University of Tennessee at Martin men’s rodeo team won the Arkansas-Monticello rodeo with 815 points, while the UT Martin women’s team finished second to Missouri Valley College with 400 points.

"I thought we competed well," UT Martin head rodeo coach John Luthi said. "We still have some things we could have done better."

Waltz, a sophomore, finished second in the bareback riding average. He was fourth in the first go with a 69-point ride and first in the second go with a 74-point ride.

This was the first time Waltz, who suffered a knee injury that required surgery back in the fall, has competed.

Ty Hughston was second in the saddle bronc average after finishing second in the first go with a 67-point right.

In the calf roping, UT Martin cowboys Clark Adcock and Jordan Thrasher finished third and fourth respectively in the average.

John Alley picked up points for UT Martin in the steer wrestling where he finished sixth in the average. He was fifth in the first go and sixth in the second go with a total time of 16.5.

Alley and Clay Mitchell also scored points in the team roping where they finished second in the average. The duo was third in the first go and split second and third in the second go.

On the women’s side, senior Chelsie McDade was third in the goat tying average. She had a total time of 17.6. She split fourth and fifth in the first go and split first and second in the second go.

Moore, riding her horse Hero, the Ozark Region Horse of the Year, won the average in the barrel racing. She was second in the first go with a 16.26 run and first in the second go with a time of 16.55. Moore had been forced to ride her back-up horse because Hero suffered an injury.

Dacia Horne also scored points in the barrel racing for UT Martin. Horne was third in the average with a total time of 33.19. She was third in the first go and fourth in the second go.

UT Martin will return to action this week when they host their annual Ozark Region rodeo at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex. Action gets underway each night at 7:30 p.m.
Welcome UT Martin Rodeo 2012 fans!

UT Martin will host its 44th annual spring college rodeo Thursday-Saturday, April 12-14 at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex on campus.

Tickets will be on sale at the door. Adult tickets are $10 each, while tickets for children ages 6 and up are $7 each. Student tickets (must have a valid ID) are also $7 each. Thursday, April 12 is bargain night. All tickets are $6 each.

The UT Martin men’s team enters the rodeo currently in second place in the Ozark Region standings. Missouri Valley College is first. On the women’s side, UT Martin is currently in second place in the region. Southern Arkansas is in first place. The top two men’s and women’s teams will advance to the College National Finals Rodeo in June at Casper, Wyo. Ozark Region teams will have two regular season rodeos to compete in after this week’s UT Martin rodeo.

“We will have to take advantage of an opportunities that come our way,” UT Martin head rodeo coach John Luthi said.

Rodeo action gets underway each night at 7:30. Tyson, Obion County Complex will sponsor Thursday night’s performance, while Tennessee Tractor sponsors Friday night’s performance. The Martin Paving Company will sponsor Saturday night’s championship finals. Here’s a look at this week’s rodeo events...

- 5:30 p.m., Wednesday
  - Eqyss Grooming Products Crawfish Supper at the American Legion in Martin. Serving crawfish, corn on the cob and new potatoes. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available. Everyone is invited to experience the fellowship and good food.
  - Plates are $10 per person or $25 per family.

- 6:30 p.m., Thursday
  - Rodeo 2012 Kickoff Service with Chaplain Jerry Reynolds planned at the Cowboy Church, located on Haygood Road outside of Martin. Homemade desserts, coffee and drinks will follow the service. Call 819-4425 for more information.

- 7:30 p.m., Thursday
  - Tyson, Obion County Complex Rodeo Performance. This is Rodeo Bargain Night. All tickets are $6 at the door. The event will include Ozark Region NIRA contestants; rodeo clown and funny man, Greek Elick; timed events and rough stock events, including bull riding. Enter for a chance to win an MTD riding lawn mower. Three names will be drawn. The first person will attempt a 40-foot toss.

- 8:30 p.m., Thursday
  - Breeding. Three names will be drawn. The first person will attempt a 40-foot toss.

- 5:30 p.m., Friday
  - Rodeo Week kickoff service with Chaplain Jerry Reynolds.

The second person will attempt a 30-foot toss and the third person will attempt a 20-foot toss. The Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team will perform the opening.

- 7:30 p.m., Friday
  - Tennessee Tractors, Inc. Rodeo Performance. If no winner was named Thursday night for the riding lawn mower, four more names will be drawn again. Friday night is also “Tough Enough to Wear Pink” night, when money will be raised for breast cancer awareness.

- 7:30 p.m., Saturday
  - UT Martin Rodeo Roundup

* 11 a.m. – Edward Jones Investments Free Barbecue Indoors at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex. There will be barbecue, baked beans, chips and a drink.

* 12:30 p.m. – Edward Jones Investments Scholarship Auction. See Auctionzip.com for list of auction items. Each year the Rodeo Booster Club sponsors a scholarship auction, where proceeds benefit the UT Martin Rodeo Scholarship fund. There will be a silent auction of items Thursday, Friday and Saturday days during the rodeo performances, and a special Saturday night auction before the performance.

* 7:30 p.m. – Martin Paving Company Championship Rodeo Finals

Along with three nights of exciting rodeo action, featuring top bucking bulls and horses from Mark Johnson and Universal Rodeos.
BARREL RACING - UT Martin Rodeo team member Heather Moore, riding her horse Hero, the Ozark Region Horse of the Year, won the average in the barrel racing. She was second in the first go with a 16.26 run and first in the second go with a time of 16.55 ready at the recent Arkansas-Monticello Ozark Region Rodeo. Moore had been forced to ride her back-up horse because Hero suffered an injury.

Photos by Dan Hubbell

STEER WRESTLING - The University of Tennessee at Martin men's rodeo team won the Arkansas-Monticello rodeo with 815 points. John Alley (right) picked up points for UT Martin in the steer wrestling where he finished sixth in the average. He was fifth in the first go and sixth in the second go with a total time of 16.5. Alley and Clay Mitchell also scored points in the team roping where they finished second in the average.

BAREBACK RIDING - UT Martin Rodeo team member Tyler Waltz, a sophomore, finished second in the bareback riding average at the recent Arkansas-Monticello Ozark Region Rodeo. He was fourth in the first go with a 69-point ride and first in the second go with a 74-point ride. This was the first time Waltz, who suffered a knee injury that required surgery back in the fall, has competed.
Campus crime stats released

West Tenn. colleges react to 2011 TBI report

By Tajuana Cheshier
tcheslier@jacksonsun.com

With the recent release of campus crime statistics by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Lane College President Wesley McClure said campus officials will never be satisfied as long as crime takes place and that the school's work to ensure safety is evident in the report.

"Safety and security has been among the college's highest priorities for many years," McClure said in a written statement. "The statistics included in the report released by TIBRS shows that, while improvements continue, our record compares favorably with other institutions in the state."

Lane officials have petitioned the city of Jackson to close off a portion of Lane Avenue, which runs through the south end of the campus.

McClure along with student leaders on the campus say they believe reducing traffic through the campus will help promote campus safety.

The city council will vote on the issue during its May 1 meeting.

Lane officials began pushing the proposal after a Sept. 8 shooting injured one student and landed another student in jail.

In February, a young man who was not a Lane College student was shot and killed on the campus.

Following the incident, Lane College students held a march to City Hall asking for city support for the campus.

"In regard to the street closure, I am glad to see that we have moved forward in this process," said Marcos Gooden, student government president. "However, the battle is not over. The safety and security of the campus is something that the street closure will help. Lane College is making sure we do all we can to help improve in this development."

In the 2011 campus crime report, Lane's campus had 35 incidents of assaults, 13 incidents of theft, seven burglaries and one weapons law violation.

The "Crime on Campus 2011" report shows a slight increase of crime statewide on Tennessee's campuses after a decrease in reported offenses for 2010, according to a news release.

Crime reported by Tennessee colleges and universities increased by 4.2 percent from 2010 to 2011, according to the report.

Prior to 2010, the state saw a decrease of crime on campus every year between 2004 and 2008 with a slight increase in 2009.

There were 7,493 offenses reported in 2011, 7,190 offenses reported in 2010 and 7,538 offenses reported in 2009.

Statewide, other incidents involving drugs have steadily increased.

There were 772 offenses reported in 2011, which is up more than 46 percent from 2008 when there were 526 offenses reported.

On other local campuses, theft was the most frequent offense that occurred at the schools.

In Henderson at Freed-Hardeman University, there were 16 incidents of larceny and theft and three assaults.

In Jackson at Union University, there were 20 incidents of theft, five burglary incidents and three assaults.

In a news release, Carson Hawkins, director of safety and security at Union University, said school officials are constantly seeking new ways to improve awareness on safety and security issues and to keep the campus as safe as possible.

"The report for Union is almost identical to last year," Hawkins said. "We take safety and security very seriously at Union, and take a proactive stance on everything we do. We're trying to get out in front and prevent anything from happening."

There were four incidents of theft on Jackson State Community College's campus.

The report says there were 12 offenses under the category of larcenies or thefts at Bethel University and four burglaries and seven assaults.

At the University of Tennessee Martin, there were 31 larcenies or theft reports, 14 burglaries, 22 assaults and one weapons law violation.

UT Martin officials issued a news release that said the statistics show the university to be among the safest of the four-year public institutions in Tennessee.

"Campus safety continues to be an important priority for us, so we are pleased to see the results from this report," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes in the release. "We hope the recent replacement of our old campus lighting with brighter lamps, covering more areas of campus, will further increase safety for our students."
Lady Vol skipper again top Tennessean

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame president Dr. Bill Emendorfer announced last week that University of Tennessee head women’s basketball coach Pat Summit – a product of UT Martin – has been chosen to receive the Tennessean of the Year Award.

Summitt will be honored at the 2012 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on May 19 in Nashville.

In making the announcement, Emendorfer said, “Pat Summit is a shining example of why we are proud to be Tennesseans.

“It took great courage for her to step forward and share her medical diagnosis of early onset dementia, Alzheimer’s type, with the world last August. It took even greater courage for Pat to continue to coach and put a very real face on this invisible disease.

“No one has made a greater contribution to the state of Tennessee than Pat through her leadership and personal sacrifice for the betterment of society as a whole. She has dedicated herself to a cause that has greater value than her personal accomplishments,” said Emendorfer.

This marks the second time that Summit, a 2003 TSHF Inductee, has been selected as the Tennessean of the Year and the first time it has been awarded to the same person twice. Summit first received the honor in 1988 which best exemplifies the volunteer spirit of the state of Tennessee.

Summitt has just completed her 38th year leading the Lady Vols with a remarkable 1,098-208 overall record.

During the recently-completed campaign, Summit helped to lead her team to a 27-9 overall record, an SEC Tournament Championship and a trip to her record 31st NCAA Tournament where the Lady Vols advanced to the Elite 8.

All season long, all eyes were on Summit and her team. They were greeted in arenas nationwide with standing ovation tributes to Summit as she guided her team through the nation’s toughest schedule and a sea of “We Back Back” t-shirts.

The “We Back Pat” campaign sprang up overnight and went viral in the social media world following Summit’s medical announcement.

A t-shirt was born with the slogan, and proceeds started pouring into Summit-picked organizations, Alzheimer’s Tennessee and the University of Tennessee Medical Center.

In November 2011, Summit announced the formation of her Foundation, the Pat Summit Foundation Fund, with the proceeds going toward cutting-edge research.

Summitt’s life, playing and coaching career and commitment to excellence will also be celebrated at the Tennessee of the Year luncheon.

The tribute is part of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Induction weekend.

Tickets to the luncheon are $40.00 and may be purchased by contacting the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame at 615.202.3996 (Tue-Sat, 10-5 p.m.)

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Watkins to present Senior Trumpet Recital

Krystal Watkins, from Martin, will present her senior trumpet recital to the public at 7:30 p.m. on April 19 in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Watkins will perform works by a variety of composers, including Karl Piiss, Jeremiah Clarke and Johann Baptist Georg Neruda.

She is a music education major under the instruction of Dr. Kurt Gorman, associate professor of music.

The recital is free and open to the public.

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Tennessee women’s basketball coach Pat Summit – a product of UT Martin – speaks at a 2007 Volunteer Caravan stop in Milan.
The Spring 2012 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award was recently presented to Natalie Medling, a senior communications major who has been employed by the Paul Meek Library for three years.

Medling, a native of Greenfield, oversees the library circulation desk and is responsible for checking books in and out, collecting fines and answering phone calls. She provides students and visitors with essential information about the library and campus, performs weekly book inventory, and helps to shelve and straighten books.

"She is a contentious and hard worker who assumes responsibility to get work items done without any prodding from her supervisors. She comes into work and sees what needs to be done without any thought of who will get credit. She is a positive person who sees the world as 'glass half-full' and is a joy to be around," said Samuel Richardson, Medling's supervisor. "Natalie has been a great ambassador for the library and the University of Tennessee at Martin."

The award, given every fall and spring semester, is a memorial for Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who during her years of service, was a strong advocate for student employment. Maloan had a vision that more positions would be developed on campus that would challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university's mission. Recipients of the award exemplify a strong work ethic and commitment to the university, and receive a $1,000 cash award, an engraved plaque, and a nameplate on the perpetual plaque in a place of honor in the Boling University Center.

Contributions to the scholarship award may be made through payroll deduction by employees of UT Martin or by sending a contribution to the Office of Development at UT Martin.

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**Medling receives Spring 2012 Beth Maloan Award**

Natalie Medling, right, recently received the Spring 2012 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award. The award was presented by Maloan family members, Jennifer and Mike Maloan.

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**Women's Self-Defense Program available free through University**

A free course in women's self-defense and rape aggression defense (RAD) is available through the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. The course will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on April 23-24 on the main UT Martin campus.

Terry Guthrie, certified instructor in RAD basic physical defense, will instruct the course, focusing on education and awareness.

The course includes lecture, discussion and self-defense techniques and is suitable for women of all ages and abilities. Participants are required to attend both days of instruction and will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

The course is open to the general public, including UT Martin students, faculty and staff. Only women are eligible to participate.

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**5K Run fundraiser sponsored by SHAPE Club**

The University of Tennessee at Martin SHAPE Club (Sports, Health, Athletics and Physical Education) is hosting the 7th annual 5K Run and 1-Mile Fun Walk at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 14. The event that will be held at the Elam Center, is a major fundraiser for SHAPE club and for the local Brian Brown Memorial Greenway Project.

Participants can register early to ensure proper t-shirt size and receive a discount. Early registration is $12 per participant and registration forms can be found at the UT Martin health and human performance website, http://www.utm.edu/departments/hhp/SHAPEClub.php, or office in 3006 Elam Center. Forms and money must be turned in to the same location by April 12. Race day registration begins at 8 a.m. and is $15 per runner.
44th Annual UT Martin Spring Rodeo set for April 12-14

UT Martin will host its 44th annual spring college rodeo Thursday-Saturday, April 12-14 at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex on campus.

Tickets will be on sale at the door. Adult tickets are $10 each, while tickets for children ages 6 and up are $7 each. Student tickets (must have a valid ID) are also $7 each. Thursday, April 12 is bargain night. All tickets are $6 each.

The UT Martin men’s team enters the rodeo currently in second place in the Ozark Region standings. Missouri Valley College is first. On the women’s side, UT Martin is currently in second place in the region. Southern Arkansas is in first place.

The top two men’s and women’s teams will advance to the College National Finals Rodeo in June at Casper, Wyo. Ozark Region teams will have two regular season rodeos to compete in after this week’s UT Martin rodeo.

“We will have to take advantage of an opportunity that come our way,” UT Martin head rodeo coach John Luthi said.

Rodeo action gets under way each night at 7:30 p.m.

Small business owners invited to learn more about government contracting

Small business owners and employees are invited to attend a seminar hosted by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center, scheduled for 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon on April 17 at the University of Tennessee at Martin REED Center.

The seminar, “Doing Business with the Government-Government Contracting,” will help business owners understand the basics of selling to the government and private industry. Participants will also gain the technical resources necessary to establish support networks for securing and performing both government and private contracts.

Instructors Saundra Jackson, with the Small Business Association, and Russell Toone, with the University of Tennessee Procurement Technical Assistance Center, will focus on how businesses can prepare for federal government contracting and how to successfully market and build relations with buyers and contracting officers.

This workshop is free and open to the public.

The UT Martin REED Center is located at 406 S. Lindell Street in Martin.

Area students receive UTM scholarships

Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

• Karleigh Richard, daughter of Kenny and Julienne of Humboldt, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.

• Anna Santaniello, daughter of Nick and Amy Santaniello of Medina, will be a freshman. She received the UT MchWherter Scholarship/Workshop.

• Tucker Green, son of Tom and LeAnne Green of Trenton, will be a freshman. He received the UTM McWherter Scholarship/Workshop.

• Catrina White, daughter of Katrina White of Milan and Tracy White of Bradford, will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award and the Harold Conner Scholarship.

• Aubrey Walgren, daughter of Craig and DeLynn Walgren of Milan, will be a freshman. She received the UTM McWherter Scholarship/Workshop.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.
Handgun use taught

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will sponsor a course in handgun use, operation and safety for interested members of the community. The course will be held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on May 12 on the UT Martin campus. The registration fee is $75.

The course will cover the use, operation and basic cleaning of a handgun. The first four-hour block will be devoted to classroom instruction and the written exam. The second four-hour block will include firing-range instruction and the practical exam. Students must score a minimum of 70 percent on each exam to successfully complete the course.

Once the course is completed, students will have met the minimum requirements to apply for a handgun carry permit in the state of Tennessee. All students must be 21 years of age and have no felony convictions. Students will need to bring their own handgun, 50 rounds of appropriate ammunition, pen or pencil, paper, and hearing and eye protection.

Terry Guthrie, state certified handgun instructor, will instruct the course.

To register for the course, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.

Free self-defense program offered through UT Martin

A free course in women's self-defense and rape aggression defense (RAD) is available through the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

The course will be held from 4-10 p.m. April 23-24 on the main UT Martin campus.

Terry Guthrie, certified instructor in RAD basic physical defense, will instruct the course, focusing on education and awareness.

The course includes lecture, discussion and self-defense techniques and is suitable for women of all ages and abilities. Participants are required to attend both days of instruction and will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

The course is open to the general public, including UT Martin students, faculty and staff. Only women are eligible to participate.

The class will also be offered May 21-22.

For more information, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082.
UTM among safest public institutions

The University of Tennessee at Martin is among the safest of the four-year public institutions in Tennessee in the most recent statewide crime statistics released for reported crimes.

According to crime statistics for 2011 released this week by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, UT Martin was the safest in the more serious crimes per 1,000 campus population and second safest in the lesser offenses per 1,000. Additionally, for more serious crimes and lesser offenses that are committed, the UT Martin Department of Public Safety has the best clearance rates for cases solved.

"Campus safety continues to be an important priority for us, so we are pleased to see the results from this report," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. "We hope the recent replacement of our old campus lighting with brighter lamps, covering more areas of campus, will further increase safety for our students."

The statistics released also reported that UT Martin had the least number of reported offenses among four-year Tennessee Board of Regents and UT institutions.

"The statistics show once again that UT Martin is among the safest universities in the state and also the Southeast," said Scott Robbins, UT Martin director of public safety. "The improvements made in video surveillance systems around campus did help with our improved clearance rate numbers, but the main reason for those numbers is the fact that the people that attend and work here at UT Martin have a genuine concern for the welfare of one another and do not hesitate to get involved and sound the alarm when they see suspicious activity."

During the last decade, the UT Martin crime rate has consistently been lower than the national and statewide averages for college campuses.

Percussion concert set

Duo Sacramento, a Brazilian percussion duo made up of father and son team Jorge and Aquim Sacramento, will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. April 23 in room 112 of the Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.

The duo is from Bahia, Brazil, and will present a program of both contemporary percussion and traditional Brazilian music.

The UT Martin percussion ensemble will assist the duo during the performance.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, at 881-7418, or by email at jhill@utm.edu.

Vanguard Theatre to present 'Proof'

The award-winning drama “Proof,” a script written by David Auburn, is coming to the University of Tennessee at Martin beginning April 19.

The cast consists of Lizzie Wouters, a senior from Knoxville; Cody Jarman, a freshman from Clarksville; Christina Camper, a senior from Scotts Hill; and Stan Suiter, a senior from Martin.

Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. April 19, 20 and 21, and 3 p.m. April 22. Shows will be in the Student Life Center on the corner of University Street and Moody Avenue in Martin.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for UT Martin students and children. They are available at the door and through the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

"Proof" tells the story of Catherine, a young woman who has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. After his death, Catherine must deal with her estranged sister, Claire; a former student of her father's and potential suitor, Hal; and her own troubled emotions.

Auburn's work won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for Best Play in 2001.

"Vanguard Theatre, in an effort to serve both the campus and the community, believes that an offering such as this will provide a provocative and entertaining night of theatre," said Ken Zimmerman, Vanguard director.

"We strive to present a wide range of plays that will appeal to the greatest number of theatre goers."

For more information or to reserve a ticket, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 881-7400.
Neese reminds residents to be ‘tornado safe’

Ron Peckham
Special to The Press

The cliché “what you don’t know could kill you” is often attributed to local television news promos. Now, one reporter has a new message: when it comes to tornado safety, what you think you know could be just as dangerous.

As the weatherman for Nashville’s News Channel 5, UT Martin alumnus Charlie Neese knows a lot more than most people do about tornadoes and how they form, but he has also made a special project of studying their destructive patterns like a forensics expert, especially in the wake of last spring’s record-setting outbreaks. One trend he’s noticed is despite being accompanied by more and better warnings, tornadoes are becoming increasingly fatal.

To Neese, that indicates his job reporting at the news station isn’t enough — even with warnings, “there is a disconnect between the warnings and the actions people are taking.”

To help reverse this trend, Neese is taking breaks from the studio to travel to communities across Tennessee and share what he’s learned about tornado safety from studying their trails of debris. In many cases, his information surprises the attendees of his educational presentation, called TornadoSafe.

“I did this presentation in Crossville about three weeks ago,” Neese said, “and about a third of the audience raised their hand at the end and said they were changing the place where they go during a tornado warning based on what they learned. So it turns out some people think they’re going to the right place in their home, and it’s really not the safest place.”

Locally, Neese’s TornadoSafe was sponsored by Alexander Auctions and Real Estate and was hosted by Central Baptist Church in Martin, where around 50 members of the community gathered Tuesday night for the presentation.

Neese began by playing a video montage of massive tornado destruction in America just over the last 18 months, including last year’s devastation in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and recent footage of tractor-trailers being blown into the sky in Dallas.

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“We are in a cycle of more active tornados in our part of the country right now,” Neese said.

“We see as many tornados as they do in tornado alley now. We have more deaths in the Southeast because we have more nighttime tornados. There are more nighttime tornados in the Southeast than anywhere else in the world, and that kills a lot of people, because people will go to sleep, and next thing they know they’re literally flying through the air.”

Neese explained that our geographical position due north of the Gulf of Mexico means warm, moist air can generate violent storms without the aid of daytime heating.

After reminding the audience of the recent record of storms, which brought 24 tornados within 50 miles of Weakley County over the past 5 years alone, including an F-1 April 25, 2011, just north of Martin, Neese cautioned them about the relatively quiet season so far this year.

“Fortunately, all this warm weather we’ve been having,” Neese said, “shifted the tornado track way up north of us, and that kept us relatively calm. But we’re starting to see stronger cold fronts again. The pattern’s shifting back a little bit, and will be here for the rest of April off and on, and it’s likely to get a little stormier again as we go toward the next couple of weeks.”

Neese said the most important component of tornado safety was a reliable warning, but the effectiveness of warnings such as sirens and news broadcasts depended on people being alert for them during severe weather and heeding warnings quickly, despite sometimes having “false alarms.”

“The good news is that almost every tornado that touches down in the country has a tornado warning as or before it touches down,” Neese said. But, “you have to hear the warning.”

Neese recommended staying vigilant during severe weather and having a weather radio, WeatherCall, or a smartphone weather-warning app to alert you when you are sleeping.

Next, Neese identified places where attempting to ride out a tornado has statistically proven to be the most fatal.

Some danger areas, such as windows, seemed obvious but came with surprising findings. For instance, it turns out that a window is the first place most people go in a tornado warning.

Neese said that after the Tuscaloosa tornado, social scientists questioned residents as to why they did or did not take appropriate action.

“Most people heard the warnings, but they wanted what they call ‘secondary confirmation.’ So they waited. They were waiting to look out the window and see it coming. That pause, that amount of time between the warning and that secondary confirmation — that’s getting people hurt or killed.”

Neese showed videos from security cameras that demonstrated how quickly the windows blow out in a tornado, leaving no time at all to seek cover.

“This is why you can’t wait. Look at how fast it happens. Most people don’t realize how fast the impact is.”

Neese explained why the
upper floors of buildings are also dangerous.

“Turns out the winds in a tornado get stronger as you go up in elevation, because the friction at the ground slows the wind. So you might have a 10 to 15 mph increase with every 15 to 20 feet of elevation, which doesn’t sound like a lot, but wind energy, with every mile per hour that it goes up, the energy, the force goes up exponentially.”

Proximity to a garage is a little-known hazard in a tornado.

“The larger the opening that wind can come in, typically the worse the damage is going to be in that part of the house, and garage doors fail easily,” Neese said.

He displayed many pictures that showed the garage-ends of houses collapsed or blown apart. He pointed especially to houses that shared one roofline with their garages. In such houses, winds entering through the garage lifted the roof of the entire structure, which destabilized the walls and caused a collapse.

Neese said garage doors on the south or west sides of a house are the most dangerous because the southwest corner bears the brunt of both the tornado’s rotational winds and the speed of a storm’s typical movement from southwest to northeast.

Neese also cautioned against thinking a crawl space is a good substitute for a basement shelter.

“Crawl spaces are very dangerous, especially in Tennessee, because of the way we build houses. In Tennessee, most of the foundations are made out of block. You’ve got a thin layer of mortar holding those blocks together. If you get a 100 to 200 mph wind, you start pushing against the house. The house wants to move. It’s looking for a weak spot, and what happens is the house will stay together, but where that concrete block is connected it will separate, and then the whole house moves as one unit. And if you’re underneatth it, you could be crushed.”

This tornado effect happened so frequently in Tennessee, Neese explained, that the National Weather Service coined the term “ sliders” to describe it.

While houses are supposed to be permanent, movable shelters such as vehicles and mobile homes pose more dangers.

To demonstrate why you should exit your car or truck if caught on the road in a tornado, Neese played a hair-raising video of a family in Oklahoma who left their vehicle to brave a tornado in an open parking lot. While the family was not blown away by the wind, the force of the wind against the broad side of their sport utility vehicle moved it dozens of feet.

One common misconception, perpetrated by a famous 1991 video by storm chasers who were caught on a highway in a tornado, is that overpasses make a fine shelter. In a 1999 tornado that passed over Interstate 40 in Oklahoma City, some people were killed attempting to ride out the storm this way.

Neese explained that overpasses are dangerous because “you compress the air as you go underneath the overpass, and you actually increase the winds.”

After cautioning the audience about what not to do, Neese moved on to positive steps you can take to prepare for a tornado strike.

“So, where do you go? Under ground is best, period.” Neese noted that most deaths in tornadoes are caused by flying debris, and that going below ground gets you out of the path of that debris. “The very best place is tornado shelters built underground, away from the home, because then you don’t have anything to collapse down on you either,” he said.

Neese showed examples of underground shelters from concrete bunkers to partially buried metal shelters that double as front porches for mobile homes.

Then, Neese showed some of the relatively new metal and concrete above ground shelters, meant to shield occupants from wind and debris. These shelters come prebuilt, can be installed on any concrete floor, where they are bolted down every inch along each wall. They are rated up to F-4 in tornadic strength.

“The problem with these is, if you live near a road or near an interstate where you have large objects,” Neese cautioned, “if you get one of those at 200 mph hitting one of these things, I don’t know that they’re going to stay in place.”

Neese noted that do-it-yourselfers could find plans for a storm shelter on fema.gov.

In a house, Neese recommended ducking under a stairway for the best cover. “Stairs, because of the way they’re built, they provide extra structure.” That extra structure is key to defending against both flying debris and collapse.

Small rooms, such as closets and bathrooms provide protection for similar reasons, Neese said.

“They’re smaller rooms with shorter walls. Shorter walls stand up better in the high winds of a tornado. In the bathrooms, if you peel away the walls, you’ve got the pipes. The pipes add strength to the walls.”

If you live in a mobile home or the upper floors of an apartment building, Neese recommends you make friends with people who live where you are more likely to survive a tornado.

To stock your tornado shelter, Neese suggests common storm shelter items, such as a first aid kit, battery-operated radio and a flashlight. He also noted some more unexpected items, such as rations and water.

“If the big one comes, like in Joplin — city services were knocked out for days, not just where the tornado went.”

Neese also suggested work gloves for handling debris, blankets for warmth in the cold air that typically follows a storm, and a whistle to signal rescuers if you end up trapped under a collapsed structure.

Neese also said to bring a helmet. “Most injuries sustained in these tornadoes — the worst are the head injuries, because that’s generally the highest part of your body, so it’s the most susceptible to the debris.”

Finally, Neese advised the audience to register their storm shelters with local emergency services, so that rescuers would know where to search for survivors.

Neese will continue to take his TornadoSafe presentation on the road. He will return to the northwest Tennessee area to present TornadoSafe again on April 24 at the Long Heights Baptist Church in McKenzie. He also plans to deliver his presentation in Dyersburg during the month of May.
FRANKLIN RECEIVES SPRING EMPLOYEE AWARD — Alan Franklin (right), a microcomputer maintenance manager in the area of Information Technology Services at the University of Tennessee at Martin, received the exempt UT Martin Spring 2012 Outstanding Employee Award recently presented by Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. The award, which recognizes outstanding service to the university, is presented each fall and spring semester to two employees. Franklin was nominated by co-workers and was praised for his dedication and first-class work at IT Services. "Alan deserves recognition for the upgrades to our equipment tracking and storage, which have very much impressed our auditors and the administration," his nomination read.

PRIEST RECEIVES SPRING STAFF AWARD — Louise Priest, University of Tennessee at Martin media assistant in the Office of University Relations, received the non-exempt UT Martin Spring 2012 Outstanding Employee Award, recently presented by Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. The award, which recognizes outstanding service to the university, is presented each fall and spring semester to two employees. Priest was nominated for the award by her co-workers and was commended for her recent work on postseason sports guides for the UT Martin women's basketball team. "Louise's work ethic is outstanding, but her can-do attitude with extra projects is awesome," her nomination read.
Rodeo action kicks off tonight

UT Martin will host its 44th annual spring college rodeo tonight through Saturday at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex on campus. Tickets will be on sale at the door. Adult tickets are $10 each, while tickets for children ages 6 and up are $7 each. Student tickets (must have a valid ID) are also $7 each. Tonight is bargain night. All tickets are $6 each.

Rodeo action gets underway each night at 7:30. Tyson, Obion County Complex will sponsor tonight’s performance, while Tennessee Tractor sponsors Friday night’s performance. The Martin Paving Company will sponsor Saturday night’s championship finals. Schedule of events:

- 7:30 p.m. Tonight (Thursday) – Tyson, Obion County Complex Rodeo Performance
- 7:30 p.m., Friday – Tennessee Tractors, Inc. Rodeo Performance
- Saturday – UT Martin Rodeo Roundup

* 11 a.m. – Edward Jones Investments Free Barbecue Indoors at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex.
* 12:30 p.m. – Edward Jones Investments Scholarship Auction. See Auctionzip.com for list of auction items.
* 7:30 p.m. – Martin Paving Company Championship Rodeo Finals

Along with three nights of exciting rodeo action, featuring top bucking bulls and horses from Mark Johnson and Universal Rodeos, fans will enjoy rodeo clown and funny man, Greek Elick, have a chance to win a MTD riding lawnmower.

The top two men’s and women’s teams will advance to the College National Finals Rodeo in June at Casper, Wyo. Ozark Region teams will have two regular season rodeos to compete in after this week’s UT Martin rodeo.

The UT Martin men’s team enters the rodeo currently in second place in the Ozark Region standings, while the women’s team is currently in second place.

Ceremony planned to celebrate lighting

The University of Tennessee at Martin will have a brighter campus after Tuesday. The completion of a campus lighting project has resulted in the installation of hundreds of new lights across the university grounds that will officially be illuminated for the first time with a ceremony and outdoor meal.

The new lighting will replace old lights that were installed on the campus around 1970. The replacements will produce more light while using less energy, and many new lights will illuminate previously unlit areas of the campus, increasing campus safety.

The illumination celebration is slated from 5-7 p.m. in the quad near the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus, where entertainment events will be held prior to the lighting at 7 p.m. Segway races, cornhole games and “red neck” golf will be available, in addition to entertainment activities in honor of earth week. A door prize will also be held for a lamp post that will be dedicated to the drawing winner.

“This event offers an opportunity for the university community to celebrate our new lighting along with the arrival of spring. The new lighting will bring a classic look and increased safety,” said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes.

A wide selection of picnic foods will be available. Meal cost will be $7 for community members.

Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT system president, will address guests, as well as the UT Martin student government president.

Area residents are invited and encouraged to attend the celebration.
LET THERE BE PEACE – University of Tennessee at Martin Interfaith member Amanda Hawn talked about violence in Greece as part of Tuesday evening’s Peace Pole ceremony offering a 12-nation sampling of ongoing strife in the world. The Peace Pole displays the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth,” in 12 different languages. The goal of the Peace Pole planting at the Interfaith Center Tuesday was to call all members of the community together to pray for peace across the world.

Photo by Ron Peckham

5K fundraiser planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin SHAPE Club (Sports, Health, Athletics and Physical Education) is hosting the 7th annual 5K Run and 1-Mile Fun Walk at 9 a.m. Saturday. The event that will be held at the Elam Center is a major fundraiser for SHAPE club and for the local Brian Brown Memorial Greenway Project.

SHAPE Club, co-advised by Scott Pun, lecturer of health and human performance, and Dr. Andrea Johnson, assistant professor of health and human performance, is a departmental service club that teaches health and human performance students about becoming personal and professional leaders through community service involvement.

“We host the 5K for club members to learn how to organize an event and give them an opportunity to raise money for causes they think are important. The 5K is something students always look forward to,” Pun said.

Participants can register early to ensure proper T-shirt size and receive a discount. Early registration is $12 per participant and registration forms can be found at the UT Martin health and human performance website, http://www.utm.edu/departments/hhp/SHAPEClub.php, or office in 3006 Elam Center. Forms and money must be turned in to the same location by today. Race day registration begins at 8 a.m. and is $15 per runner.

The course begins on Pat Head Summitt Road and runs throughout the UT Martin campus. For more information contact Pun at spin@utm.edu or 881-7316.
New lighting celebrated

The University of Tennessee at Martin will celebrate the installation of new campus lighting with a ceremony and outdoor meal Tuesday.

The new lighting will replace old lights installed on campus around 1970. The replacements will produce more light while using less energy and many new lights will illuminate previously unlit areas of the campus, increasing safety.

The illumination celebration is set for 5-7 p.m. Tuesday in the quad near Boiling University Center on the UT Martin campus, where entertainment events will be held prior to the lighting at 7. Segway races, cornhole games and “redneck” golf will be available, in addition to entertainment activities in honor of Earth Week. A door prize drawing will also be held for a lamp post that will be dedicated to the winner.

A wide selection of picnic foods will be available. Students may purchase food with their meal plan and campus faculty/staff and immediate family can request tickets from the Chancellor’s Office. Meal cost will be $7 for community members.

Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT system president, will address guests.

Area residents are invited to attend the celebration.

UT Martin Gets Recycling Grant

By 7 Eyewitness News Staff
By news@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Apr 17, 2012 at 11:20 PM CDT
(Story Updated: Apr 17, 2012 at 11:20 PM CDT)

Being green is turning into green for a northwest Tennessee university.

Recycling efforts at the University of Tennessee-Martin are paying off.

The school is currently listed in 20th place in the National Recycle Mania Competition.

A grant through the program allowed the university to place 1500 recycling bins inside campus residence halls.

The effort is a friendly competition aiming to change behavior and raise awareness about waste reduction programs.

The halls involved saved more than $5,800 in energy costs during the competition.
UTM receives $20,000 grant for engineering equipment

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Engineering's Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners recently awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Engineering over $20,000 for the purchase of laboratory equipment.

The funds will be used to purchase equipment for the civil engineering labs, specifically the pavement design, steel design and surveying labs.

"This grant enables our students to have the best possible lab experiences in order to prepare them for entry into today's competitive job market. We are grateful to the Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners for the lab enhancements made possible by this grant," Dr. Ed Wheeler, Department of Engineering chair, said.

Dr. Rich Helgeson, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, further emphasized the importance of the award.

"An engineering degree program requires a continual infusion of funds to support the acquisition of new equipment to keep us current in technology and to best prepare our graduates for an ever changing professional environment in our state's economy. The continued financial support from the state licensing board is an important piece of this ongoing process and is very much appreciated," he said.

The bachelor of science in engineering program enrolls about 270 students who study a concentration of civil, electrical, industrial or mechanical engineering. The program emphasizes both theoretical foundations and practical applications through hands-on laboratory experiments, state-of-the-art computer software and real-world design projects.

Vanguard to present 'Proof'

The award-winning drama "Proof," a script written by David Auburn, is coming to the University of Tennessee at Martin, beginning Thursday.

The cast consists of Lizzie Wouters, a senior from Knoxville; Cody Jarman, a freshman from Clarksville; Christina Camper, a senior from Scotts Hill; and Stan Suiter, a senior from Martin.

Performances are set for 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Shows will be in the Student Life Center at the corner of University Street and Moody Avenue in Martin.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for UT Martin students and children. They are available at the door and through the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

"Proof" tells the story of Catherine, a young woman who has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. After his death, Catherine must deal with her estranged sister, Claire; a former student of her father's and potential suitor, Hal; and her own troubled emotions.

The play won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for Best Play in 2001.

"Vanguard Theatre, in an effort to serve both the campus and the community, believes that offering such as this will provide a provocative and entertaining night of theatre," said Ken Zimmerman, Vanguard director. "We strive to present a wide range of plays that will appeal to the greatest number of theatre goers."

For more information contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7400.

College students' work displayed

The 12th annual Artists of the 21st Century exhibition of college artists is now open at the West Tennessee Regional Art Center in Humboldt.

It runs through April 24. College artists from seven states entered this year's competition, including 14 from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

UTM students are Jacob Bloodworth of Hornbeak; Cheryl DeYeso of Martin; Sarah Grace Jaggars of Selmer; Melissa Michel of Trenton; Cody Williams of Adamsville; Danielle Osbourne of Dyersburg; Nicholas D'Acquisto of Finger; Glenn Butkovic and Becky Norton, both of Sharan; Katie O'Malley of Huntingdon; Jessica Vaughn of Clarksville; Lara Mangrum of Milan; and Haylee Hearn and Jess Brawley, both of Memphis.

The competition is sponsored by the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts and WTRAC.

WTRAC is located at 1200 Main St. in Humboldt.
Economic summit scheduled at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 6th Annual Mid-South Economic and Business Development Summit May 15 in the Boling University Center.

The one-day summit is being sponsored by Dyersburg State Community College, Tennessee Small Business Development Center, UTM Small Business Development Center, UTM Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center and WestStar Leadership.

Registration for the summit and a continental breakfast will begin at 8 a.m. Opening remarks scheduled to begin at 8:30. The welcome will be handled by UTM REED Center interim director Landy Fuqua, UTM Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes, DSCC vice president for institutional advancement and continuing education Youlanda Jones, Wilcox and DSCC TSBDC director Maelia M. Evans.

The day’s program will include:

* 8:45 a.m. — Mission: Don’t Just Tell It, Sell Your Story, featuring Pinky Gonzalez, senior vice president of brand development for BubbleUp Inc. and celebrity business consultant.
* 9:55 — Break and networking contest.
* 10:35 — Break and networking contest.
* Noon — Luncheon, featuring keynote speaker Sherry Stewart Deutschmann, founder and CEO of LetterLogic Inc.

There is a $50 registration fee for the summit. The deadline to register is May 4. For more information about the summit or to register online, go to www.utm.edu/midsouth-summit. Also, contact Ms. Fuqua at (731) 587-7333 for more information.

GED Test To Get Significant Revision In 2014

The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development’s Adult Education Division is preparing for major changes to the General Educational Development (GED) test to take effect in 2014.

“We encourage eligible Tennesseans who have not earned their GED to do so now,” said Commissioner Karla Davis. “Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, the GED test will cost more, must be taken on a computer, and will contain significant content changes.”

The GED test is undergoing its biggest overhaul since the credentialing test began in 1942. The revised test will measure knowledge and core skills that more closely reflect Common Core State Standards, which is the body of information young people are expected to learn in school and need for success in college and the workforce.

Standards go up for the test to remain a valid option to identify skills demanded by employers and postsecondary schools. The 2014 test will be more rigorous in general and requires higher level math proficiency. As before, the new GED test covers subject areas – writing, reading, science, social studies, and math.

“The quality of the labor force is one of the most important factors that employers look at when they think about locating in a state, specifically, the education of the people who make up the labor force and their ability to deliver on the job,” said Marva Doremus, Labor and Workforce Development administrator for Adult Education. “An educated workforce is critical to our future as a state. The only way we can grow Tennessee’s economy is with the right workers. Last year, 56.6% of those issued a GED credential in Tennessee were between the ages of 17 and 25. These individuals have 50 years to be in the workforce. We need to move them forward into postsecondary or other job training programs.”

Commissioner Davis added, "New jobs are not being created for those without a high school education. Unemployment rates are inversely related to the level of education a person has achieved. The more education a person has, the less likely he is to be unemployed. The same is true of income – the income differences between a person who does not have a high school diploma or GED and a person who does are striking."

Other important points:

* People who have not passed all parts of the current GED test before the end of the current GED test series, i.e., by Dec. 31, 2013, will have to start over when the 2014 edition begins.

* Presently the fee for taking the GED averages $65. When the GED test becomes computer-based in 2014, the fee will be a minimum of $120.

Last year 12,047 Tennesseans earned GEDs. Tennessee still has 900,000 to one million adults without a high school diploma. Almost 29,000 students dropped out of high school in 2011.

To help existing GED Test Centers transition from the old paper-based testing format to computer-based testing, Tennessee is offering three pilot programs for people to take the current GED test before the launch of the new 2014 series. Test Centers at UT-Martin, Tennessee State University, and Walters State Community College are taking part in the pilot program. The fee to take the test at one of the pilot centers is $120.

For further information on obtaining a GED, contact the GED Office in the Adult Education Division of the Department of Labor & Workforce Development, 615 741-7054, or e-mail Susan.Doughty@tn.gov.
Outdoors notebook: Annual UTM bass tourney April 28

The Fourth Annual UT Martin Buddy Bass Tournament will be held out of Paris Landing, April 28, and you are invited.

Tournament hours are safelight until 3 p.m. Fees: $100 with an optional $10 entry for the big bass.

Payout is 70 percent and the big bass pot will be paid in full.

There will be an additional $100 cash drawing for every 10 boats registered in the tournament.

Proceeds from the event helps support UTM bass club members in sanctioned collegiate tournaments.

"The actual team will not participate," club vice-president Dylan Powley said. "Our role is to put on the tournament to help fund the club."

A sophomore at UTM, Dylan said he didn’t know the exact number of boats that participated in the 2011 event, but he does know the tournament is growing in popularity.

"It was (approximately) 40," Dylan said. "Each year is better than the last and we hope this year is the best."

The fundraiser is the largest annual event for the UTM club and for more information call club president Grayson Smith (931) 237-4627 or email grawsmit@utm.edu, or Dylan Powley (731) 363-1402 or matdpowl@ut.utm.edu.

"The tournament is very important," Bud Grimes said. "It helps fund the bass anglers club, which is growing in popularity and gets our students involved."

Bud Grimes is UTM’s director of university relations.

"The team is very enthusiastic," Bud said. "And, I’m surprised at how much they have accomplished."

UTM’s next competition will be held on Pickwick Lake out of Florence, Ala., May 24-25.
CDS, MHA and UTM join forces to clean up old MMS

Ron Peckham
Special to The Press

Work on a Martin Housing Authority plan to restore the old Martin Junior High School Building on North McCombs Street is progressing, thanks to volunteers from the community.

On Friday, Community Developmental Services clients Danny Simmons, David Wise, William Hagler and their supervisor, Jeff Smith, joined MHA officials and students of UT Martin’s arts department in a joint effort to clean and prepare space for an art gallery in the old school.

The gallery will house an exhibit by six UT Martin students that will open Monday from 5-7 p.m. to help promote the work being done on the building.

“It’s just a night where people can come in and see this project, hopefully give donations to this cause, and also see the art that the university is doing that kind of ties the community together,” said student volunteer Jordan Phillips.

MHA eventually plans to open a new community center in the building, which is owned by the City of Martin, but will be MHA managed, according to construction supervisor Brad Harris.

The center will house a number of programs, including after school. One after-school program is already using the gymnasium occasionally, according to MHA official Christy Robinson.

She hopes involvement in the center will increase.

“Where the building is located, I think, is a great asset to the community,” Robinson said. “We don’t want this to just be a city project or a Martin Housing Authority. We want it to be a community project as a whole.”

Clients from CDS were also working in the building on Friday, sweeping, dusting and removing debris.

Smith explained they often volunteered at nursing homes in the Martin area, but that this was their first time working at the future community center.

Robinson said CDS had approached the MHA a few weeks ago with interest about the project.

“They are doing a new initiative where they want their clients to work more in the community as far as volunteering different places — eventually part-time employment

in certain places,” she said.

Both Smith and Robinson indicated that CDS would be returning to help with more work after next week’s art show.

Part of the idea behind the art show promotion was to showcase the need, as well as the future benefits of the center, volunteers said.

“Really, it’s so people can see what we saw when we came in here,” Phillips said.

“When we got in here, at first we saw this space and, yeah, it’s dirty and it needs a lot of TLC. But, you know, there’s so much potential. And this space, especially where it is, would be so wonderful. We’ve had people drive by and say, ‘we really hope you’ll keep it up, this would be great.’”

The UT Martin students have been working on the room that will showcase the exhibit and the hallway leading to it for about a week, according to volunteer Kayla Turner.

“It’s improved tremendously just from us cleaning up some of it,” Turner said.

“When we first came in, it was pretty crazy. We had to walk all over things. Lots of ceiling tiles were in the floor. Where they had started working there were construction lights and wires everywhere. It looked pretty scary.”

Harris noted that much remains to be done on the project, now entering its second year. The to-do list includes electrical and plumbing work, repairing windows, cleaning up damage from water leaks and continuing to clean up trash.

“We (MHA) take care of the major stuff and the volunteers help with the cleanup,” Harris explained. He noted that around 10 dumpster loads of trash and debris had already been removed from the building.

Harris said repairing the leaky roof was the major project, costing “something like $10,000” to patch. “We’re working on grants to help pay for that,” he added.

“Of course, funding is hinderling stuff,” Robinson added. “We can’t do anything much in here with a roof that’s still leaking. So basically that’s where we are right now.”

Robinson encourages the public to show support by attending the art exhibit opening Monday and to make donations to the project at www.martinhousing.com or to call 587-3186 if anyone is interested in volunteering.

Gospel concert slated

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s collegiate gospel choir will present a concert at 7 p.m. April 25 at the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Martin.

The choir will present “He’s a Keeper” and “We Offer Praise” by Rodney Bryant; “Jesus Be a Fence” by Fred Hammond; and “Friend of God” by Israel Houghton. Audience members will also hear Walter Hawkins’ works “When the Battle is Over” and “Jesus Christ Is the Way.”

Harold Johnson, a senior music education major, will accompany the choir on keyboard, and Joshua Brewster, a sophomore pre-physical therapy major, will be featured on the drums.

The choir is under the direction of Alvin Summers, choir director, and Mykia Campbell, assistant director.

The concert is free and open to the public. Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church is located at 120 South St. in Martin.

For more information, contact Campbell at 881-7869, or by email at mthoma16@utm.edu.
CLEAN UP EFFORTS CONTINUE - With the combined help of Martin Housing Authority, University of Tennessee at Martin art students and Community Developmental Services clients Danny Simmons, David Wise and William Hagler, rooms inside the former Martin Middle School are getting some much-needed TLC in preparation for an art exhibit Monday. Photo by Ron Peckham

Big band concert to be held

The University of Tennessee at Martin Big Band and Small Jazz Group will present a public concert at 7:30 p.m. April 28 in the ballroom of the Boling University Center.

The group will present a total of eight pieces, including "Milestones" by Miles Davis, "Mister Magic" by Grover Washington, Jr. and "Fire Shaker" by Maynard Ferguson.

The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Kurt Gorman, associate professor of music.

The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Gorman at 881-7404, or by email at kgorman@utm.edu.

UTM's SAI to present bi-annual chorale

The ladies of the music fraternity Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI), Epsilon Iota chapter, at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will present their annual spring musicale at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin.

Sixteen SAI members will perform a variety of acts, including vocal solos, small groups and instrumental pieces. The SAI choir will also present several compositions and at least one original work by a UT Martin faculty member.

Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) is a fraternity for young women with a passion for music. The ladies of the Epsilon Iota chapter have been active on the UT Martin campus for 42 years.

The performance is free and open to the public.

Trinity Presbyterian Church is located at 145 Hannings Lane in Martin.

For more information, contact Dr. Elaine Harriss, chair of the Department of Music, at 881-7411.
The University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo teams finished first and second in their own rodeo this past weekend at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. The UT Martin women finished first with 495 points, while the UT Martin men were second to Missouri Valley College with 780 points.

UT Martin has two more Ozark Region rodeos this season, and the goal is to finish first or second in the region and earn one of the region’s automatic bids to the College National Finals Rodeo in June at Casper, Wyo. After the annual UT Martin rodeo this past weekend, both the UTM men and women are sitting in second place in the Ozark Region.

UT Martin sophomore Matt Smith, from Kenton, won his first bull-riding event of the year when he scored 54 points on Darth Vader in Friday night’s performance. Smith was the only cowboy to ride a bull the entire weekend. In addition to winning the first round, Smith won the average.

UT Martin racked up the points in the team roping competition where Clay Mitchell and John Alley finished second in the average with a total time of 14 seconds on two runs. Ben Walker and Clark Adcock were fourth in the average with a total time of 16 seconds on two.

The steer-wrestling competition netted UT Martin more points as Austin Duckett won the average with a total time of 9.8 seconds on two. Allen Foster finished sixth in the first round of the steer wrestling with a time of 5.8.

UT Martin’s Ty Hughston finished third in the saddle-bronc average. He had a 63-point ride in the first round and finished third.

In calf roping, UT Martin cowboys dominated by taking second, third, fourth and fifth in the average. Walker split second and third. Alley was fourth in the average, and Adcock was fifth.

Sophomore Tyler Waltz picked up more rough stock points for UT Martin in the bareback riding. He was second in the first round with a 75-point ride and third in the average.

On the women’s side, UT Martin took fourth out of six spots in the average. Katie Brown was second in the average, while Dacia Horne was third in the average. Horne was first in the first round with a 14.31 average.

Mary Francis Gorsuch was fourth in the average, while senior Heather Moore was sixth.

Chelsie McDade was third in the goat-tying average with a total time of 13.4. Moore finished fourth in the breakaway average. She was first in the first round with a time of 2.6.
8 SECONDS — University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo sophomore Matt Smith of Kenton was the only cowboy to stay on the bull for eight seconds during the 44th annual UTM Rodeo held over the weekend at the McWherter Ag Pavilion. The UTM Rodeo men finished second, while the women claimed first.

Kenton rider’s successful return is no bull

The last time Matt Smith scored points for the UT Martin rodeo team was back in September when he finished fifth in the Missouri Valley College Rodeo in Marshall, Mo.

All that changed Friday night in the 44th annual UT Martin rodeo when Smith was the lone cowboy to score any points in the crowd-favorite bull riding competition. Smith scored 54 points on Universal Rodeo’s Darth Vader.

Immediately following the ride, Smith had to make a decision — take the points or a re-ride.

“I was thinking re-ride,” Smith said. “I wanted big points so I was thinking re-ride all the way, but the guys on the other side of the chutes said take the points.”

Smith opted for the points and, by doing so, he won the Friday night performance and he will compete in Saturday’s Martin Paving Company Championship.

Since August, when Smith was cleared to rodeo again, he has been in a dry spell. “I put so much pressure on myself, that I buck myself off,” he said.

The pressure and the dry spell are understandable for the Kenton cowboy. In January, at Oman Arena in Jackson, Smith broke his neck participating in a Pro Bull Riding Competition.

“I was paralyzed for about 15 minutes and I remember getting my feeling back in the ambulance,” Smith said.

Smith said he never considered giving the sport up because of the injury. “I have been riding bulls since I was four years old,” he said.

Along the way, Smith played quarterback at Gibson County High School, but his passion has always been riding bulls.

In case you are wondering, the 21-year-old bull rider does know who the real Darth Vader is. “I didn’t pay attention to the bull’s name,” Smith said.

For those who do not know who the 1977 fictional character is from the movie Star Wars, he is Anakin Skywalker (Luke’s father).

If Darth Vader (the bull) could steal a real Darth Vader line, he might tell Smith, “You have done well . . .”
The University of Tennessee at Martin is among the safest of the four-year public institutions in Tennessee in the most recent statewide crime statistics released for reported crimes. According to crime statistics for 2011 released this week by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, UT Martin was the safest in the more serious crimes per 1,000 campus population and second safest in the lesser offenses per 1,000. Additionally, for more serious crimes and lesser offenses that are committed, the UT Martin Department of Public Safety has the best clearance rates for cases solved.

"Campus safety continues to be an important priority for us, so we are pleased to see the results from this report," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. "We hope the recent replacement of our old campus lighting with brighter lamps, covering more areas of campus, will further increase safety for our students."

The statistics released also reported that UT Martin had the least number of reported offenses among four-year Tennessee Board of Regents and UT institutions.

"The statistics show once again that UT Martin is among the safest universities in the state and also the Southeast," said Scott Robbins, UT Martin director of public safety. "The improvements made in video surveillance systems around campus did help with our improved clearance rate numbers, but the main reason for those numbers is the fact that the people that attend and work here at UT Martin have a genuine concern for the welfare of one another and do not hesitate to get involved and sound the alarm when they see suspicious activity."

During the last decade, the UT Martin crime rate has consistently been lower than the national and statewide averages for college campuses.

Collegiate Gospel Choir to Present Public Concert on April 25

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s collegiate gospel choir will present a concert at 7:00 p.m. on April 25 at the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Martin.

The choir will present “He’s a Keeper” and “We Offer Praise” by Rodnie Bryant, “Jesus Be a Fence” by Fred Hammond and “Friend of God” by Israel Houghton. Audience members will also hear Walter Hawkins’ works “When the Battle is Over” and “Jesus Christ is the Way.”

Harold Johnson, a senior music education major, will accompany the choir on keyboard, and Joshua Brewster, a sophomore pre-physical therapy major, will be featured on the drums.

The choir is under the direction of Alvin Summers, choir director, and Mykia Campbell, assistant director.

The concert is free and open to the public. Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church is located at 120 South Street in Martin.

UT Martin Department of Engineering receives $20,000 Grant

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Engineering’s Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners recently awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Engineering over $20,000 for the purchase of laboratory equipment. The funds will be used to purchase equipment for the civil engineering labs, specifically the pavement design, steel design and surveying labs.

"This grant enables our students to have the best possible lab experiences in order to prepare them for entry into today’s competitive job market. We are grateful to the Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners for the lab enhancements made possible by this grant," said Dr. Ed Wheeler, Department of Engineering chair.

Dr. Rich Helgeson, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, further emphasized the importance of the award.

"An engineering degree program requires a continual infusion of funds to support the acquisition of new equipment to keep us current in technology and to best prepare our graduates for an ever-changing professional environment in our state’s economy. The continued financial support from the state licensing board is an important piece of this ongoing process, and is very much appreciated," he said.

Brazilian percussion duo to play

Duo Sacramento, a Brazilian percussion duo made up of father and son team Jorge and Aquim Sacramento, will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday in room 112 of the Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.

The duo is from Bahia, Brazil, and will present a program of both contemporary percussion and traditional Brazilian music.

The UT Martin percussion ensemble will assist the duo during the performance.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, at (731) 881-7418 or by email ajhill@utm.edu.
Alan Franklin receives Spring Employee Award

Alan Franklin, right, a microcomputer maintenance manager in the area of Information Technology Services at the University of Tennessee at Martin, received the exempt UT Martin Spring 2012 Outstanding Employee Award recently presented by Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. The award, which recognizes outstanding service to the university, is presented each fall and spring semester to two employees.

Franklin was nominated by co-workers and was praised for his dedication and first-class work at IT Services.

Louise Priest receives Spring Staff Award

Louise Priest, a media assistant in the Office of University Relations, received the UT Martin Spring 2012 Outstanding Employee Award, recently presented by Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. The award, which recognizes outstanding service to the university, is presented each fall and spring semester to two employees.

Priest was nominated for the award by her co-workers and was commended for her recent work on postseason sports guides for the UT Martin women’s basketball team.

UT Martin Concert Band and Wind Ensemble to Present ‘The Journey’

The University of Tennessee at Martin concert band and wind ensemble will present a combined program titled “The Journey” at 7:30 p.m. on April 26 in the ballroom of the Boling University Center.

The concert band will present five works illustrating the theme of travel. Audience members will hear Chris Bernotas’ “Pony Express,” “Noisy Wheels of Joy” by Eric Whitacre and “Star Ship” by Yukiko Nishimura. The band will also perform “Out of This World (The Music of John Williams),” as arranged by Jay Bocook, and “Olympiada” by Samuel Hazo.

The UT Martin wind ensemble will also present a variety of selections, to include “Under the Double Eagle” by Joseph Wagner, “To Tame the Perilous Skies” by David Holsinger and Timothy Mahr’s “The Soaring Hawk.”

Tucker Gillihan, a freshman music education major from Munford, will perform the second movement of Karel Husa’s “Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Concert Band.” Gillihan is studying under the instruction of Dr. Amy Simmons, associate professor of music. He is the winner of the Department of Music’s instrumental concerto competition.

Both ensembles are under the direction of Matthew Stratton, instructor of music.

This performance is free and open to the public.
UTM women 1st, men 2nd in rodeo

Smith was the only cowboy to ride a bull the entire weekend. In addition to winning the first round, Smith won the average.

UTM racked up the points in the team roping competition where Clay Mitchell and John Alley finished second in the average with a total time of 14 seconds on two runs.

Ben Walker and Clark Adcock were fourth in the average with a total time of 16 seconds on two.

The steer wrestling competition netted UTM more points as Austin Duckett won the average with a total time of 9.8 seconds on two. Allen Foster finished sixth in the first round of the steer wrestling with a time of 5.8.

UT Martin's Ty Hughston finished third in the saddle bronc average. He had a 63-point ride in the first round and finished third.

In the calf roping, the UT Martin cowboys dominated by taking second, third, fourth and fifth in the average.

Sophomore Tyler Waltz picked up more rough stock points for UT Martin in the bareback riding.

Waltz was second in the first round with a 75-point ride and third in the average.

On the women's side, UT Martin took fourth out of six spots in the average. Katie Brown was second in the average, while Dacia Horne was third in the average.

Horne was first in the first round with a 14.31 average.

Mary Francis Gorsuch was fourth in the average, while senior Heather Moore was sixth.

Chelsie McDade was third in the goat tying average with a total time of 13.4.

Moore finished fourth in the breakaway average. She was first in the first round with a time of 2.6.
UT Martin receives grant for 1,500 recycling bins

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s recycling efforts are paying off, as the school is currently in 20th place in the national RecycleMania competition. The status recently resulted in a grant through the program that allowed them to place 1,500 recycling bins in campus residence halls.

“We are very grateful to the Alcoa Foundation, Keep America Beautiful, the College & University Recycling Coalition and Dr. MacKewn for providing our students a tool to use in their efforts to continue to propel our university’s sustainability initiatives. The students, along with the Residence Life staff, are very excited to make use of the recycling bins to help reduce the waste generated in the halls. The bins provide our students and staff an opportunity to work together to help decrease the rate at which the landfills in our community are being filled, and thus decrease the negative impact landfills have on air, water and soil,” said Earl Wright, UT Martin director of housing.

RecycleMania is a friendly competition that aims to change behavior about recycling and raise awareness about waste reduction programs on campuses. During the competition, colleges and universities vie for top awards to see which schools recycle the most on a per capita basis. The 2012 competition produced the least amount of waste and recycle the largest percentage of their overall waste.

The recycling bin grant was made possible by the Alcoa Foundation, in partnership with national nonprofit Keep America Beautiful and the College & University Recycling Coalition.

“RecycleMania provides colleges and universities with an easy way to boost recycling on campus and to instill students with a greater sense of obligation to recycle throughout their lives,” said Matthew M. McKenna, president and CEO of Keep America Beautiful. “We’re thankful for the support of Alcoa Foundation and for the company’s continued leadership in advancing recycling nationwide.”

The recycling bin grant comes at the same time the UT Martin Department of Housing participated in the national Campus Conservation competition. The contest that ended April 2 encouraged housing residents to reduce their energy consumption through simple tasks like turning off lights and electronics.

In the battle between four on-campus residence halls, Ellington Hall won the competition by reducing its energy consumption by 18.4 percent compared to 2011, and the halls together saved a total of $5,832.22 in energy costs during the competition.

Literary and Art Magazine Spring Edition Set for April 23 Release

The spring 2012 edition of BeanSwitch, the University of Tennessee at Martin’s art and literature magazine, will be released Monday, April 23, at a special preview event in the Dougherty Tennessee Room of the university’s Holland McCombs Center. The event will begin at 6 p.m. and is open to the public.

BeanSwitch publishes original art and literature created by UT Martin students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community. UT Martin students, including co-executive editors Misty Dunlap, of Dresden, and Sheila Scott, of Kenton, and art editor Sarah Grace Jaggars, of Selmer, run the magazine. Dr. Jeff Longacre, assistant professor of English, and Tomi Parrish, instructor of communication, serve as faculty advisers.

Artists, poets and authors who have worked published in this edition will attend and display original art and offer readings from the magazine. Light refreshments will be served, and musical entertainment is also planned.

“We’ll have live musical entertainment by a new duo called Rhapsody in 2,” Scott said. “The performers are John-Alex Warner and his partner, Garrett Ransom. They’ll play a variety of songs on the piano and saxophone including the theme song from Titanic.” Warner and Ransom attend Union City High School.

Big Band, Small Jazz Concert open to the public

The University of Tennessee at Martin Big Band and Small Jazz Group will present a public concert at 7:30 p.m. on April 28 in the ballroom of the Boling University Center.

The group will present a total of eight pieces, including “Milestones” by Miles Davis, “Mister Magic” by Grover Washington, Jr. and “Fire Shaker” by Maynard Ferguson.

The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Kurt Gorman, associate professor of music.

The performance is free and open to the public.

Intermediate-level computer course offered to community members

Those seeking to expand their knowledge of computer functions and management are invited to enroll in an Intermediate PC course on May 1 and 3 from 6-9 p.m. on the main University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer, will cover file management, computer performance, user account set-up, control panels and administrative tools, among other security features.

The course will also address online banking and purchasing, viruses and spyware.

Registration is $95 per person. Specific location information will be provided upon registration.
University Vanguard Theatre to present Tony Award-Winning Production, ‘Proof’

The award-winning drama “Proof,” a script written by David Auburn, is coming to the University of Tennessee at Martin, beginning on April 19.

The cast consists of Lizzie Wouters, a senior from Knoxville; Cody Jarman, a freshman from Clarksville; Christina Camper, a senior from Scotts Hill; and Stan Suiter, a senior from Martin.

Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. on April 19, 20 and 21, and 3 p.m. on April 22. Shows will be in the Student Life Center on the corner of University Street and Moody Avenue in Martin.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for UT Martin students and children. They are available at the door and through the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

“Proof” tells the story of Catherine, a young woman who has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. After his death, Catherine must deal with her estranged sister, Claire; a former student of her father’s and potential suitor, Hal; and her own troubled emotions.

Auburn’s work won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for Best Play in 2001.

Martin native to intern at NASA

Matthew Fitzgerald

A lot of kids say they want to be an astronaut when they grow up, but most eventually change their minds. Matthew Fitzgerald is not most. The senior engineering major at the University of Tennessee at Martin has his sights set on the space program and this summer will have his first taste of

the organization when he interns at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Huntsville, Alabama.

“We’ll do a design and stress analysis of a support structure for a space telescope,” Fitzgerald said of his approaching internship duties. “The support structure will actually be what goes on the craft and gets it into space.”

Fitzgerald chose to pursue mechanical engineering when he learned that the study focus is recommended to become a mission specialist, and he chose to pursue his engineering degree at UT Martin after touring the campus and meeting the engineering professors.

“I talked to some of the professors and they showed me some of the senior projects that other seniors were doing. I think that was the biggest part of it,” he said, explaining that his close relationship with professors has given him an edge on engineering knowledge, which could also have played a part in his being the first choice for the NASA internship.

“The guys told me I was the first choice among the applicants.” A large portion of Fitzgerald’s senior year has been been painstakingly perfecting his own senior engineering project, a balsa wood airplane with its own propulsion system; another part has been packed with graduate school applications and tours. He’s still weighing his options between four graduate school programs: The University of Illinois, UT Knoxville, Baylor University and Auburn University.

“I’ve got to sit down with one of my professors this week and talk to them about it. The schools all have their own pros and cons,” he said, and again attributed his professors with his positive graduate school experiences. “UT Martin is awesome, because the professors introduce you to a lot of stuff. When I went to tour these [graduate school] campuses, I met with professors whose specialties are a lot of different things, and I was able to have intelligent conversations with all of them because I had that background.”

For now though, Fitzgerald is excited to know that his experience in the summer with Huntsville will be lasting.

“I think the telescope is set to go up like 10 years from now,” he said. “So 10 years or so from now, I’ll be like, ‘Yes, I did that.’”
Spring musicale to be performed tonight by UTM music fraternity

The ladies of the music fraternity Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI), Epsilon Iota chapter, at the University of Tennessee at Martin will present their annual spring musicale tonight at 8 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin.
Sixteen SAI members will perform a variety of acts. The SAI choir will also present several compositions and at least one original work by a UT Martin faculty member.
SAI is a fraternity for young women with a passion for music. The ladies of the Epsilon Iota chapter have been active on campus for 42 years.

For the first time, GED test taken on computer at UTM

For the first time in the state of Tennessee, the GED® test was taken on a computer last month.
The University of Tennessee at Martin partnered with the GED Testing Service® to offer the first test, which provides some benefits for test takers.
"They will receive an instant score at the end of the test, for all parts except the writing. So they will receive an unofficial score at the end of the day and an official score two weeks later," said Sharon Robertson, assistant director of the UT Martin Student Success Center, which has been offering the GED on paper since 1954.
Tennessee is the seventh state to offer computer testing, which gives students more scheduling flexibility, as well as the opportunity for technology minded generations to test on a comfortable format.
"They will have more opportunities at their discretion as to when to take the exam. They can take it on weekends," Ms. Robertson said, contrasting the twice-a-month paper exam offerings.
Debi Faucette, senior director of program management with GED testing service, was on hand for the inaugural event.
Two students were there taking the computer-based exam, which was encouraged by the Weakley County Center for Adult and Continuing Education.
"We’re especially excited to be the first in Tennessee to be testing on the computer," said Mitchell Parham, WCCACE director.
Austin Weldon of McKenzie was one of the two first test-takers and said the process was simple.
"You just have to create a profile online, come in and everything else is pretty simple," he said.
GED Testing Service is a joint venture between Pearson and the American Council on Education (ACE). The actual computer GED test is not online and must be taken in person at an official GED testing center.

Spring art and literature magazine set for release Monday at event

The spring edition of BeanSwitch, the University of Tennessee at Martin’s art and literature magazine, will be released Monday at a special preview event in the Dougherty Tennessee Room of the university’s Holland McCombs Center.
The event will begin at 6 p.m. and is open to the public, according to organizers.
BeanSwitch publishes original art and literature created by UT Martin students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community.
UT Martin students — including co-executive editors Misty Dunlap of Dresden and Sheila Scott of Kenton and art editor Sarah Grace Jaggars of Selmer — run the magazine.
Dr. Jeff Longacre, assistant professor of English, and Tomi Parrish, instructor of communications at UT Martin, serve as the faculty advisers.
Light refreshments will be served and musical entertainment will feature a new duo, Rhapsody in 2, comprised of John Alex Warner and Garrett Ransom, students at Union City High School.
Fulton native to be featured on GAC

Fulton native Jordan Tinkle and The 3 Hour Lunch, his Nashville, Tenn. based radio sports talk show, will be featured on GAC Day Jobs, airing at 9 p.m. April 18.

A Fulton High School and University of Tennessee at Martin graduate, Tinkle was hired by WKDF radio in Nashville after graduation, initially working traffic, producing the Tennessee Titans football games and worked the midnight shift as a disc jockey.

Tinkle was approached by the station manager with the opportunity to produce a sports talk show on WKDF's sister station, The Zone, and with the formation of JT Productions, The 3 Hour Lunch aired from noon to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. The production later moved to the 3-7 p.m. time slot, and has welcomed numerous sport figures.

Tinkle and The 3 Hour Lunch will be featured on the Day Jobs episode, which places country music artists in "real world" occupations for a day. Artist Colt Ford will attempt to master Tinkle's job of producing, followed by a stint at the microphone.

UTM names Featured Faculty Scholar

Each semester, the University of Tennessee at Martin recognizes outstanding faculty for excellence in teaching and scholarship.

Linda Butler, associate professor and head of acquisitions at the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus, was recently named the Featured Faculty Scholar for spring 2012 during a ceremony last month.

"I'm so grateful for the appreciation and acknowledgement of my work," Ms. Butler said during a ceremony held in the lobby of the library.

Originally from Jackson, Ms. Butler has been with the university since 1987, when she began as an assistant catalog librarian. She was promoted to head of acquisitions in 1998 and has been responsible for managing ordering, receiving and payment of all library materials.

"She's a published author in our discipline, which is hard to do," said Mary Carpenter, library director, who nominated Ms. Butler for the award.

Ms. Butler received a bachelor of arts degree from the former Memphis State University in 1972 and a master of science in library science from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1984. She has worked as a practicum student in Lawson McGhee Public Library in Knoxville and as a junior and senior librarian at Elizabeth Public Library in Elizabeth, N.J.

Ms. Butler is a member of Friends of the Paul Meek Library, the West Tennessee Academic Library Consortium and the Jackson Purchase Historical Society.

Collegiate gospel choir to perform

The University of Tennessee at Martin's collegiate gospel choir will present a concert 7 p.m. Wednesday at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church at 120 South St. in Martin.

Harold Johnson, a senior music education major, will accompany the choir on keyboard and Joshua Brewster, a sophomore pre-physical therapy major, will be featured on drums.

The concert is free and open to the public.
Students to visit Romania

from West Tennessee are raising money and preparing for a mission trip to northwest Romania through Belief in Motion this summer.

Seven high school students from Crockett County High School, one college student from the University of Tennessee, one college student from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and one high school student in Jackson will be led by Kalep Roberson, Spanish teacher at Crockett County High School, and his wife, Ashley, in the summer mission trip to Oradea, Romania. The trip is scheduled for June 8-16.

Roberson gave an open invitation to students at Crockett County to come on the trip and picked the other students he had worked with in the past. Students applied to go on the trip, and Roberson assembled the group to go.

“I handpicked them,” Roberson said about the applicants and the college students going. “I picked the kids that I knew would work hard and wanted to go.”

The team will be going through Belief in Motion. Roberson’s in-laws serve as the presidents of the organization. Belief in Motion started seven years ago as a nonprofit organization that sends out missionaries.

The mission trip will work with Project 127. Project 127 gets its mission from James 1:27, which speaks to take care of widows and orphans and impoverished people. The organization works with the Romanian government and “is committed to making disciples of Christ and helping the Romanian people,” according to its website.

The team plans on holding backyard Bible clubs, sports ministry, relationship outreach and construction work. They will seek to work with orphans and those stricken with poverty in the city.

The cost for the trip is $2,100 per person. The total for everyone going on the trip is about $26,000. Because the trip is funded through Belief in Motion, tax-deductible donations can be made to Belief in Motion to provide for the trip.

Projects the mission team will host for fundraising include selling T-shirts to raise awareness for Romania. Students have also sent prayer letters to friends and family to give information about the trip and ask for financial and prayer support. Last month, they held a basketball tournament to raise money for the trip.

For more information, go to beliefinmotion.org.
PLAYABLE ART - The plans for a sculpture soundscape to be located in Festival Park in downtown Martin has been revised. Plans are under way to raise money through a town and gown benefit to help construct the playable art. *Design by Jason Stout*

**Martin soundscape project re-invented**

**Sabrina Bates**  
*News Editor*

Local artists have taken an abstract concept and brought it to life. After a few years in the making, the evolution of what has been known as a “sculptural soundscape” has been revived on paper.

The new design, courtesy of UT Martin arts professor Jason Stout, local potter Clint Riley, and UT Martin music professor Julie Hill, boasts three elements of appeal.

The “playable art” plans to be aesthetic in nature, while providing visitors with visual, audio and interactive components.

Hill said she was eager to jump back on board with Stout and Riley as she was able to lend her expertise in sound to the original design. The concept was first developed a couple of years ago when UTM student Joel Flowers attempted to bring a similar sculptural soundscape to life as a University Scholars project.

Stout created the original

**SEE PROJECT, PAGE 4**

**PROJECT FROM PAGE 1**

“Coming together to create a design concept was not nearly as challenging a task for the trio as having to scale back on the scope of the project.

The three admitted it was easy to be together during the brainstorming process.

“It’s changed form after meeting with Julie. The project got really big. But I don’t think we’ve cut anything out by scaling back,” Riley said.

The group determined while they were not limited by their imaginations, they were limited, however, by their available resources.

The soundscape must be able to withstand Mother Nature’s elements as well as Father Time. The goal is to create a piece of art that resonates with sound. The hope is that the piece would require little maintenance throughout the year.

A Facebook page has been designated for updates on the project at Historic Martin Soundscape and Sculpture.

Donations for the community project can be sent to: Monograms and More, c/o Martin Historic Business District, 413 South Lindell St., Martin, TN 38237.

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UTM
receives recycle grant

The University of Tennessee at Martin's recycling efforts are paying off, as the school is currently in 20th place in the national RecycleMania competition. The status recently resulted in a grant through the program that allowed them to place 1,500 recycling bins in campus residence halls.

“We are very grateful to the Alcoa Foundation, Keep America Beautiful, the College & University Recycling Coalition and Dr. MacKewn for providing our students a tool to use in their efforts to continue to propel our university's sustainability initiatives. The students, along with the Residence Life staff, are very excited to make use of the recycling bins to help reduce the waste generated in the halls. The bins provide our students and staff an opportunity to work together to help decrease the rate at which the landfills in our community are being filled, and thus decrease the negative impact landfills have on air, water and soil,” said Earl Wright, UT Martin director of housing.

RecycleMania is a See UTM, Page 4

UTM
FROM PAGE 1

friendly competition that aims to change behavior about recycling and raise awareness about waste reduction programs on campuses. During the competition, colleges and universities vie for top awards to see which schools recycle the most on a per capita basis, produce the least amount of waste and recycle the largest percentage of their overall waste. The recycling bin grant was made possible by The Alcoa Foundation, in partnership with national nonprofit Keep America Beautiful and the College & University Recycling Coalition.

“RecycleMania provides colleges and universities with an easy way to boost recycling on campus and to instill students with a greater sense of obligation to recycle throughout their lives,” said Matthew M. McKenna, president and CEO of Keep America Beautiful. “We’re thankful for the support of Alcoa Foundation, and for the company’s continued leadership in advancing recycling nationwide.”

The recycling bin grant comes at the same time the UT Martin Department of Housing participated in the national Campus Conservation competition. The contest that ended April 2 encouraged housing residents to reduce their energy consumption through simple tasks like turning off lights and electronics.

In the battle between four on-campus residence halls, Ellington Hall won the competition by reducing its energy consumption by 18.4 percent compared to 2011, and the halls together saved a total of $5,832.22 in energy costs during the competition.

CAP panel discussion planned

This evening, the Student Social Work Association and University Students for CASA will be co-sponsoring a panel discussion on child abuse prevention in recognition of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The purpose of the panel is to educate the public about prevention policies, programs and services.

The panel will examine the effectiveness of current policies, needed changes, the effectiveness of prevention programs, how case loads at the Department of Children Services impact children and families in crisis and other issues surrounding abuse prevention.

There will be representatives from UT Martin Social Work faculty, Carey

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FROM PAGE 1

Counseling, Department of Children’s Services, the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, and CASA. The panel will be held from 6-8 tonight at Boling University Center, Room 111. For more information, call 881-7521.
UT Martin Receives Grant for 1,500 Recycling Bins

By WestKyStar Staff

MARTIN, TN - The University of Tennessee at Martin's recycling efforts are paying off as the school is currently in 20th place in the national RecycleMania competition. The status recently resulted in a grant through the program that allowed them to place 1,500 recycling bins in campus residence halls.

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Article provided by Casey Carlin Scarbrough, Office of University Relations.

DiPietro to Speak at UT Martin Spring Commencement

By WestKyStar Staff

MARTIN, TN - President of the University of Tennessee, Dr. Joe DiPietro, will deliver the spring commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin, at 11 am, May 5, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

DiPietro became the 25th president of the University of Tennessee in January of 2011 and is the chief executive officer of the statewide system that includes the flagship campus in Knoxville, campuses in Chattanooga and Martin, the Health Science Center in Memphis, the Space Institute in Tullahoma and institutes of agriculture and public service.

He previously served as the chancellor for the UT Institute for Agriculture from 2006 to 2010, during which time the institute began interdisciplinary programs such as the Center for Renewable Carbon, the Tennessee Biofuels Initiative and the master's degree in landscape architecture. External grant support for the institute also increased by 30 percent during his time as chancellor.

DiPietro earned his bachelor's, master's and doctor of veterinary medicine degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana. He has also served as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida, as well as assistant director of the Agriculture Experiment Station and associate dean for research of the College of Veterinary Medicine at UT Urbana.

Tickets are required for admission to spring commencement, and each graduate will be given six complimentary tickets to admit his or her guests. More than 750 degrees are slated to be awarded.

A live webcast will be available at the "View Commencement Live" link on the UT Martin homepage, www.utm.edu.

Information submitted by UT Martin University Relations.
UTM band, ensemble to perform Thursday

The University of Tennessee at Martin concert band and wind ensemble will present a combined program titled “The Journey” 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the ballroom of Boling University Center.

The concert band will present five works illustrating the theme of travel.

Audience members will hear Chris Bernotas’ “Pony Express,” “Noisy Wheels of Joy” by Eric Whitacre and “Star Ship” by Yukiko Nishimura.

The UT Martin wind ensemble will also present a variety of selections, to include “Under the Double Eagle” by Joseph Wagner, “To Tame the Perilous Skies” by David Holzinger and Timothy Mahr’s “The Soaring Hawk.”

Both ensembles are under the direction of Matthew Stratton, instructor of music.

This performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Stratton at (731) 881-7401 or by email at mstratto@utm.edu.

WTVC NewsChannel 9: Chattanooga

665 new lights enhance safety at UT-Martin

Posted: Apr 23, 2012 3:06 AM CDT
Updated: Apr 23, 2012 3:06 AM CDT

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) - Officials at the University of Tennessee at Martin say campus safety has been enhanced by a $3.2 million lighting project.

Some 665 new light fixtures were installed to replace 345 old ones. New lighting will cover many previously unlit areas on the periphery of the northwest Tennessee campus, including the outdoor fitness trail.

Spokesmen said the new lamps are 75 percent more energy efficient. The old ones were about 42 years old.
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Named to UTM honor society

Three students from Henry County were recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. They are (from left) Chelsea Peeler of Paris, Candace Lewis of Puryear, and Rachel Martin of Mansfield. Membership is based upon academic achievements and exemplary character. Phi Kappa Phi recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all fields of higher education. The society has chapters on the campuses of more than 300 colleges and universities in the United States, the Philippines and Puerto Rico.
New campus lighting celebrated

A multi-million dollar project on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin has left students and college officials all aglow.

“Nearly 32,000 alumni have walked under our old lamps on their way to classes and events,” said Charley Deal, University of Tennessee at Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations. “Tonight (April 17) with the help of all of you, we will write the next chapter of our university’s history … when we officially turn on our new lamps.”

Kicking off that next chapter was an event dubbed “Illumination Celebration.” Taking place April 17 on the UT Martin campus plaza near the Boling University Center, it observed the completion of the $3.2 million campus lighting project. Nearly 42 years after the installation of the campus’s old “lollipop” style lampposts, new energy-efficient lighting was put in place and officially lit for the first time in front of a crowd of hundreds of students, staff and alumni.

“Illumination Celebration” – Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT president (from left); UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes and UT Martin Student Government Association president Alex Wilson power on the new campus lights for the first time at the Illumination Celebration held April 17.

“Approximately 665 new light fixtures were installed to replace 345 old fixtures,” Deal told the audience, referring to the new antique-style black posts topped with acorn-shaped light fixtures.

Though the new lamps will nearly double the number of the old lamps, which were scheduled for immediate removal following the ceremony date, they will use roughly the same amount of total energy as each light is 75 percent more energy efficient.

“Part of the reason for doing this has to do with campus safety,” said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. “It helps enhance a definitive environment for safety … we’re celebrating the past and the future and remaining safe.”

New lighting will cover many previously unlit areas. See Lighting, Page 4

Lighting

From Page 1

As these lights shine bright, it also reflects the bright future that Martin has as a part of our system,” said Rakes and DiPietro, along with UT Martin Student Government Association (SGA) president Alex Wilson, did the honor of “flipping the switch,” using laptops to power on the new lights for the first time.

“This is a project that was brought up by SGA many years ago,” Wilson said, adding that the UT Martin administration had been a tremendous help in bringing the new lighting to fruition.

“It’s to make this campus a safer and more energy efficient campus.”
LOCAL STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO PHI KAPPA PHI — University of Tennessee at Martin students (front, from left) William Price, Carly Unger, Martha Stutts, Victoria Russell, Alex Parham, (back) Johanna VanZyl, Laura Gullett, Jared Scherer, Alexis Copeland and Calista Drone, all of Martin, were recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at UTM. Membership is based upon academic achievements and exemplary character. Those eligible include graduate students in the upper 10 percent of their class, seniors in the upper 10 percent, and juniors in the upper 7.5 percent. Also eligible are faculty members who possess outstanding academic, research, creative and service achievements. An internationally-respected honor society, Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest and most selective organization that recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all fields of higher education. The society was founded at the University of Maine in 1897 and currently has chapters on the campuses of more than 300 colleges and universities in the United States, the Philippines and Puerto Rico. (Photo submitted)

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS — Four social work students from the University of Tennessee at Martin recently won the Student Policy Poster Competition at the Tennessee chapter’s National Association of Social Workers annual legislative conference. It is the third poster competition win for the UT Martin Social Work program since the inception of the poster competition in 2005. The group also won two preliminary poster competitions before advancing to the state level. Winners included (from left) Iana Mullen of Atwood; Katherine Blaylock of Dresden; Kristin Howes of Martin; and Jamie Mills of McKenzie.
Students to perform in percussion ensemble

Fourteen high school students from across the state will travel to the University of Tennessee at Martin to participate in the Tennessee Honor Percussion Ensemble Festival Thursday through Saturday.

The group will spend two days in practice and present a public concert at noon Saturday in room 112 of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin main campus.

The students will present a piece for marimba choir titled “Lux Aurumque,” a selection for steel band called “Dain Brammage” and a challenging new percussion arrangement titled “Cyclone.”

The ensemble will also perform a Brazilian percussion arrangement by professor and performer Jorge Sacramento, who is visiting UT Martin from Brazil as part of the Duo Sacramento group.

The group will be under the instruction of Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music.

Saturday’s performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Hill at 881-7418 or by email at jhill@utm.edu.

Handgun carry course offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will sponsor a course in handgun use, operation and safety for interested members of the community. The course will be held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on May 12 on the UT Martin campus. The registration fee is $75.

The course will cover the use, operation and basic cleaning of a handgun.

The first four-hour block will be devoted to classroom instruction and the written exam. The second four-hour block will include firing-range instruction and the practical exam. Students must score a minimum of 70 percent on each exam to successfully complete the course.

Once the course is completed, students will have met the minimum requirements to apply for a handgun carry permit in the state of Tennessee. All students must be 21 years of age and have no felony convictions. Students will need to bring their own handgun, 50 rounds of appropriate ammunition, pen or pencil, paper, and hearing and eye protection.

Terry Guthrie, state certified handgun instructor, will instruct the course.

To register for the course, contact ECOS at 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.

Skyhawks plan grill out, chill out

The University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawks will host a “Grill Out, Chill Out” event at 1 p.m. Saturday at Skyhawk Park. The event will feature free chicken courtesy of Tyson and free drinks courtesy of Pepsi. The community is invited to attend.

DiPietro to address UTM graduates

President of the University of Tennessee, Dr. Joe DiPietro, will deliver the spring commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin, at 11 a.m. May 5 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

DiPietro became the 25th president of the University of Tennessee in January of 2011 and is the chief executive officer of the statewide system that includes the flagship campus in Knoxville, campuses in Chattanooga and Martin, the Health Science Center in Memphis, the Space Institute in Tullahoma and institutes of agriculture and public service.

He previously served as the chancellor for the UT Institute for Agriculture from 2006 to 2010, during which time the institute began interdisciplinary programs such as the Center for Renewable Carbon, the Tennessee Biofuels Initiative and the master’s degree in landscape architecture.

DiPietro earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctor of veterinary medicine degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana. He has also served as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida, as well as assistant director of the Agriculture Experiment Station and associate dean for research of the College of Veterinary Medicine at UI Urbana.

Tickets are required for admission to spring commencement, and each graduate will be given six complimentary tickets to admit his or her guests. More than 750 degrees are slated to be awarded.

A live webcast will be available at the UT Martin homepage, www.utm.edu.
Workshop offered on understanding behavior styles

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a course in understanding behavior styles, designed by The Effectiveness Institute, for interested community members. The course is scheduled for 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon on April 24 on the main UT Martin campus.

The Effectiveness Institute says awareness of behavior styles is key to developing effective communication and more productive work relationships.

Phil Dane, UT Martin director of athletics, has been certified by The Effectiveness Institute to facilitate the workshop.

“I think anyone who wishes to be an effective co-worker will really appreciate this training,” said Dane. “I’m confident that most workshop participants experience at least one ‘ah-ha! moment.’

Several other high-ranking UT Martin administrators have also enjoyed the workshop and recommend it to others, including Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost; and Bud Grimes, director of University Relations.

“The Understanding Behavior Styles workshop was an eye-opening experience for better understanding my own behavior and the behaviors of those around me,” said Grimes. The interactive nature of the workshop, the personal experiences shared by the facilitator and participants, and the easy-to-understand support materials make this a valuable personal and professional development exercise.

The registration fee is $75 per person, which includes a workbook and other supplies.

According to its website, The Effectiveness Institute was founded in 1980 and is a team of training and consulting professionals who are experts in the areas of communication, influence and team performance.

For more information, or to register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.

SOAR to help UTM students prepare for Fall semester

Incoming freshmen who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall semester can get prepared for college life by attending the Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) program.

Incoming freshman and parents are highly encouraged to attend one of the three two-day SOAR programs scheduled for June 7-8, June 28-29 and July 16-17.

Students will get the opportunity to meet with academic advisers and register for classes; tour the campus, residence halls and University Village housing; receive information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and hear detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for freshmen the week before classes).

Students and parents will participate in a variety of informational sessions such as those on student health services, public safety, bookstore, student employment and other topics. Additional concurrent sessions are also scheduled for students and parents with topics including student activities, Greek life, housing and meal plans. Administrative offices will be open and students and parents will get additional time to visit with UT Martin personnel in housing, admissions and financial aid.

Advance SOAR registration is required, and in order to attend SOAR, students must have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter.

For more information about SOAR or to register visit www.utm.edu/sorregister, or call 731-881-7027.

Students Win State Poster Competition

Four social work students from the University of Tennessee at Martin recently won the Student Policy Poster Competition at the Tennessee chapter’s National Association of Social Workers annual legislative conference. It is the third poster competition win for the UT Martin Social Work program since the inception of the poster competition in 2005. The group also won two preliminary poster competitions before advancing to the state level. Pictured L to R are students Jana Mullen, of Atwood; Katherine Blaylock, of Dresden; Kristin Howes, of Martin; and Jamie Mills of McKenzie.
UT President to give address at Spring Commencement

President of the University of Tennessee, Dr. Joe DiPietro, will deliver the spring commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin, at 11 a.m., May 5, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

DiPietro became the 25th president of the University of Tennessee in January of 2011 and is the chief executive officer of the statewide system that includes the flagship campus in Knoxville, campuses in Chattanooga and Martin, the Health Science Center in Memphis, the Space Institute in Tullahoma and institutes of agriculture and public service.

He previously served as the chancellor for the UT Institute for Agriculture from 2006 to 2010, during which time the institute began interdisciplinary programs such as the Center for Renewable Carbon, the Tennessee Biofuels Initiative and the master's degree in landscape architecture. External grant support for the institute also increased by 30 percent during his time as chancellor.

DiPietro earned his bachelor's, master's and doctor of veterinary medicine degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana. He has also served as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida, as well as assistant director of the Agriculture Experiment Station and associate dean for research at the College of Veterinary Medicine at UT Urbana.

Tickets are required for admission to spring commencement, and each graduate will be given six complimentary tickets to admit his or her guests. More than 750 degrees are slated to be awarded.

A live webcast will be available at the “View Commencement Live” link on the UT Martin homepage, www.utm.edu.

Percussion students to participate in Honor Ensemble

Fourteen high school students from across the state will travel to the University of Tennessee at Martin to participate in the Tennessee Honor Percussion Ensemble Festival on April 26-28.

The group will spend two days in practice and present a public concert at noon on April 28 in room 112 of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin main campus.

The students will present a piece for marimba choir titled “Lux Aurumque,” a selection for steel band called “Dain Brammage” and a challenging new percussion arrangement titled “Cyclone.”

The ensemble will also perform a Brazilian percussion arrangement by professor and performer Jorge Sacramento, who is visiting UT Martin from Brazil as part of the Duo Sacramento group.

The group will be under the instruction of Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music.

The April 28 performance is free and open to the public.

LOCAL STUDENT INDUCTED INTO PHI KAPPA PHI - William Brandt Sisson, of South Fulton was recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Membership is based upon academic achievements and exemplary character. Those eligible include graduate students in the upper 10 percent of the class, seniors in the upper 10 percent, and juniors in the upper 7.5 percent.

Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest and most selective organization that recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all fields of higher education. Sisson, a South Fulton High School graduate, is the son of Mike and Tammy Sisson of South Fulton. (Photo submitted)
DiPietro to address UT Martin graduates on May 5

University of Tennessee President Dr. Joe DiPietro will deliver the spring commencement address at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 11 a.m. May 5 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

DiPietro became the 25th president of the University of Tennessee in January 2011 and is the chief executive officer of the statewide system that includes the flagship campus in Knoxville, campuses in Chattanooga and Martin, the Health Science Center in Memphis, the Space Institute in Tullahoma and institutes of agriculture and public service.

He previously served as the chancellor for the UT Institute for Agriculture from 2006 to 2010, during which time the institute began interdisciplinary programs such as the Center for Renewable Carbon, the Tennessee Biofuels Initiative and the master’s degree in landscape architecture. External grant support for the institute also increased by 30 percent during his time as chancellor.

DiPietro earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctor of veterinary medicine degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana. He has also served as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida, as well as assistant director of the Agriculture Experiment Station and associate dean for research of the College of Veterinary Medicine at UI-Urbana.

Tickets are required for admission to UT Martin’s spring commencement and each graduate will be given six complimentary tickets for guests. Over 750 degrees are slated to be awarded.

A live webcast will be available at the View Commencement Live link on the homepage at www.utm.edu.

Band, jazz concert set at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Big Band and Small Jazz Group will present a public concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the ballroom of Boling University Center.

The group will present a total of eight pieces, including “Milestones” by Miles Davis, “Mister Magic” by Grover Washington Jr. and “Fire Shaker” by Maynard Ferguson.

The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Kurt Gorman, associate professor of music. The performance is free and open to the public.

OC student included in percussion ensemble

Obion County Central High School student Trice Mayhall of Union City will join 13 other high school students at the University of Tennessee at Martin to participate in the Tennessee Honor Percussion Ensemble Festival Thursday through Saturday.

The group will spend two days in practice and present a public concert at noon Saturday in room 112 of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students will present a piece for marimba choir titled “Lux Aurumque,” a selection for steel band called “Dain Brammage” and a challenging new percussion arrangement titled “Cyclone.”

The ensemble will also perform a Brazilian percussion arrangement by professor and performer Jorge Sacramento, who is visiting UT Martin from Brazil as part of the Duo Sacramento group.

The group will be under the instruction of Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music. The performance is free and open to the public.

UTM BUDDY BASS EVENT

The fourth annual University of Tennessee at Martin buddy bass tournament will be held Saturday out of Paris Landing State Park.

Tournament hours will run from safe light until 3 p.m. Entry fee for the tournament is $100, with an optional $10 big bass pot. There will be a 70 percent payout, and the big bass pot will be paid back in full.

In addition to the prize money, there will be a $100 cash drawing for every 10 boats that are registered for the tournament.

UT Martin’s collegiate bass fishing team uses the proceeds from this event to send their members to compete in sanctioned collegiate tournaments. This is the team’s biggest annual fundraiser, and without the participation of all anglers in this tournament that would not be possible.

For more information, contact Dylan Powley at 363-1402.
GED test to get significant revision in 2014

The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development’s Adult Education division is preparing for major changes to the General Educational Development (GED®) test to take effect in 2014.

“We encourage eligible Tennesseans who have not earned their GED to do so now,” said Commissioner Karla Davis. “Beginning January 1, 2014, the GED test will cost more, must be taken on a computer, and will contain significant content changes.”

The GED test is undergoing its biggest overhaul since the credentialing test began in 1942. The revised test will measure knowledge and core skills that more closely reflect Common Core State Standards, which is the body of information young people are expected to learn in school and need for success in college and the workforce.

Standards go up for the test to remain a valid option to identify skills demanded by employers and postsecondary schools. The 2014 test will be more rigorous in general and requires higher level math proficiency. As before, the new GED test covers subject areas-writing, reading, science, social studies, and math.

“The quality of the labor force is one of the most important factors that employers look at when they think about locating in a state, specifically, the education of the people who make up the labor force and their ability to deliver on the job,” said Marva Doremus, Labor and Workforce Development Administrator for Adult Education. “An educated workforce is critical to our future as a state. The only way we can grow Tennessee’s economy is with the right workers. Last year, 56.6% of those issued a GED credential in Tennessee were between the ages of 17 and 25. These individuals have 50 years to be in the workforce. We need to move them forward into postsecondary or other job training programs.”

Commissioner Davis added, “New jobs are not being created for those without a high school education. Unemployment rates are inversely related to the level of education a person has achieved. The more education a person has, the less likely he is to be unemployed. The same is true of income—the income differences between a person who does not have a high school or GED and a person who does are striking.”

Other important points:

• People who have not passed all parts of the current GED test before the end of the current GED test series, i.e., by December 31, 2013, will have to start over when the 2014 edition begins.

• Presently the fee for taking the GED averages $65. When the GED test becomes computer-based in 2014, the fee will be a minimum of $120.

Last year 12,047 Tennesseans earned GEDs. Tennessee still has 900,000 to one million adults without a high school diploma. Almost 29,000 students dropped out of high school in 2011.

To help existing GED Test Centers transition from the old paper-based testing format to computer-based testing, Tennessee is offering three pilot programs for people to take the current GED test before the launch of the new 2014 series. Test Centers at UT-Martin, Tennessee State University, and Walters State Community College are taking part in the pilot program. The fee to take the test at one of the pilot centers is $120.

For further information on obtaining a GED, contact the GED Office in the Adult Education Division of the Department of Labor & Workforce Development, (615) 741-7054, or e-mail: Susan.Doughty@tn.gov.
LOCAL STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO PHI KAPPA PHI: Pictured from left: Wendy Butler, of Newbern; and Valerie Winters, Marilauren Anderson and Wes Newbill, all of Dyersburg, were recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Membership is based upon academic achievements and exemplary character. Those eligible include graduate students in the upper 10 percent of their class, seniors in the upper 10 percent, and juniors in the upper 7.5 percent. Also eligible are faculty members who possess outstanding academic, research, creative and service achievements. An internationally respected honor society, Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest and most selective organization that recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all fields of higher education. The society was founded at the University of Maine in 1897 and currently has chapters on the campuses of more than 300 colleges and universities in the United States, the Philippines and Puerto Rico.

Learn more about our green photo contest winner

Published: Monday, April 30, 2012, 11:58 AM  Updated: Monday, April 30, 2012, 12:08 PM

Thanks to all of the lehighvalleylive.com users who uploaded photos to our green photo contest. We had a fantastic number of entries with photos taken of all kinds of subjects.

Check out the finalists and the honorable mention photos.

We caught up with contest winner Brittney Smith to learn a little more about the winning photo:

"My name is Brittney Smith. I live in New Jersey. Currently, I am a college student, attending The University of Tennessee (at Martin). I am studying Natural Resources Management/Park and Recreation. To date, I've had the opportunity to work with Hawks, Owls, and Bald Eagles (just to name a few). I absolutely love taking nature and wildlife photographs. I took the Iguana's photo while on vacation in Florida. He was walking freely throughout the park. Thanks so much to my mother, Sally, for entering my photo into your 'Green' contest. Receiving the winning notification was a wonderful surprise. Thanks to all who voted!"

Join us in congratulating Brittney on her winning photo!
Hart is Volunteer of the Year

When the students, faculty and staff at Dresden Middle School surprised one of their own with the announcement of being selected as this year’s Volunteer of the Year, Leigh Hart was speechless. However, it was neither a shock nor a surprise to the people who work with Coach Hart every day. Ask anyone at DMS, and he or she will tell you that she is one of the hardest working educators he or she knows. She is caring and passionate about the teaching profession.

Community members think it has been a blessing that Hart chose to make Dresden her home in 1982.

Leigh Ann Avery Hart graduated from Bartlett High School’s class of 1977.

Upon graduating from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1981, she was named “Outstanding Female Physical Education Major.”

While at UTM, Hart was a member of the Tennis Team. She received her Master’s Degree in 1987.

She did her student teaching at Dresden Junior High in 1981, and never left. She was hired at DJHS in 1982 and has taught Science, Reading, Geography, Health, and PE.

Hart was the head girls basketball coach from 1982-1994. She became the assistant coach in 1999 and still holds that position.

Over the years, she has been an assistant softball coach and cheerleading sponsor. Coach Hart served as the school’s yearbook sponsor for 19 years.

She is currently a Beta Club sponsor. Coach Hart has been a mentor to a countless number of students, both in the classroom and on the court and field.

She served on both the Weakley County Safe and Drug Free Schools Committee from 1998-2008 as well as the Weakley County Character Education Committee from 2000-2006. She had the task of chairing the school’s SACS committee for several years.

Coach Hart was instrumental in bringing the Presidential Fitness Program to DMS and helped introduce Sport (Cup) Stacking to Weakley County Schools.

She worked at the Dresden City Park for four years in the summers of 1980-81 and 1983-84.

Coach Hart has contributed to the Tennessee Iris Festival in various ways over the years, being a member of the Road Race Committee for nine years, serving five of those years as chairperson.

She was honored by being chosen to be a Torch-bearer for the 2002 winter Olympics as she was part of the Olympic Torch Relay.

Coach Hart has been married to Dickie Hart for 21 years, with their wedding ceremony being held at the Sports Banquet in April 1991.

She and her husband have one daughter, Haley Marga-
UT MARTIN CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER HONORED WITH RETIREMENT RECEPTION — Current and former members of the UT Martin Information Technology Services staff gathered to honor Shannon Burgin with a retirement reception April 13 in the university’s Holland McCombs Center. Burgin, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and chief information officer, joined the university in 1978 and has directed Information Technology Services since 2002. On hand for the reception were (from left) Scarlett McKinney, Patsy McNatt Young (former staff member), Burgin, Terry Lewis, Brenda Wright, Suzie Nanney and Bruce Harrison. (Photo submitted)

UTM’s SOAR helps prepare students

Incoming freshmen who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall semester can get prepared for college life by attending the Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) program.

Incoming freshman and parents are highly encouraged to attend one of the three two-day SOAR programs scheduled for June 7-8, June 28-29 and July 16-17.

Students will get the opportunity to meet with academic advisers and register for classes; tour the campus, residence halls and University Village housing; receive information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and hear detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for freshmen the week before classes).

Students and parents will participate in a variety of informational sessions such as those on student health services, public safety, bookstore, student employment and other topics. Additional concurrent sessions also are scheduled for students and parents with topics including student activities, Greek life, housing and meal plans.

Administrative offices will be open and students and parents will get additional time to visit with UT Martin personnel in housing, admissions and financial aid.

Advance SOAR registration is required, and in order to attend SOAR, students must have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter.

For more information about SOAR or to register visit www.utm.edu/soarregister, or call 881-7027.
Currently 20th in RecycleMania
University of TN at Martin receives recycling bin grant

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s recycling efforts are paying off, with the school currently in 20th place in the national RecycleMania competition. The status recently resulted in a grant through the program which allowed the college to place 1,500 recycling bins in campus residence halls.

"We are very grateful to the Alcoa Foundation, Keep America Beautiful, the College & University Recycling Coalition and Dr. Mac Kewl for providing our students a tool to use in their efforts to continue to propel our university’s sustainability initiatives," said Earl Wright, UT Martin director of housing. "The students, along with the Residence Life staff, are very excited to make use of the recycling bins to help reduce the waste generated in the halls. The bins provide our students and staff an opportunity to work together to help decrease the rate at which the landfills in our community are being filled, and thus decrease the negative impact landfills have on air, water and soil."

RecycleMania is a friendly competition that aims to change behavior about recycling and raise awareness about waste reduction programs on campuses. During the competition, colleges and universities vie for top awards to see which schools recycle the most on a per capita basis, produce the least amount of waste and recycle the largest percentage of their overall waste.

The recycling bin grant was made possible by the Alcoa Foundation, in partnership with national non-profit Keep America Beautiful and the College & University Recycling Coalition.

The recycling bin grant comes at the same time the UT Martin Department of Housing participated in the national Campus Conservation competition. The contest that ended April 2 encouraged housing residents to reduce their energy consumption through simple tasks like turning off lights and electronics.

In the battle between four on-campus residence halls, Ellington Hall won the competition by reducing its energy consumption by 18.4 percent compared to 2011, and the halls together saved a total of $5,832.22 in energy costs during the competition.

STUDENTS INDUCTED — William Sisson (left) of South Fulton and Andrew Berry of Obion were recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Membership is based on academic achievements and exemplary character. Those eligible include graduate students in the upper 10 percent of their class, seniors in the upper 10 percent and juniors in the upper 7.5 percent. Also eligible are faculty members who possess outstanding academic, research, creative and service achievements. Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest and most selective organization that recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all fields of higher education.
**State preps for GED test changes in 2014**

The Jackson Sun

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development’s Adult Education division is preparing for major changes to the General Educational Development test to take effect in 2014, according to a news release from the state.

“We encourage eligible Tennesseans who have not earned their GED to do so now,” said Commissioner Karla Davis. “Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, the GED test will cost more, must be taken on a computer, and will contain significant content changes.”

The GED test is undergoing its biggest overhaul since the credentialing test began in 1942. The revised test will measure knowledge and core skills that more closely reflect Common Core State Standards, which is the body of information young people are expected to learn in school and need for success in college and the workforce.

Standards go up for the test to remain a valid option to identify skills demanded by employers and post-secondary schools. The 2014 test will be more rigorous in general and requires a higher level math proficiency. As before, the new GED test covers several subject areas — writing, reading, science, social studies and math.

“The quality of the labor force is one of the most important factors that employers look at when they think about locating in a state, specifically, the education of the people who make up the labor force and their ability to deliver on the job,” said Marva Doremus, Labor and Workforce Development administrator for adult education. “An educated workforce is critical to our future as a state. The only way we can grow Tennessee’s economy is with the right workers. Last year, 56.6 percent of those issued a GED credential in Tennessee were between the ages of 17 and 25. These individuals have 50 years to be in the workforce. We need to move them forward into post-secondary or other job training programs.”

Davis added, “New jobs are not being created for those without a high school education. Unemployment rates are inversely related to the level of education a person has achieved. The more education a person has, the less likely he is to be unemployed. The same is true of income — the income differences between a person who does not have a high school or GED and a person who does are striking.”

The release cited other important points about the GED test that include the following:

» People who have not passed all parts of the current GED test before the end of the current GED test series, i.e., by Dec. 31, 2013, will have to start over when the 2014 edition begins.

» Presently the fee for taking the GED averages $65. When the GED test becomes computer-based in 2014, the fee will be a minimum of $120.

» Last year, 12,047 Tennesseans earned GEDs. Tennessee still has 900,000 to 1 million adults without a high school diploma. Almost 29,000 students dropped out of high school in 2011.

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**FIND OUT MORE**

For more information about obtaining a GED, call the GED Office in the Adult Education Division of the Department of Labor & Workforce Development at (615) 741-7054, or e-mail Susan.Doughty@tn.gov. You also may call Amanda Bevis of the Madison County Adult Education program at the Tennessee Technology Center at Jackson at (731) 424-0691.