During its quarterly meeting Friday afternoon, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved a reduction in out-of-state tuition fees for UT Martin.

Tuition for out-of-state UTM students will drop from $22,270 to $13,440 dollars per year, or $6,720 dollars per semester.

The new reduced tuition at UT Martin for out-of-state students will be effective beginning 2016-17.

UT Martin drops out-of-state tuition cost significantly

MARTIN, TN - College just got a lot cheaper for your child if they're thinking about going to the University of Tennessee at Martin, but don't live in Tennessee.

To make the campus more competitive in this area and better on your budget, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees cut the cost of out-of-state tuition from $11,135 to $6,720.

Future and current students at UTM from out of state will start saving a lot of money, soon. Right now, only 5 percent of UTM students are considered out of state.

Grant Iverson came to UTM to run. He hoped to eventually earn a scholarship to help pay his out-of-state tuition. Today, he's walking.

"After three seasons of injury, it was just too hard," Iverson said. Running brought him to Martin from Illinois, not friends or familiar faces.

"I actually haven't met anyone that's been from my area, besides one girl," he said.

Public Relations Director Bud Grimes says he thinks now with the tuition almost cut in half, more students will come.

"This is really great for UT Martin to have this options. It's history making. In fact, it's never been possible," Grimes told me after the vote.

Out-of-state students will save a lot on tuition, but they'll have to live on campus and buy a meal plan.

And although loans weigh Iverson down, they'll be a lot less next year. No matter the cost, he's proud of his new home. "I don't think I could ever leave," he says. He does plan to attend grad school after he graduates. He says the vote today could save him more than $20,000.

There are a few Kentucky counties that will still get in-state tuition: Graves, Hickman, and Fulton.
Out-of-state tuition chop approved at UTM

The University of Tennessee board of trustees approved a decrease in UT Martin's out-of-state tuition rate during its spring meeting this week.

"This decrease was strategically designed to make UT Martin competitive with the in-state tuition rates of universities in surrounding states," said Interim Chancellor Bob Smith. The 33 percent decrease will take effect in the fall semester and make UT Martin a more viable option for out-of-state students.

Students who meet additional academic requirements may qualify for the Explorer Scholarship — a value of $5,000 per year — provided they remain in good academic standing, are enrolled full-time, live in on-campus housing and purchase a qualifying meal plan each semester.

With these changes, out-of-state students could potentially save $12,000 or more as compared to previous years — a savings of approximately 56 percent.

The tuition decrease and scholarship apply to both new and current out-of-state students, beginning with the fall semester.

"When it comes to prospective students and families selecting a college or university, cost is often a major factor in that decision. For a long time, UT Martin has been an institution of choice for students in our state. Now we are positioned to be very competitive for out-of-state students and families," said Jamie Mantooth, executive director of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement. "We look forward to introducing our excellent academic programs and vibrant student life to many who may now consider us as an affordable out-of-state destination."

These changes do not apply to online or international students.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.

Campus Corner

http://www.zanesvilletimesrecorder.com/

Joseph Palumbo has received the Honors Out-of-State Tuition Waiver Scholarship. He's the son of Norman and Michelle Palumbo of Somerset.
Samuel Walgren (second from left) and Seth Gibson (second from right), both of South Gibson County High School, are pictured with their respective mothers, Delynn Walgren and Jennifer Gibson, Feb. 15 at UT Martin's Junior/Senior Day.

Hannah Trimble (right), a junior at Greenfield High School, is pictured with her father, Tim Trimble on Feb. 15 at UT Martin's Junior/Senior Day.

Seth Graves (right), a junior at South Gibson County High School, is pictured with his mother, Brenda Graves, on Feb. 15 at UT Martin's Junior/Senior Day.
Siblings Kayley (second from left) and Colby Brooks (second from right), both students at Gleason High School, are pictured with their parents, Reba and Richard Pritchett, on Feb. 15 at UT Martin's Junior/Senior Day.

Kiran Last (left), a junior at Westview High School in Martin, is pictured with his mother, Robin Last on Feb. 15 at UT Martin's Junior/Senior Day.

Chad Edwards (left) and Danielle Harstin (center), both juniors at McNairy Central High School, are pictured with Chad's mother, Christie Edwards on Feb. 15 at UT Martin's Junior/Senior Day.
Seven cadets from the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk ROTC Battalion earned honors at a recent competition held at Indiana University.

The German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge is a decoration of the armed forces of the Republic of Germany, and is a foreign award approved for wear on the United States Army uniform.

The ROTC cadets and Army soldiers must complete five events to qualify, which includes a 100-meter swim in uniform, first aid application, pistol qualification, a road march and a nuclear, biological and chemical preparedness test.

Three cadets from UT-Martin received the badge, Bradley Chism of Ramer, Remington Burch of Trenton, and Todd McDunn of Clarksville.

Four other cadets from the Murray State division also received the badge.

The ROTC Unit was first established at UT-Martin in 1952, and includes Murray State, Bethel University, Lane College, Union University, Freed-Hardeman and Jackson State.
Milan grad competes for UTM at AERO design competition

MARTIN, Tenn. – Seven students from the University of Tennessee at Martin competed in the international SAE Aero Design East competition, held March 11-13 in Ft. Worth, Texas, and won third place overall behind Georgia Tech and a national team from Poland. The team also won second place in the flight category.

Seventy-five teams from universities, colleges and technical schools around the world competed in the annual event, which is sponsored by professional aerospace firms including Lockheed Martin. The UT Martin team competed against 16 other teams in the “advanced” category, and was the only school present without an independent aerospace program or related major.

“The purpose of the competition is to engage and explore all these little engineering techniques we’ve learned over the past four years and really apply them to the real world in a real-world situation,” said Cameron Westbrook, a sophomore from Nashville and the only non-senior teammate. “The competition really pushes us to do the most we can with the skills we have.”

Teammates Wesley Cox, of Paris; Taylor Higgason, of Petal, Miss.; Josh Johnson, of Martin; Matthew Laudermilk, of Milan; Guara Patel, of Humboldt; Junior Overacker, of Jackson; and Westbrook, built a radio-controlled aircraft from the ground up based on guidelines determined by the competition objectives.

The objective of the 2016 competition was to construct an aircraft capable of delivering four two-pound expellable packages and carrying 15 pounds of static payload, using only a 0.46-cubic-inch engine. The team’s finished aircraft is approximately 64 inches long with a nine-foot wingspan and can carry a maximum of roughly 32 pounds.

“When they (the team) started introduction to aerodynamics in September, most of them didn’t even know what the parts of an airplane were, so they’ve come a long, long way in a short amount of time,” said Dr. Doug Sterrett, professor of engineering and team supervisor. Sterrett also serves as the team’s competition pilot.

UT MARTIN ENGINEERING STUDENTS WIN THIRD INTERNATIONALLY AT SAE AERO DESIGN EAST COMPETITION—Seven students from the University of Tennessee at Martin competed in the international SAE Aero Design East competition, held March 11-13 in Ft. Worth, Texas, and won third place overall behind Georgia Tech and a national team from Poland. The team also won second place in the flight category. Pictured with their aircraft are (l-r) Dr. Doug Sterrett, professor of engineering and team supervisor; Guara Patel, of Humboldt; Junior Overacker, of Jackson; Taylor Higgason, of Petal, Miss.; Josh Johnson, of Martin; Matthew Laudermilk, of Milan; Wesley Cox, of Paris; and Cameron Westbrook, of Nashville. The students are seniors concentrating in mechanical engineering with the exception of Westbrook, who is a sophomore.
THIRD IN THE WORLD — Seven students from the University of Tennessee at Martin competed in the international SAE Aero Design East competition, held March 11-13 in Ft. Worth, Texas, and won third place overall behind Georgia Tech and a national team from Poland. The team also won second place in the flight category. Displaying their aircraft are (from left) Dr. Doug Steerrett, professor of engineering and team supervisor; Guara Patel of Humboldt; Junior Overacker of Jackson; Taylor Higgason of Petal, Miss.; Cameron Westbrook of Nashville; Matthew Laudermilk, of Milan; Wesley Cox of Paris; and Josh Johnson of Martin. The students are seniors concentrating in mechanical engineering with the exception of Westbrook, who is a sophomore.

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While the SAE Aero Design East competition is held in the spring, the work really begins in the fall of the preceding year. Conceptual designs must be completed by early November, with a detailed design finished over Christmas break. All seven students spent their Christmas holiday on campus designing, building and testing their aircraft. A complete technical report, the first phase of competition, was due following the holidays.

The second phase of competition takes place in the days leading up to the flight demonstration, when the team must give a com-

The actual on-site flight competition is the third and final phase and includes a score based on the weight of an empty aircraft, the maximum payload weight, flight capabilities and the number and accuracy of packages dropped onto a designated target.

While Sterrett pilots the plane, the student crew monitors video-feed from the aircraft, satellite positioning, telemetry data, battery power, air and ground speed, direction and a host of other factors to guide Sterrett over the target. When the aircraft is in position, Cox releases the packages to land in the target area. The UT Martin team left the field with the most impressive package accuracy.

"It’s an entire engineering system," said Sterrett. "It’s a control system, a video system, a package drop system, a telemetry system, and engine system. There’s a lot more to it than just an aircraft."

Seniors in UT Martin’s engineering program may choose from a variety of senior design projects, but the airplane design project is one of the more intricate and unpredictable options.

"No matter what happens, you’ve got to be ready to fix it. You’ve got to think on your toes and get everything ready to go up again," said Laudermilk. The team believes in “Murphy’s Laws,” which say that anything bad that can happen, will happen. Flight tests are petition, but every flight is a risk. The team’s aircraft crashed once before the trip to Houston and was badly damaged, requiring hours of repair. However, this risk appeals to many students.

“Everything’s more dangerous with this project. It’s more exciting, more challenging,” said Cox. “The reason I chose this is because I thought since it’s a smaller and more close-knit team, I thought we could be more competitive in the long run by working well together.”

This is UT Martin’s fourth year of participation in the SAE Aero Design East competition. In 2015 the students placed third overall and third in the “technological report” and “closest to target” categories, and was the highest-ranked American team.

The 2017 team, assembled this fall, will use the current aircraft for testing to determine their own original design and learn from the team before them.

Hands-on, practical experience is a key component in a UT Martin education, and these students will enter the workforce with a unique advantage over untested applicants.
Duck to present seminar

Leigh Anne Duck, an associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi, will present a seminar titled “Screening Civil Rights: Placing the Movement in Space and Time” at 6 p.m., April 14, in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Campbell Auditorium.

Duck edits “The Global South” journal and is the author of “The Nation’s Region: Southern Modernism, Segregation, and U.S. Nationalism.” She has also written several essays on literary and visual representations of the U.S. South, which have appeared in “American Literary History,” “American Literature” and the “Journal of American Folklore.” She is currently writing a book tentatively titled “Hollywood South: State, Cinema, and Societal Change.”

This presentation is part of UT Martin’s Academic Speakers Program. The Academic Speakers Program annually features top speakers who meet with students from the university’s Honors Programs and offer presentations to the public. Duck is the final speaker for the 2015-16 academic year. UT Martin’s Campbell Auditorium is located inside the Andy Holt Humanities Building.

For more information, contact Dr. Lionel Crews, director, UT Martin.
DAY ON THE HILL — Leadership Weakley County Classes traveled to Nashville for State Government Day. Among those attending were the Adult Leadership Weakley County Class: Jared Anderson, UTM Office of Alumni Relations; Cody Black, Weststate Corrections; Albany Cianfarani, Reelfoot Bank; Tandy Darby, Akin & Porter Produce Inc.; Rob Goad, Northwest TN Development District; Chris Gunlefinger, Discovery Park of America; Jeffrey Hames, Pepsi MidAmerica; Phyllis Hammer, UTM Student Services; Chris Johnson, UTM Dual Enrollment; Christina Oliver, Finney’s Floor & Home Center LLC; Jo Ann Speer, Everett Stewart Regional Airport; Regina VanCleave, Weakley County Chancery Clerk & Master; and Kelly Wilson, City of Martin Simmons Bank Youth Leadership Weakley County Class: Dresden: Racheal Dunlap, Meyer Blaine Maddox, Fernando Serrano Alvarado and Dylan Young. Gleason: Jayne-Shaye Bailey, Seth Bowers, Chandler Brown, Isabelle Carroll and Brayton Vickers. Greenfield: Molly Mai Borneman, Peyton Cooper, Layla Doyle, Bentley Gordon and Mattlyn Sellers. Westview: Brianna Hampton, Spencer Legnins, Blake McCol· lum, Johana Romero and Christene Spencer. Also pictured: Governor Bill Haslam, Senator John Stevens, Weakley County CTE Director Marvin Platt, and Leadership Director and Chamber Executive Director Barbara Virgin. Leadership Weakley County continues to be an enriching experience to those who are willing to make the commitment required to complete the program.

CADETS RECEIVE AWARDS — UT Martin cadets (from left) Bradley Chism, of Ramer; Remington Burch, or Trenton; and Todd McDunn, of Clarksville, recently received the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge.
UT Martin Among Safest Tennessee Colleges
By West Kentucky Star Staff

MARTIN, TN - The University of Tennessee at Martin remains among the safest public college campuses in Tennessee.

According to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation’s latest Crime on Campus report, UT Martin had the least number of crimes of all public four-year universities in the state. Crimes considered in the report included murder, kidnapping, robbery, assaults, arson, burglary and motor vehicle thefts. UT Martin had 33 such offenses reported in 2015, down from 41 in 2014.

This works out to five incidents per 1,000 people, which tied UT Martin with East Tennessee State University for the lowest rate of index crimes per capita.

UT Martin officials credit the lower crime rate to the fact that the campus is patrolled 24 hours a day, and that the campus community is consistently taught how to be security-minded in their daily activities. Freshmen attend special training sessions to instruct them on basic personal safety, property security and an awareness of current surroundings.

http://www.westkentuckystar.com/

Dresden Enterprise
April 6, 2016

UT Martin Is Among TN Safest Public Campuses

2015 Crime on Campus report

According to the 2015 Crime on Campus report released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the University of Tennessee at Martin remains among the safest public four-year college campuses in Tennessee.

The report shows that UT Martin has the least number of index crimes of all public four-year universities in Tennessee and tied with East Tennessee State University for the lowest rate of index crimes per 1,000 people.

Index crimes are those considered serious felony offenses and include murder, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated and sexual assaults, arson, burglary and motor vehicle thefts. UT Martin had 33 such offenses reported in 2015, with five incidents per 1,000 people. This number is down from 41 in 2014.

UT Martin had the lowest number of group A offenses as well, with only 78 incidents reported in 2015. Group A offenses are serious crimes not considered index crimes. This number is down from 87 reported in 2014.

“The university community should take a lot of pride in another low crime rate. The caliber of students and staff who attend and work here on campus is the main reason we have the lowest crime rate among four-year public universities,” said Scott Robbins, director, UT Martin Department of Public Safety.

The UT Martin main campus is patrolled 24 hours a day, and the campus community is consistently taught how to be security-minded in their daily activities. Freshmen attend special training sessions in their first year to instruct them on basic personal safety, property security and an awareness of current surroundings.
The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has again deemed the University of Tennessee at Martin as one of the safest four year campuses in the state.

According to the annual “Crime on Campus” report for the year 2015, UT-Martin had the least number of index crimes of all public four year universities, and tied with East Tennessee State for the lowest rate of index crimes per 1,000 people.

The TBI categorizes index crimes are serious felony offenses that includes murder, kidnapping, sexual assaults and burglary.

For the year, UT-Martin had 33 such offenses, which was a drop from 41 in 2014.

The report also listed the university with the lowest number of less serious Group A crimes with 78 for the year.

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UT board OKs decrease in out-of-state tuition rate

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved a decrease in UT Martin’s out-of-state tuition rate during its spring meeting last week on the Martin campus.

“This decrease was strategically designed to make UT Martin competitive with the in-state tuition rates of universities in surrounding states,” said Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor.

The 33 percent decrease will take effect in the fall 2016 semester and will make UT Martin a more viable option for out-of-state students.

Students who meet additional academic requirements may qualify for the Explorer Scholarship, a value of $5,000 per year, provided they remain in good academic standing, are enrolled full-time, live in UT Martin on-campus housing and purchase a qualifying meal plan each semester.

With these changes, out-of-state students could potentially save $12,000 or more as compared to previous years — a savings rate of about 56 percent. The tuition decrease and scholarship apply to both new and current out-of-state students, beginning with the fall semester.

“When it comes to prospective students and families selecting a college or university, cost is often a major factor in that decision. For a long time, UT Martin has been an institution of choice for students in our state. Now we are positioned to be very competitive for out-of-state students and families,” said Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director, UT Martin Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

“We look forward to introducing our excellent academic programs and vibrant student life to many who may now consider us as an affordable out-of-state destination.”

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UT Martin to host civil rights seminar

Leigh Anne Duck, an associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi, will present a seminar titled “Screening Civil Rights: Placing the Movement in Space and Time” at 6 p.m. April 14 at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Campbell Auditorium.

Ms. Duck edits The Global South journal and is the author of “The Nation’s Region: Southern Modernism, Segregation and U.S. Nationalism.”

She has also written several essays on literary and visual representations of the U.S. South which have appeared in American Literary History, American Literature and the Journal of American Folklore. She is currently writing a book tentatively titled “Hollywood South: State, Cinema and Societal Change.”

This presentation is part of UT Martin’s Academic Speakers Program.

The Academic Speakers Program annually features top speakers who meet with students from the university’s Honors Programs and offer presentations to the public. Ms. Duck is the final speaker for the 2015-16 academic year.

UT Martin’s Campbell Auditorium is located inside the Andy Holt Humanities Building.

For more information, contact Dr. Lionel Crews, director of UT Martin Honors Programs, at (731) 881-7436 or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.

Author set to speak Thursday at UT Martin

Jeff Hardin of Savannah will speak at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Paul Meek Library.

His presentation, “Imagining the Language, Imagining a Life,” is part of the Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series and the Academic Speaker Series.

He is the author of two chapbooks, published in 2002 and 2003, respectively. He has also written four collections of poetry, “Fall Sanctuary,” which received the Nicholas Roerich Prize from Story Line Press; “Notes for a Praise Book; “Restoring the Narrative,” which received the 2015 Donald Justice Poetry Prize; and “Small Revolution,” which is coming in 2016.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville and a master of fine arts degree in poetry from the University of Alabama.

Hardin will also facilitate a free poetry workshop 1 p.m. Thursday in room 308 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building.

The event is co-sponsored by Dr. Anne Meek, UT Martin Honors Programs and the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. Dr. Meek is the daughter of the late Paul Meek.
PAL leader speaks to UTM-Ripley class

Xavier Lawrence Andrews, center, gave a presentation to the "Leadership and Management" class at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center on March 23. Mrs. Ethel Spivey, Department of Nursing, pictured front row, left, is an instructor at Ripley Center and allowed the coalition to speak to her the class. The next coalition meeting will be held at the UTM Ripley Center on April 28 at 6 p.m.

Ole Miss professor to speak at UTM

Leigh Anne Duck, an associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi, will present a seminar titled "Screening Civil Rights: Placing the Movement in Space and Time" at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Campbell Auditorium.

The venue is located inside the Andy Holt Humanities Building. The presentation is part of UT Martin's Academic Speakers Program. The program annually features top speakers who meet with students from the university's Honors Programs and offer presentations to the public. Duck is the final speaker for the 2015-16 academic year.

Duck edits "The Global South" journal and is the author of "The Nation's Region: Southern Modernism, Segregation, and U.S. Nationalism." She has also written several essays on literary and visual representations of the U.S. South, which have appeared in "American Literary History," "American Literature" and the "Journal of American Folklore." She is currently writing a book tentatively titled "Hollywood South: State, Cinema, and Societal Change."

For additional information, contact Dr. Lionel Crews, director, UT Martin Honors Programs, at (731) 881-7436 or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.
Kevin McMillan and Jason Simpson assume interim athletics leadership roles for UT Martin

Two longtime and successful University of Tennessee at Martin head coaches are assuming additional leadership responsibilities for the Skyhawk athletics program.

UT Martin Interim Chancellor Bob Smith on Thursday appointed head Skyhawk women's basketball coach Kevin McMillan interim athletics director and head football coach Jason Simpson interim associate athletics director. The appointments are effective immediately, and both will continue head-coaching duties for their respective programs.

The interim appointments follow the resignation of Julio Freire in March, who left UT Martin for an athletics position at the University of Pittsburgh. The planning process will begin soon for hiring a new UT Martin athletics director.

"I've asked two successful head coaches committed to UT Martin to step up and lead until an athletics director is appointed," Smith said. "Sharing administrative responsibilities will allow them to move our athletics program ahead while also remaining focused on their important head-coaching duties."

"I look forward to serving the university in this expanded role," said McMillan, who became UT Martin women's head basketball coach in June 2009. "Skyhawk athletics offers excellent opportunities for student-athletes, and it's exciting to help guide the program's continued progress."

McMillan, the winningest coach in UT Martin women's basketball history with 142 victories, earned his third Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year recognition following the Skyhawks' regular-season conference championship in February. The team then made a successful appearance in the 2016 Women's National Invitation Tournament in which the Skyhawks registered their first postseason victory since 1999 with a win at the University of Memphis.

Simpson, the longest-tenured head football coach in the OVC, coached his first season at UT Martin in 2006. "I'm pleased to help the university and entire athletics program in this interim position. Coach McMillan and I will work together to assure that our student-athletes, athletics staff and coaches, and many fans see a program that continues to move forward."

Simpson's 65 wins make him the all-time winningest coach in UT Martin's NCAA Division I history. He is the ninth winningest coach in OVC history and led the team in 2006 to its first-ever Division I postseason appearance. Simpson's 2015 Skyhawks won the team's second consecutive Sgt. Alvin C. York Trophy, which goes to the winner of the quadrangular season series among OVC schools located in Tennessee.

McMillan and Simpson assume their leadership roles during an important time for the UT Martin athletics program. Skyhawk teams enjoy increasing regional and national exposure through competition success, scheduling and growing media coverage through the OVC. Also, a major renovation project is underway and on schedule as Hardy M. Graham Stadium receives major improvements to the press box and west stands.

"We are fortunate to have experienced coaches and administrative staff who will keep Skyhawk athletics on an upward trajectory under interim leadership," Smith added. "I am confident in the job that Kevin and Jason will do in these expanded leadership roles."

#UT Martin Athletics#

Jeff Hardin speaks at UTM today

Jeff Hardin of Savannah will speak at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 7:30 p.m. today in the Paul Meek Library.

Hardin's presentation, "Imagining the Language, Imagining a Life," is part of both the university's Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series and the Academic Speaker Series.

Hardin is the author of "Deep in the Shallows" and "The Slow Hill Out," published in 2002 and 2003, respectively, as well as an award-winning poet.

Hardin holds a bachelor's degree in English from Austin Peay State University and a master's degree in poetry from the University of Alabama. He is currently a professor of English at Columbia State Community College.

Hardin will also facilitate a poetry workshop at 1 p.m. today in room 2B.

See Briefly, Page 2B

Briefly

Continued from Page 1B

308 at University of Tennessee at Martin's Andy Holt Humanities Building. The workshop, titled "Apostrophe/address poems: Who is this 'you' to whom we are speaking?" is free to attend and open to the public. Hardin will also meet with several university classes and with students from Martin Middle School.

Visit jeffhardin.weebly.com for samples of Hardin's poetry. For more information on the Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series, call Sam Richardson, Paul Meek Library interim director, at (731) 881-7065.
Seven cadets from the University of Tennessee at Martin: Skyhawk ROTC Battalion earned the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge after a competition held March 4-5 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind.

The proficiency badge is a decoration of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, and is a foreign award approved for wear on the United States Army uniform.

ROTC cadets and Army soldiers must complete five events to qualify for this recognition: a 100-meter swim in uniform, first aid application, pistol qualification, a road march, and a nuclear, biological and chemical preparedness test.

Three cadets from UT Martin received the proficiency badge. Bradley Chism, of Ramer, placed at the gold level; and Remington Burch, of Trenton, and Todd McDunn, of Clarksville, both placed at the silver level. Four cadets from the Murray State division also received the badge: Mark Anderson, of Anchorage, Alaska, and Ethan Davis, of Mascoutah, Ill., both received silver-level badges and Alexander Baldwin, of Owensboro, Ky., and Daniel Christian, of Versailles, Ky., both received bronze-level badges.

An ROTC unit was first established at UT Martin in 1952, followed by the start of a four-year ROTC program in 1964. The military science program, of which ROTC is a part, includes Bethel University in McKenzie; Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson; Jackson State Community College, Lane College and Union University in Jackson; and Murray State University in Murray, Ky.

For more information on the military science program or the Skyhawk ROTC Battalion, contact the Department of Military Science and Leadership at 731-881-7682 or by email at armyrotc@utm.edu.
READY FOR THE RODEO – Tanner Phipps grooms his horse at the University of Tennessee at Martin Equestrian Center in preparation for the UTM rodeo, which starts next Thursday. Timed events and rough stock events, including bull riding, are planned, along with a crawfish supper on Wednesday and a free barbecue, as well as pageants. See Tuesday’s Weakley County Press for more rodeo information.

Photo by Suzanne Harper

UTM campus crime rate among lowest in state

According to the 2015 Crime on Campus report released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the University of Tennessee at Martin remains among the safest public four-year college campuses in Tennessee.

The report shows that UT Martin has the least number of index crimes of all public four-year universities in Tennessee and tied with East Tennessee State University for the lowest rate of index crimes per 1,000 people. UTM had 33 such offenses reported in 2015, with five incidents per 1,000 people. This number is down from 41 in 2014.

UT Martin had the lowest number of group A offenses as well, with only 78 incidents reported in 2015. Group A offenses are serious crimes not considered index crimes. This number is down from 87 reported in 2014.

“The university community should take a lot of pride in another low crime rate for UT Martin,” UTM Chancellor Bob Handleman said.

WestStar to host conference

The WestStar Leadership Program will host the 2016 Regional Success Summit from 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m., April 28, at the Walter Barnes Conference Center, located inside the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. Masterworks Strategic Engagement, of Seattle, Wash., will present the conference and focus on “Tapping into America’s Wealthiest Generation – Baby Boomers.”

The workshop, formerly known as the West Tennessee Small Business Conference, will focus on promotion and marketing. Both businesses and non-profit organizations will benefit from the session, regardless of size.

The registration fee is $30 per person, which includes lunch. The fee increases to $35 after April 22.

For more information or to register, contact Jordan Jones, WestStar administrative assistant, at jjone239@utm.edu or (731) 881-3298.
UTM to drop tuition for out-of-state students

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved a decrease in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s out-of-state tuition rate during its spring meeting March 31-April 1 on the UT Martin campus.

“This decrease was strategically designed to make UT Martin competitive with the in-state tuition rates of universities in surrounding states,” said Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor. The 33-percent decrease will take effect in the fall 2016 semester and make UT Martin a more viable option for out-of-state students.

Students who meet additional academic requirements may qualify for the Explorer Scholarship, a value of $5,000 per year, provided they remain in good academic standing, are enrolled full-time, live in UT Martin on-campus housing and purchase a qualifying meal plan each semester.

With these changes, out-of-state students could potentially save $12,000 or more as compared to previous years — a savings rate of approximately 56 percent. The tuition decrease and scholarship apply to both new and current out-of-state students, beginning with the fall 2016 semester.

“When it comes to prospective students and families selecting a college or university, cost is often a major factor in that decision. For a long time, UT Martin has been an institution of choice for students in our state. Now we are positioned to be very competitive for out-of-state students and families,” said Dr. Jamie Mantoosh, executive director, UT Martin Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement. “We look forward to introducing our excellent academic programs and vibrant student life to many who may now consider us as an affordable out-of-state destination.”

These changes do not apply to online or international students.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.

UT Martin spring concert series

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music continues its spring concert season with performances by the Sax O’Clock Quartet, the spring vocal studio and the Choro das 3 ensemble during the week of April 10.

There are three concert events to take place April 10. The evening will begin with University Singers and New Pacers ensembles at 3 p.m. in the university’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

The Choro das 3 ensemble will then perform at 5 p.m. in the Fulton Theatre. The ensemble, which features Brazilian choro music, is comprised of three sisters and their father playing flute, guitar, mandolin, clarinet, banjo, piano and pandeiro. The group is internationally known and has conducted workshops and performances in Brazil, Mexico, France and the United States.

The Sax O’Clock Quartet will perform that evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Blankenship Recital Hall. The quartet is made up of four local music educators: Jared Nobles, of Dyersburg High School; Jeffrey Mclemore, of Rose Hill Middle School; Wesley Brockman, of Gibson County Schools; and Douglas Owens, of UT Martin.

The group will perform the “May, June and July” suite by Michael Torke and “Three Improvisations” by Phil Woods.
Gresham honored with classroom named at UTM

Dr. Jerry Gresham, professor emeritus of animal science, fought tirelessly to establish a four-year academic program in veterinary health technology at the University of Tennessee at Martin. On Monday, a standing-room-only crowd gathered in the program's newly renovated building to name the primary classroom in his honor.

Gresham, a native of Altus, Okla., holds a bachelor's degree in animal science from Oklahoma State University and, after serving four years in the U.S. Army that included one year in Vietnam, he completed both master's and doctoral degrees at the same institution. He and his wife, Carolyn, relocated to Martin in 1973, where he began his tenure as an assistant professor of animal science.

He spent almost 40 years with the university, climbing the ladder from assistant professor to department chair and college dean, where he stayed until his retirement in the spring of 2013. His commitment to the growth and development of experiential learning opportunities for agriculture students led to the establishment of the UT Martin teaching and demonstration farm and, ultimately, the veterinary health technology program.

Gresham's family, friends, university coworkers and personnel from area industries attended the naming ceremony, which included personal comments by Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Dr. Wes Totten, chair, Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources; Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science; and Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor.

"I don't know what we would do without his passion and his care for this university and this farm," said Roberts, who was recruited by Gresham to help start the university's veterinary health technology program. The program has been fully accredited for only two years, but boasts more than 125 students and graduates.

Smith described his 29-year friendship with Gresham as a major influence in his career. "Jerry was a great friend, a great help and a mentor to me in those early years," he said. He also credited Gresham with recruiting efforts for the university and the agricultural programs. "There are a lot of students who wouldn't be here if he hadn't reached out and said, 'You need to be at UT Martin,'" Smith explained.

Smith also announced the raising of more than $57,000 by Gresham's friends and colleagues to establish the Jerry and Carolyn Gresham Family Scholarship endowment in his honor. This endowment will be used to reward outstanding students and offset their cost of education.

UT Martin is one of fewer than 50 institutions nationally to offer four-year academic preparation in veterinary health technology, largely due to Gresham's efforts.

The veterinary health technology program is a concentration under the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources. For more information on the program, contact Roberts at 731-881-7952 or email jroberts@utm.edu.
McMillan named UTM interim Athletic Director, Simpson associate interim AD

UT Martin Interim Chancellor Bob Smith on Thursday appointed head Skyhawk women’s basketball coach Kevin McMillan interim athletics director and head football coach Jason Simpson interim associate athletics director.
The appointments are effective immediately, and both will continue head-coaching duties for their respective programs.

The interim appointments follow the resignation of Julio Freire in March, who left UTM for an athletics position at the University of Pittsburgh. The planning process will begin soon for hiring a new UTM athletics director.

“I’ve asked two successful head coaches committed to UT Martin to step up and lead until an athletics director is appointed,” Smith said. “Sharing administrative responsibilities will allow them to move our athletics program ahead while also remaining focused on their important head-coaching duties.”

“I look forward to serving the university in this expanded role,” said McMillan, who became UT Martin women’s head basketball coach in June 2009. “Skyhawk athletics offers excellent opportunities for student-athletes, and it’s exciting to help guide the program’s continued progress.”

McMillan, the winningest coach in UTM women’s basketball history with 142 victories, earned his third OVC Coach of the Year recognition following the Skyhawks’ regular-season conference championship in February. The team then made a successful appearance in the 2016 Women’s National Invitation Tournament in which the Skyhawks registered their first postseason victory since 1999 with a win at the University of Memphis.

Simpson, the longest-tenured head football coach in the OVC, coached his first season at UT Martin in 2006. “I’m pleased to help the university and entire athletics program in this interim position. Coach McMillan and I will work together to assure that our student-athletes, athletics staff and coaches, and many fans see a program that continues to move forward.”

Simpson’s 65 wins make him the all-time winningest coach in UTM’s NCAA Division I history. He is the ninth winningest coach in OVC history and led the team in 2006 to its first-ever Division I postseason appearance. Simpson’s 2015 Skyhawks won the team’s second consecutive Sgt. Alvin C. York Trophy, which goes to the winner of the quadrangular season series among OVC schools located in Tennessee.

McMillan and Simpson assume their leadership roles during an important time for the UT Martin athletics program. Skyhawk teams enjoy increasing regional and national exposure through competition success, scheduling and growing media coverage through the OVC. Also, a major renovation project is underway and on schedule as Hardy M. Graham Stadium receives major improvements to the press box and west stands.

“We are fortunate to have experienced coaches and administrative staff who will keep Skyhawk athletics on an upward trajectory under interim leadership,” Smith added. “I am confident in the job that Kevin and Jason will do in these expanded leadership roles.”
UT Martin Tuition Decrease Approved

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“When it comes to prospective students and families selecting a college or university, cost is often a major factor in that decision. For a long time, UT Martin has been an institution of choice for students in our state. Now we are positioned to be very competitive for out-of-state students and families,” said Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director, UT Martin Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

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McMillan, Simpson team up to run UTM athletics

By MIKE HUTCHENS
Messenger Sports Editor

Kevin McMillan and Jason Simpson will bridge the gap until UT Martin names a new permanent athletic director.

McMillan, the Skyhawk women’s head basketball coach, was named the university’s interim AD and Simpson, his counterpart with the football program, named the associate interim athletic director Thursday afternoon.

The appointments follow Julio Freire’s resignation last month and are effective immediately.

The Messenger first reported the news on Thursday via social media.

Both McMillan and Simpson will continue their duties with their respective programs in addition to the added leadership responsibilities for the entire Skyhawk athletic program.

UTM Interim Chancellor Bob Smith has indicated he’d like for the new chancellor to make the call on the permanent AD position. That top administrator job is not expected to be filled until 2017.

In naming McMillan and Simpson, he hopes to continue continuity and any momentum built by Freire — who left for a job at the University of Pittsburgh — until then.

“I’ve asked two successful head coaches committed to UT Martin to step up and lead until an Athletics Director is appointed,” Smith said in a university release. “Sharing administrative responsibilities will allow them to move our athletics program ahead while also remaining focused on their important head-coaching duties.

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McMillan said he was approached by Smith about the interim post. He insisted he has the best interest of all UTM athletics at heart and looks forward to “doing whatever I can to keep things going and the ball rolling in the right direction.”

“We’re both invested in both the university and community and Chancellor Smith felt like we could help out in this transitional process. I believe we can too,” he said.

McMillan was hired as the Skyhawks’ women’s basketball coach in 2009 and the program has enjoyed unprecedented success during his tenure.

Simpson is the longest-tenured football coach in the Ohio Valley Conference after coming to Martin in 2006.

The Skyhawks have resided in the upper echelon of the league during the overwhelming majority of his time leading the program.

“The chancellor wanted someone with some experience in our conference to keep things going in an upward trend and I’m happy to help,” Simpson said.

“Right now, Kevin and I are focusing on finishing this school year and then getting a plan in place for 2016-17.”

Neither McMillan nor Simpson would say if they’d be interested in the post full-time, electing to “see how things go from now,” according to McMillan.

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Sports editor Mike Hutchens can be contacted by email at mhutch@utmessenger.com.
UTM names 2 coaches interim AD, associate AD

CRAIG THOMAS
CTHOMAS2@JACKSONSUN.COM

In the absence of athletic director Julio Freire, UT Martin has installed two of its coaches in athletic department leadership roles.

Women's basketball coach Kevin McMillan is the interim athletic director, and football coach Jason Simpson is the interim associate athletic director.

"We needed interim roles with Julio Freire leaving, and I wanted an individual to step in who had the professional knowledge about the NCAA Division I and and had the regard and respect from the coaches and community," interim chancellor Robert Smith said. "Both of these individuals fit those criteria."

Additionally, the two coaches' seasons overlap slightly but do not run concurrently, and Smith hopes that will allow one person to handle more of the athletic director business when the other coach is in a busier part of his calendar year.

Asked how concerned he was about athletic department business interfering with coaching responsibilities, Simpson said he was pleased the chancellor took his and McMillan's different schedules into consideration.

Simpson said the three of them met Thursday morning and discussed the changes.

"We haven't made any strategic decisions as far as who's in charge of what," Simpson said, noting he and McMillan are set to meet Friday morning and discuss their roles in more detail.

Smith acknowledged the pool of permanent athletic director candidates will be "adversely affected" by the fact he is not a permanent chancellor, and he expects the interim roles to at least last through December.

While having a permanent AD is the ideal situation, Simpson put a positive spin on UTM's nominations.

"Being here 11 years myself, and nine years for [McMillan], both of us felt a sense of pride," he said.

Craig Thomas, 425-9634

Local students initiated into honor society

Several local students recently were inducted into Phi Kappa Phi honor society, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Samuel Sulcer, Kayla Hargrove and Lauren Wilson, all of Paris, were initiated at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

These Parisians are among about 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors, having at least 72 semester hours, are eligible for membership.

Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees also may qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi has chapters on more than 300 college and university campuses in North America and the Philippines. Some of the organization's more notable members include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist David Baldacci and YouTuber co-founder Chad Hurley.
Will Rommell, president of McKenzie Lions Club, Dr. Bob Smith, chancellor of UT-Martin, and Kenny McBride, president of the McKenzie Rotary Club following a combined meeting of the two service clubs.

**UT-M Chancellor Speaks at Combined Civic Club Meeting**

By Joel Washburn
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (April 5) — McKenzie Lions Club and McKenzie Rotary Club convened in a joint meeting on Tuesday, April 5 at the Lakeside Retirement Center. Dr. Robert Smith, interim chancellor at the University of Tennessee-Martin was the featured speaker for the event.

It's been more than two decades since the two clubs convened for a single meeting. The fellowship of the two clubs provided an opportunity for members of each club to introduce themselves.

On the invitation of Bob Rutledge, a member of the Lions Club, Dr. Robert (Bob) Smith addressed the clubs. His topic was the economies of West Tennessee and the economic impact of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

West Tennessee is not experiencing the same growth in economic development and in population growth as much of the state. Northwest Tennessee has considerable challenges, noted the speaker.

Much of the job growth is occurring in industries and professions that require bachelor's or higher degrees. Ninety-seven percent of the good jobs created since 2010 have gone to persons holding a college degree, mainly in areas of science, technology, math, engineering, computer sciences, and natural resources.

The University of Tennessee at Martin is a nationally ranked university serving 6,827 students. Seventy-one percent of those students are from West Tennessee. Ninety-two percent are from Tennessee. Twenty percent are over the age of 25 and thirty-seven percent are the first students in their family to attend college. Many students, 37 percent, qualify for free tuition, said Smith.

In conclusion, Smith said UT-M has an economic impact on the region amounting to $481.1 million annually.
MATH CHAMPIONS - THE Milan Middle School 7th grade math team brought home first place in a math competition at UTM on April 7th. Pictured from left, Addison Caldwell, Blaine Sitton, Vic Wang, Canaan White, Hayley Marcle, Katelyn Bradford and Drew Smith.

MMS Math team winners

About two dozen students from Milan Middle competed in a math competition at UTM on April 7th.

The MMS 7th grade team brought home first place honors of the 15 schools that participated from West Tennessee.

Seventh grade team members included, Addison Caldwell, Blaine Sitton, Vic Wang, Canaan White, Hayley Marcle, Katelyn Bradford and Drew Smith.

White also placed 4th overall in 7th grade and Wang placed 2nd. Sitton placed 9th in his grade level.

8th Grade team members included Aaliyah Howard, Kaylah Richards, and Brooklynn Bell, William Carter, William Underwood, and Grant Hensley.

Carter placed 1st overall in 8th grade. It is his third straight year to win the coveted honor. Underwood placed 5th overall and Hensley was 8th.

6th grade team members included Will Dobbs, Will Belew, Kolton Moon, Kameron Tharpe, Hunter Lawson, Ethan Martin, and Brylie Potts.

Lawson placed 8th overall in 6th grade.

FIRST PLACE FINISH - Milan 8th grader William Carter won the UTM Math competition for the third straight year at UTM on April 7th.
The University of Tennessee at Martin proudly hosts the 48th annual spring college rodeo starting on Thursday and going through Saturday at the NED Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

Action starts at 7:30 p.m. on all three dates. All tickets are $6 on Thursday while adult tickets are $10 on Friday and $12 on Saturday. Tickets for ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with a valid ID are $7 for both Friday and Saturday. A $20 weekend pass is also available for all three nights. Ages 5 and under are free with a paid adult.

Saturday’s event can be viewed online, free of charge, courtesy of the Ohio Valley Conference Digital Network at this link: http://www.ovcdigitalnetwork.com/watch/?live=3448. Action from all three nights can also be heard locally on WCMT 101.3 FM or online at this link: http://streamb6web.securenetsystems.net/v5/WCMT.

The UT Martin rodeo has been named the Ozark Region “Rodeo of the Year” for 10 consecutive years. The event serves as a platform for the upcoming College National Finals Rodeo, which will be held in Casper, Wyo., June 12-18.

Along with UT Martin, teams from the University of Arkansas-Cossatot, University of Arkansas-Monticello, East Mississippi Community College, Missouri Valley College, Murray State University, North-west Mississippi Community College, Southern Arkansas University, University of Tennessee, Three Rivers College and University of West Alabama will take part in the festivities.

The UT Martin men’s team currently ranks among the top-15 nationally with 4,140 points. The UT Martin women’s squad currently ranks sixth in the Ozark Region with 1,055 points.

EQyss Grooming Products is sponsoring a crawfish supper at the American Legion building on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available in addition to corn on the cob and new potatoes. Tickets are $10 per person and $25 per family.

Thursday night is Tyson, Obion County Complex Performance night. Timed events and rough stock events – including bull riding – will be featured while fans can enter a drawing for a chance to win an MTD riding lawn mower. The Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team will conduct the opening.

Friday is Tennessee Tractor, LLC Performance night. Timed events and rough stock events (including bull riding) will be featured. A second drawing for an MTD riding lawn mower will take place while Friday also serves as “Tough Enough to Wear Pink” night to raise money for breast cancer awareness.

Saturday is Martin Paving Company Championship Finals, where the top-10 Ozark Region NIRA contestants will compete in a battle of the best of the best. Edward Jones Investments is also holding a free barbecue lunch at 11 a.m. at the downtown Martin Festival Park while a scholar...
DRILL TEAM TO PERFORM — The Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team will perform at the annual UTM Spring Rodeo on Thursday and Friday nights. The team has opened professional, college, and high school rodeos across several states. Pictured are (top row, from left) Kasota Barnes, Alyssa Duncan, Mary Eskey, Rachel Little, and Maddie Castleberry, (front row) Madison Armstrong, Libby Carpenter, Michaela St John, Summer Weldon, Alyssa Wade. Team coach is Beth Weldon.

Spring concerts to be held

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will continue its spring concert season with performances by the clarinet studio, UT Martin faculty, woodwind chamber ensembles, and wind and dance ensembles April 17-20. All performances will take place in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall unless otherwise noted.

Community members and students are invited to attend a clarinet studio recital at 3 p.m. on Sunday. This performance will include works from the Baroque to the modern era.

Dr. Doug Owens, associate professor of music, will follow with a night of saxophone music beginning at 7:30 p.m. Each piece will combine traditional classical music with jazz improvisation. Owens will be joined by Delana Easley, pianist; Dr. Joshua Smith, vibraphonist; the Jackson Four string quartet; and the New Pacer Singers.

The community is also invited to join the UT Martin Wind Ensemble and Dance Ensemble as they collaborate to perform a ballet from Charles Gounod’s opera, “Faust,” beginning at 7:30 p.m., next Tuesday in the Fine Arts Building’s Harriet Fulton Theatre. There will be a question and answer session immediately following the performance.

Those drawn to woodwind instruments will enjoy the UT Martin Woodwind Ensembles recital featuring the clarinet choir, woodwind quintet, flute ensemble and saxophone ensembles. These performances will begin at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20. All performances are free and open to the public.

For more information on these and other music events, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Science and art come together in UT Martin's solar tree

UTM's future brighter with solar tree

by RACHEL MOORE
Special to the Press

The University of Tennessee at Martin is breaking ground in solar innovation for America.

Sarah Haig is the visual and theater arts assistant professor at UTM and is currently leading a team of five from the art department. Doug Sterrett is leading a group from the engineering department. Together these students and faculty are working to construct the nation's first fully functioning solar tree. Funded by an anonymous donor, this structure will be the first of its size to work effectively as an intended charging station and seating area.

The tree's proposed space, outside of the Paul Meek Library, will also include two flowers that also produce solar power. The engineering department at UTM is working on the logistics behind having the structure powered and physically constructed. The art department is in charge of the appearance and giving the structure a realistic and cohesive look for its inclusion with the rest of campus landscaping.

This solar garden is going to be UTM's interactive source of green energy that also adds to the campus beauty. The top of the tree is constructed using a slew drive and linear actuator to control azimuth and altitude so that the top of the tree can rotate and tilt to always provide optimal shade.

The design process is an exercise of how environmentally safe the project can be presented. A shell, which is designed to look like a live tree, will be placed around the steel structure. This part of the design is completely carried out by the art department and Haig says that almost all of the materials used in this phase are recycled. The outer layer of the tree is made in a method similar to a birch bark canoe. Which means that in this case, after using all recycled paper and sealing it with an epoxy resin, the tree now has a waterproof and firm build.

Haig's team members each have a unique trait to bring to the table, "We've all managed to learn from each other," she says about working on such a large project with a small number of people. As can be expected from any venture, there have been many changes since the original design. Haig says that the undertaking has basically been a, "practice of being able to adapt," because every day their plans change as often as every few hours.

Though the engineering department was unavailable for comment, their work is apparent from the current state of construction on this solar garden. This piece is sure to change the environment of UTM and is speculated to help save the university a minimum of $1,800 a year. Watch The Weakley County Press for further developments in the story.
McMillan, Simpson tag team UTM post

By MIKE HUTCHENS
Press Sports

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Head coaches assume new leadership responsibilities

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UTM's Taylor reaches career milestone in 29th season

http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/

By Justin Beasley

MARTIN, TN - When Dennis Taylor was asked to briefly fill in as the UT Martin women's tennis coach, little did he know he would stay there for over a quarter of a century.

"School was about to start and so I said I will do this for a month or two or a semester until you can find somebody," Dennis said.

But after that semester and first year, UT Martin never did hire a new women's tennis coach.

Taylor was the only coach the women's team now after the men ended its program in 2009.

"We began to be successful and moved the team forward," Taylor said.

As a result, Taylor earned his 500th win in February against Evansville, making him one of just seven active coaches to reach the milestone.

"I'm glad of it. I'm happy that we've had success for our school, but more importantly it's not the wins, it's just the kids and what you contributed to their lives," Taylor said.

Added UT Martin junior Sarah Candeloro: "He was trying not to show how excited he was but we saw him smiling when we knew we were about to get the fourth point to win the match."

"I lost that time but I was so happy for him. 500 is like a huge number," UT Martin junior Hitomi Naito said.

Which now begs the question, can Taylor reach 600?

"I think so," UT Martin junior Bee Tari said while laughing. "Yes, I think he will get there soon."

Currently UT Martin is first place in the Ohio Valley Conference. The Skyhawks are on a five-match win streak marking the longest streak since 2012.
WestStar hosts 2016 Regional Success Summit April 28

The WestStar Leadership Program will host the 2016 Regional Success Summit April 28, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. The focus is on "Tapping into America's Wealthiest Generation: Baby Boomers." Registration is $30 per person, which includes lunch. The fee increases to $35 after April 22.

For more information or to register, contact Jordan Jones at jjone239@utm.edu or 731-881-5298.

WestStar meets in Gibson County - Several Gibson County WestStar alumni met the 2016 class in Trenton last week for the Energy/Environment/Technology session that give participants a glimpse of how energy is produced and transported to homes and businesses. Among those present were (front row, from left) Pat Riley, WestStar Session Coordinator and 2002 alumnus; Virginia Grimes, WestStar Coordinator; Julie Griggs, Class of 2010; Hope Cooper, Class of 2015; Allyson Horner, Class of 2007; (back row) Alex Smith, Class of 2007; Eric Allen, Class of 2014; Charley Deal, Executive Director of WestStar; and Medina Mayor Vance Coleman, Class of 2008. Photo by Gary Smith.
WestStar views county schools

The WestStar Leadership group from the University of Tennessee at Martin visited Lauderdale County for their session focused on education on March 17. The session consisted of two days with the first day spent mostly in Lauderdale County and day two in Dyer County.

The vision of WestStar is to be the premier leadership program in the United States that establishes an elite group of people bonded by their commitment to realizing the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee.

Members of WestStar visited to find out more about the local education system to look for key ideas or programs to take back to their communities. Lauderdale County Mayor Maurice Gaines is a current class member of WestStar and will graduate in June of 2016 from the leadership program. WestStar Alumni and Session Planners in attendance included Youlana Jones, TCAT, Susan Worlds, Chamber Director, Frankie McCord, Ripley Downtown Development, and Emily Land, Marvin Windows and Doors.

This event took place at Ripley Elementary School, a 2014-2015 Tennessee Reward School, and Shawn Kimble, Superintendent of Schools and WestStar Class of 2015, spoke about the changes made over the last few years that have really helped the local school system.

A couple of the programs highlighted by Kimble were dual enrollment college courses and the new literacy program that has been benchmarked by several districts in the state.

Ripley Elementary School Principal Teresa White led the leadership group on a tour of the school, and they also received a special treat for St. Patrick’s Day with a special music program provided by fifth grade students in Mrs. Talitha Alverson’s class. The local school system provided a great benchmarking experience for the 2016 WestStar Leadership Class.

Students from the UT Martin Parsons Center got hands-on experience last week as they participated in a mock execution of a search warrant in town. Parsons and county officers were available to assist the instructor John Overman. Students Tyler Turnbo, John Robertson, Bethany Bailey, Bryan McDonald, Landon Marr, Candace Kizer and Justin Rogers took the scenario and learned the ins and outs, the rights and wrongs of performing the operation.
Chase Milam was invited to present his paper entitled “The Space Race: A Lost Opportunity for Soviet Dominance” at the Tennessee Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference. Chase is a student at the UT Martin Parsons Center and a graduate of Scotts Hill High School. He is majoring in Education with an emphasis grades 4-8 History.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE • APRIL 13, 2016

McMillan, Simpson tabbed to lead UTM

Two longtime and successful University of Tennessee at Martin head coaches are assuming additional leadership responsibilities for the Skyhawk athletics program.

UT Martin Interim Chancellor Bob Smith on Thursday appointed head Skyhawk women's basketball coach Kevin McMillan interim athletics director and head football coach Jason Simpson interim associate athletics director.

The interim appointments follow the resignation of Julio Freire in March, who left UT Martin for an athletics position at the University of Pittsburgh. The planning process will begin soon for hiring a new UT Martin athletics director.

“I’ve asked two successful head coaches committed to UT Martin to step up and lead until an athletics director is appointed,” Smith said. “Sharing administrative responsibilities will allow them to move our athletics program ahead while also remaining focused on their important head-coaching duties.”

McMillan, the winningest coach in UT Martin women’s basketball history with 142 victories, earned his third Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year recognition following the Skyhawks’ regular-season conference championship in February.

Simpson’s 65 wins make him the all-time winningest coach in UT Martin’s NCAA Division I History. He is the ninth winningest coach in OVC history and led the team in 2006 to its first-ever Division I postseason appearance.

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 48th annual spring college rodeo starting on Thursday and going through Saturday at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

Action starts at 7:30 p.m. on all three dates. All tickets are $6 on Thursday while adult tickets are $10 on Friday and $12 on Saturday.

Tickets for ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with a valid ID are $7 for both Friday and Saturday.

A $20 weekend pass is also available for all three nights. Ages 5 and under are free with a paid adult.

Saturday’s event can be viewed online, free of charge, courtesy of the Ohio Valley Conference Digital Network at the link above.

The UT Martin rodeo has been named the Ozark Region "Rodeo of the Year" for 10 consecutive years.

The event serves as a platform for the upcoming College National Finals Rodeo, which will be held in Casper, Wyo. on June 12-18.

The UT Martin men's team currently ranks amongst the top-15 nationally with 4,140 points. The UT Martin women's squad currently ranks sixth in the Ozark Region with 1,055 points.
The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, April 13, 2016

‘Angels Without Wings’ to be featured

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will present “Angels Without Wings,” an original play by Dr. Jamie Cutler, a regional playwright, at 8 nightly April 21-23 in the Fine Arts Building’s Vanguard Little Theatre.

This play tells the story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots program of World War II and the women who gave their lives to defend the United States. The production has a personal touch, as the playwright remembers her mother and others who were the first women to join the American military as pilots.

Admission is $15 for adults and $5 for students. Tickets will be sold at the door. The Vanguard box office opens two hours before each performance and is located in the Little Theatre lobby of the Fine Arts Building.

Support the Arts contributors may reserve seats in advance by calling the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts beginning Monday.

Student art on display at university

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts held an opening reception for the annual student art exhibition Tuesday night in the Fine Arts Building gallery.

The show will run until April 24.

UT Martin graduate Patrick Green selected the winning entries.

After receiving his undergraduate degree at UT Martin, Green earned a master of fine arts degree at Eastern Michigan University. He owns a studio in Sparta and has presented pottery and kiln-building workshops around the state. He has also taught ceramics at Volunteer State Community College and Austin Peay State University.

This is UT Martin’s largest student show of the year. Submissions were open to any student who has taken an art course during the 2015-16 school year.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. The gallery is open 5-7 p.m. Tuesdays; 1-7 p.m. Wednesdays; 4-8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; and 1-5 p.m. Sundays.

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

Concerts continue at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will continue its spring concert season with performances by the clarinet studio, UT Martin faculty, woodwind chamber ensembles, and wind and dance ensembles Monday through April 20.

All performances will take place in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall, unless otherwise noted.

Community members and students are invited to attend a clarinet studio recital at 3 p.m. Sunday. This performance will include works from the Baroque to the modern era.

Dr. Doug Owens, associate professor of music, will follow with a night of saxophone music beginning at 7:30. Each piece will combine traditional classical music with jazz improvisation. Owens will be joined by Delana Easley, pianist; Dr. Joshua Smith, vibraphonist; the Jackson Four string quartet; and the New Pacer Singers.

The community is also invited to join the UT Martin Wind Ensemble and Dance Ensemble as they collaborate to perform a ballet from Charles Gounod’s opera, “Faust,” beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Fine Arts Building’s Harriet Fulton Theatre. There will be a question-and-answer session immediately following the performance.

Those drawn to woodwind instruments will enjoy the UT Martin Woodwind Ensembles recital featuring the clarinet choir, woodwind quintet, flute ensemble and saxophone ensembles. These performances will begin at 5 p.m. April 20.

All performances are free and open to the public.

For more information on these and other music events, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.
UT Martin a good choice for high school students

The University of Tennessee at Martin has been included in the top 50 schools for high school students seeking college credit and among the top 30 colleges for those with ISTP personality types, as determined by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator.

Collegecounselorservices.com included the university in its online list of "50 great schools where high school students can get college credit," published in February.

The schools listed were awarded points based on accreditation of concurrent enrollment programs, cost per credit hour, number of courses offered, number of high school partners and additional credit-earning options beyond concurrent enrollment.

Concurrent, or dual, enrollment is where a high school student can take university courses for college credit before receiving the high school diploma. These course options allow students to earn college credit at a reduced cost, save money and ultimately finish their degrees in less time.

At UT Martin, high school students can earn credit through onsite partnerships at their respective schools or through online or on-campus options. The university offers 12 online dual enrollment courses and 16 options through extended campus centers.

UT Martin has also been recognized as a good choice for those with ISTP personality types as determined by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. ISTP stands for "introverted, sensing, thinking, perception," which is how the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator categorizes personality.

DegreeMatch.org created a list of 30 colleges with fewer than 10,000 students enrolled that provide an environment compatible with the preferences of students with this personality type.

The website gathered information from the National Center for Education Statistics and U.S. News & World Report to rank schools using certain criteria.

RAKES RECOGNIZED — Dr. Joe DiPietro (right), University of Tennessee System president, made a motion during the UT Board of Trustees' spring meeting earlier this month to formally recognize Dr. Tom Rakes, professor of education and former University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, for his service to the board, the UT System and UT Martin. Rakes served as chancellor from 2007 until resuming his faculty position in 2015.
WestStar Class Visits Ripley Elementary School

MEMBERS of the WestStar Leadership group from the University of Tennessee at Martin visited Lauderdale County March 17th, for their session focused on education. The session consisted of two days with the first day spent mostly in Lauderdale County and day two in Dyer County. The vision of WestStar is to be the premier leadership program in the U.S. that establishes an elite group of people bonded by their commitment to realizing the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee. Members of WestStar came to find out more about the local education system to look for key ideas or programs to take back to their communities. Lauderdale County Mayor, Maurice Gaines, is a current class member of WestStar and plans to graduate in June 2016 from the program. WestStar Alumni and Session Planners in attendance included Youlanda Jones, TCAT, Susan Worlds, Chamber Director, Frankie McCord, Ripley Downtown Development, and Emily Land, Marvin Windows and Doors. The group visited Ripley Elementary School, a 2014-2015 TN Reward School, where Shawn Kimble, Superintendent of Schools and a WestStar Class of 2015, spoke about the changes made over the last few years that have really excelled the local school system. A couple of the programs highlighted by Kimble were dual enrollment college courses and the new literacy program that has been benchmarked by several districts in the state. Ripley Elementary School Principal, Teresa White, led the leadership group on a tour of the school, and they also received a special treat for St. Patrick’s Day with a special music program provided by fifth grade students in Mrs. Talitha Alverson’s class.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Thursday, April 14, 2016

UTM representatives to lead brain awareness event

University of Tennessee at Martin students and faculty will be presenting information throughout the day Saturday at Discovery Park of America as part of a free brain awareness program.

There will be a check-in table in the Discovery Center lobby where children may pick up a ‘brain awareness day’ passport. Four stations throughout the building will be manned by UT Martin students, with each offering different activities. The programs will culminate with a sheep brain dissection demonstration in the Tennessee Room at 1:30 p.m.

Children and their guests will also be able to purchase Bodies Revealed tickets to see some real preserved human brains throughout, a spokesman said. This event is a part of a worldwide initiative of the DANA Foundation, a charitable organization that provides support for neuroscience research and education. The event is designed to promote interest in and understanding of the brain and to increase public awareness of the progress (See Page 6, Col. 6)

UT Martin...

(Continued from Page 1) and promises of brain research.

Additional activities that those interested in a fascinating learning experience can receive free with park admission on Saturday at DPA include:

- Bodies Revealed: How’d they do that?
  This program will be presented in the Tennessee Room at 11:30 a.m.
- Blood Splatter Analysis and Violent Crimes
  Paulette Sutton, an Obion County native and forensic scientist, will be presenting in the Tennessee Room at 3 p.m.

Parental discretion is advised.

- Stargazing with Dr. Lionel Crews and the UT Martin Astronomy Club from 8:30-10:30 on the Great Lawn.

Those attending are encouraged to bring their own telescopes, if they have one.

There will also be telescopes from the Space Gallery for use.

For more information about these and other programs and events at DPA, visit the website at www.discoveryparkofamerica.com.
The University of Tennessee at Martin proudly hosts the 48th annual spring college rodeo starting on Thursday, April 14 and going through Saturday, April 16 at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

Action starts at 7:30 p.m. on all three dates. All tickets are $6 on Thursday while adult tickets are $10 on Friday and $12 on Saturday. Tickets for ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with a valid ID are $7 for both Friday and Saturday. A $20 weekend pass is also available for all three nights. Ages 5 and under are free with a paid adult.

Saturday’s event can be viewed online, free of charge, courtesy of the Ohio Valley Conference Digital Network at the link above. Action from all three nights can also be heard locally on WCMT 101.3 FM or online at the link found at the top of the webpage.

The UT Martin rodeo has been named the Ozark Region "Rodeo of the Year" for 10 consecutive years. The event serves as a platform for the upcoming College National Finals Rodeo, which will be held in Casper, Wyo. on June 12-18.

Along with UT Martin, teams from the University of Arkansas-Cossatot, University of Arkansas-Monticello, East Mississippi Community College, Missouri Valley College, Missouri State University, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Southern Arkansas University, University of Tennessee. Three Rivers College and University of West Alabama will take part in the festivities.

The UT Martin men’s team currently ranks among the top-15 nationally with 4,140 points. The UT Martin women’s squad currently ranks sixth in the Ozark Region with 1,055 points. EQuys Grooming Products is sponsoring a crawfish supper at the American Legion building on Wednesday, April 13 at 5:30 p.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available in addition to corn on the cob and new potatoes. Tickets are $10 per person and $25 per family.

Thursday night is Tyson, Obion County Complex Performance night. Timed events and rough stock events — including bull riding — will be featured while fans can enter a drawing for a chance to win an MTD riding lawnmower. The Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team will conduct the opening.

Friday is Tennessee Tractor, LLC Performance night. Timed events and rough stock events (including bull riding) will be featured. A second drawing for an MTD riding lawnmower will take place while Friday also serves as "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night to raise money for breast cancer awareness.

Saturday is Martin Paving Company Championship Finals, where the top-10 Ozark Region NIRA contestants will compete in a battle of the best of the best.

Edward Jones Investments is also holding a free barbecue lunch at 11 a.m. at the downtown Martin Festival Park while a scholarship auction will follow at 12:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to the UT Martin Rodeo Scholarship Fund.
WINNING WINDOW — Vicki’s Designer Touch was this year’s first place winner. Twin Oaks Technology won second place and Cowart, Sargent, Reese CPA won third place. Summer Weldon, Miss High School Rodeo; Simone Taylor, Miss UTM Rodeo, Ashley Brooks, the youngest National team member and Katie Smith, Rodeo Booster Club president judged the contest.

City celebrates Rodeo Week

It’s Rodeo Week 2016 in Historic Martin and the City of Martin and University Tennessee - Martin are ready for the 48th annual UTM Rodeo.

Businesses all over town have once again got in the swing of the week and have decorated to welcome the thousands of visitors in to Weakley County for the Rodeo Weekend.

This year, the Rodeo Week window decorating contest, sponsored by the Martin Business Association and the Rodeo Booster Club, consisted of 10 businesses around Martin decorating windows, doors and store fronts. The decorations included pictures from past rodeos, saddles, hay and even a rodeo arena scene.

The contest was judged Tuesday afternoon by Summer Weldon, Miss High School Rodeo; Simone Taylor, Miss UTM Rodeo, Ashley Brooks, the youngest National team member and Katie Smith, Rodeo Booster Club president.

Vicki’s Designer Touch won first, Twin Oaks Technology was awarded second and Cowart, Sargent Reese CPA won third. The contestants were judged on five categories with 10 points, with a total possible score of 50. The categories included creativity, theme, presentation, rodeo spirit and overall appearance.

Businesses that participated were: Monograms and More; Vicki’s Designer Touch; Kirkland’s Antiques, Gifts, Interiors and Reeding; Cowert, Sargent, Reese CPA; Victoria’s Closet, Weakley County Press, Westan Insurance, Styles on Broadway, Twin Oaks Technology and Gamer’s Turf.

“There is just something special about Martin’s UTM rodeo week. The week is kicked off with the crawfish supper which is more like family reunion, then 3 nights of action packed rodeo and then a scholarship auction that helps keep these great cowboys and cowgirls continuing their education. Most of all though is the continued great support of the community. We will never be able to express the appreciation and gratitude for all they do not only during this week but throughout the entire year,” Katie White said. Brooks serves as the Saturday is a big day in Historic Martin as the scholarship auction and free community barbecue will once again be held in Festival Park.

This year, local auctioneer Jake Vincent will be the voice of the event that will offer a huge variety of items, including UTM rodeo inspired UTM steer head Corn Hole boards, paintings, chaps, a head stall, pleasure saddle and numerous other items.
'We Are the Dancers,' says the UTM dance ensemble during spring dance show

By JACOB RIOJAS
Special to the Press

On the first days of April music sounded from the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building on the University of Tennessee at Martin Campus as the UTM Dance Ensemble headed by Sarah McCormick put on their spring show "We are the Dancers."

The show was an exhibition of the talents of students in the UT Martin dance show and showcased a total of 13 different pieces. Three of the dances were choreographed by Sarah McCormick herself while the others were choreographed by Annike Franz, Dedrick Harvey, Erin Windham, Jayla Brown, Ciera Fielding, Christy Locke, and McKayla Cunningham.

The show started with a trio of dancers doing a performance called "Bewegungsspielraum" which is German in origin and is centered around playful and effortless movement. The dancers in this performance were Ciera Fielding, Christy Locke, and Erin Windham and it was choreographed by Annike Franz.

The show continued with a narrative dance by the Stepz Dance Studio titled "The Story of Babar the Little Elephant." Kimberly Shwartz is a dance teacher for the children of Stepz Dance Studio and after McCormick brought up the possibility of having local children in the show, Shwartz and McCormick began working hard to plan out the choreography and costumes.

All of the kids at Stepz Dance studio were super excited to be in a UT Martin show and had a great time. This included multiple dances from the dance studio as well as some of the UT Martin dancers.

Five more individual performances followed the Stepz Dance Studio performance and then led to a brief intermission. The next performance was one choreographed by Sarah McCormick titled "Boxed Identities" which included seven dancers and was put to the music of Alt-J called "Taro." This beautiful and mesmerizing performance was followed by eight more performances by students.

The UT Martin dancers encourage the public to attend the different shows they put on during the school semesters and support the beautiful art that they devote their lives to.
Dedrick Harvey
Addie Kitchen, Gabriella Bullard
Clera Fielding
Keinesia Mason
Erin Windham, Christy Locke
UT MARTIN FACULTY ARE RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE — The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted its annual Honors Day on April 10 to recognize student and faculty accomplishments during the spring 2016 semester. Pictured receiving faculty awards are (back row, from left) Dr. Daniel Nappo, University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award; Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; Dr. Sandy Mehlihorn, University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award; and Dr. Mahmoud Haddad and Dr. Dawn Wilkins, Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Awards; (middle row) Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs; Dr. Laura Brown, 2015 Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award and 2016 presenter; Dr. Eric Pelren, 2016 Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award; (front row,) Dr. Teresa Collard, Outstanding Advisor Award; Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor; Dr. Julie Hill, 2015 Outstanding Teaching Award and 2016 presenter.
TEEN MISS UTM RODEO — Those chosen for the court of Teen Miss UTM Rodeo were (from left) best model, Abby Prosser, daughter of Steve and Rina Prosser of Henry; first maid, Amber Cruse, daughter of John and Cindy Cruse of Martin; queen Bailey Gordon, daughter of Tammy and Chris Gordon of Greenfield; prettiest eyes and second maid, Leah Beth Faulkner, daughter of Dan and Laura Faulkner of South Fulton; prettiest smile, Alyssa Duncan, daughter of Casey Duncan and Michele Thomas of Martin; prettiest hair, Victoria Thomas, daughter of David and Ashley Miles of Palmersville. The event was held at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM and sponsored by UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard.

BEVY OF BEAUTIES — Winners in the 7-9 year-old age division of the UTM Rodeo Queen Pageant were (from left) second maid, Raven-Ashley Canada, daughter of Deborah Yeager and Brian Canada of Martin; best model and queen, Jentry McConnell, daughter of John and Jennifer McConnell of South Fulton; prettiest smile and first maid, Shylah Phinnessee, daughter of Shaun and Shereka Phinnessee of Martin; prettiest eyes, Mylee Patterson, daughter of T.J. and Tammy Patterson of Gibson; and prettiest hair, Jacey Jahr, daughter of Matt and Jaime Jahr of Martin. The pageant was sponsored by UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard and held at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM.

LITTLE WINNERS — Taking honors in the 12th annual UTM Rodeo Queen Pageant in the 4-6 year-old-age division were (from left) to right, first maid, Cacie Jo McNeill, daughter of Chad and Taffee McNeill of Friendship; second maid, Briley Kate McKinney, daughter of Codi Celin and Michael McKinney of Union City; best model, Makayla Murphy, daughter of Hunter and Christy Murphy of Medina; best smile, Hudson McDaniel, daughter of Jonathan and Rhonda McDaniel of Palmersville; prettiest eyes, Paisleigh Cash, daughter of Jennifer and Jim Cash of Union City; and prettiest hair and queen, Kennon Miles, daughter of David and Ashley Miles of Paris. The event was sponsored by UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard and was held at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM.
MISS UTM RODEO — Miss UTM Rodeo was recently crowned at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM. Her duties will include residing over rodeo week activities during the UTM Annual Spring Rodeo. Chosen for the court were first maid, Trinity Humphreys, daughter of Van and Trent Humphreys of Howenwald; queen, prettiest eyes, prettiest smile, best model and prettiest hair, Simone Taylor, daughter of Chuck and Amy Taylor; and second maid, Bentley Gordon, daughter of Tammy and Chris Gordon of Greenfield. The event was sponsored by UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard.

REIGNING BEAUTIES — Those taking honors in the junior Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant held recently at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM were (from left) best model, Christina Gammons, daughter of Michael Gammons and Ashley Payne of Martin; prettiest eyes, Braedyn Hazelwood, daughter of Madison and Vickie Hazelwood of Martin; second maid, Kamryn Presley Hendon, daughter of Travis and Whitney Forzenberry and Neal Hendon of Paris; prettiest smile and queen, Wren Adkins, daughter of Adam and Stacy Adkins of Martin; and prettiest hair and first maid, Chloe Patterson, daughter of TJ and Tammy Patterson of Gibson. The pageant was sponsored by UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard.

WINNING TOT — Chosen as queen, prettiest hair, prettiest smile, prettiest eyes and best model in the 1 to 3 year-old-age group of the 12th annual UTM Rodeo Queen Pageant at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM was Austyn Brooke Curlin, daughter of Codi Curlin of Union City. The pageant was sponsored by UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard.

TINY TOTS — UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard recently held the 12th annual UTM Rodeo Queen Pageant at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM. Winners in the birth to 12 months division were (from left) second maid, Haisley Hicks, daughter of Gavin and Paige Hicks of Union City; best model, Lane Avery Clouse, daughter of Zach and Amber Clouse of Union City; prettiest smile and first maid, Hannah Clark Jones, daughter of BJ and Michelle Jones of Martin; prettiest eyes and queen, Kinsley Grace Mills, daughter of Desiree Potter and Larry and Dawn Mills of Martin; and prettiest hair, Taylor Lynn Freeman, daughter of Sam and Lauren Taylor of Martin.
University of Tennessee at Martin

Anthony Adduci of St. Charles has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year. Adduci, who will be freshman, received the Chancellor's Award.

UTM Rodeo begins tonight

UT Martin's 48th Annual Spring College Rodeo begins tonight at the Ned McWherter Ag Complex at UTM.

Tonight's events include timed events and rough stock events including bull riding. Tonight is bargain night with all tickets just $6 dollars at the door.

The Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team will do the opening as part of tonight's opening ceremonies.

The rodeo runs tonight, Friday night, and Saturday night, with tickets $10 dollars Friday night and $12 dollars Saturday night.

Children ages 6-12 and UTM students with ID get in for $7 dollars. Age 5 and under are free with a paid adult. Weekend passes are also available for $20 dollars for all three performances.

Garrett Yerigan is the announcer this year, with Brian White keeping everyone entertained as the rodeo clown and funny man. Mix 101.3 WCMT will broadcast all three nights of the rodeo beginning at 7:00.

GHS student receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

Gallatin High School senior, IvieAnn Anderson, has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Anderson, the daughter of Reid and Sheila Anderson of Portland, received the Achieve Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040 (ext: 28731).
Be entertained and inspired for free at UTM events

It doesn't take much money — sometimes none at all — to enjoy some quality music concerts without traveling far.

For instance, the University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Music will continue its spring concert season with several free performances.

All performances will take place in the Blankenship Recital Hall in the UTM Fine Arts Building unless otherwise noted.

- Community members and students are invited to attend a clarinet studio recital at 3 p.m. April 17. This performance will include works from the Baroque to the modern era.
- That same day, Doug Owens, associate professor of music, will follow with a night of saxophone music beginning at 7:30. Each piece will combine traditional classical music with jazz improvisation. Owens will be joined by Delana Easley, pianist; Joshua Smith, vibraphonist; the Jackson Four string quartet; and the New Pacer Singers.
- The UT Martin Wind Ensemble and Dance Ensemble will collaborate to perform a ballet from Charles Gounod's opera, "Faust," beginning at 7:30 p.m. April 19, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building. There will be a question and answer session immediately following the performance.
- Those drawn to woodwind instruments will enjoy the UT Martin Woodwind Ensembles' recital featuring the clarinet choir, woodwind quintet, flute ensemble and saxophone ensembles. These performances will begin at 5 p.m. April 20.
- Piano enthusiasts will enjoy piano duets and solos beginning at 7:30 p.m. April 21. The program will feature works by Beethoven, Jensen and Piazzolla and conclude with the unique "Galop-Marche" for eight hands on a single piano.
- The LCD woodwind trio will present a night of contemporary American chamber music beginning at 7:30 p.m. April 22. The trio is comprised of music faculty members Elizabeth Aleksander, Douglas Owens and Charles Lewis. Elaine Harriss and Amy Yeung, associate professors of music, will join the trio on piano and voice, respectively.

The recital will feature works by composers Brandon, Laitman, McMichael and CopeLAND.
- The percussion ensemble will perform its spring concert at 3 p.m. April 24 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building.

The concert will feature contemporary works that reflect the diversity of
For those who have never attended a percussion ensemble concert, it is much more than just a drum set or a set of tympani. Here Tommy Sam from McKenzie plays a marimba during a recent concert. Normally, two mallets are in each hand. In the background at this 2015 concert is Noah Friedman from Unionville, who has now graduated.

modern percussion music.

Selections range form

Christopher Rouse's energetic "Ogoun Badagris" to the serene "Lux Arumque," composed for choir by Eric Whitacre and arranged for marimba choir by Zachary McCoy.

Other selections include Nigel Westlake's seminal work for four marimbas, "Omphalo Centric Lecture," as well as Adam Silverman's recent work "Sparklefrog."

Lastly, the ensemble will present works that embody characteristics of foreign musical traditions.

Emmanuel Sejourne's "Akadinda Trio" reflects the marimba ensembles of East Africa; Christiano Galvao's "Balaio" and "Martelo" showcase rhythms from north-eastern Brazil; and David Rudder's "The Hammer" displays the steel pan music of Trinidad's annual Panorama Festival.

The university and community orchestra will present works by Mozart and Puccini at 7:30 p.m. April 25.

The concert also will feature Miss UT Martin Natalie King performing the oboe solo that will be her talent portion during the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant.

All performances are free and open to the public.

For more information on these and other music events, contact the UT Martin department of music at 731-881-7402.
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association Announces 2016 Executive Board

Monday, April 18, 2016

The Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) named its 2016 executive board. The board is comprised of veterinarians from across the state.

The newly-elected officers are:

- President - Susan Moon, DVM, Brooks Road Animal Hospital, Memphis;
- President-Elect - Joe Ed Conn, DVM, Belle Meade Animal Hospital, Nashville;
- Vice-President - Russell Reel, DVM, Morristown Animal Hospital, Morristown;
- Secretary/Treasurer - Margaret (Midge) Phillips, DVM, Animal Allergy & Dermatology, Nashville;
- Immediate Past President - Maben Thompson, DVM, Upper Cumberland Veterinary Clinic, Crossville.

http://www.chattanoogan.com/

Tennessee college sports propped up by school money

Dave Boucher, dboucher@tennessean.com 6:15 a.m. CDT April 18, 2016

Tennessee-Martin

UT Martin balanced its $10.6 million athletic department budget in 2015, but it required institutional support that covered more than 70 percent of the operating expenses.

The Skyhawks received $5.6 million in direct institutional support, $1.8 million in student fees and $359,000 in indirect school support.

UT Martin, located 150 miles northwest of Nashville and 125 miles northeast of Memphis, lags behind the other eight state schools in ticket sales, reporting only $100,000 in 2015. As a comparison, Tennessee amassed $34.7 million.

http://www.tennessean.com/

Tennessee's college coaches raking in millions

Phil Stukenborg, Commercial Appeal 2:12 a.m. CDT April 18, 2016

Tennessee-Martin

UT-Martin spent $2,270,213 on coaching salaries in 2015 — 21 percent of its $10.6 million athletic budget — and topped $2 million for the first time.

The $2,008,154 it paid in 2014 represented a $269,000 increase from the previous year, but is only slightly more than the University of Memphis is paying its first-year football coach, Mike Norvell.

From 2010 to 2015, UT-Martin also distributed $247,634 in severance payments to coaches, but none to football coach Jason Simpson. Simpson has spent the past 10 seasons at UT-Martin and is the longest-tenured coach in the Ohio Valley Conference.
Local residents receive spring 2016 employee awards from UTM

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/

Kim Cooper (left), of Sharon, student services specialist in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, and Nathan Morgan (right), of Martin, assistant director of University Relations, received outstanding employee awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during a breakfast held April 13.

Cooper will celebrate her 30-year anniversary with the university this fall, while Morgan has worked with UT Martin since the spring of 2013.

Two employees are honored with this recognition each semester to recognize dedication and outstanding service to the university.

They are pictured with Dr. Bob Smith, interim chancellor, after the presentation.

http://www.wbbjtv.com/

African-American Leadership Conference convenes in Jackson

April 19, 2016 by Mallory Cooke (http://www.wbbjtv.com/users/Mallory-Cooke)

JACKSON, Tenn. — People from more than a dozen West Tennessee counties attended the 18th annual African-American Leadership Conference on Tuesday.

Chairwoman Anne Banks said speakers cover topics including education, health and crime. "There are a lot of challenges," she said, "there are also a lot of opportunities."

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar leadership program hosted the event at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

Jackson State Community College Dean of Academic Support Patrick Davis said he is interested in education and economic development. "Actually putting the rubber to the road and making strategies, making opportunities to employ people, those things just don't happen overnight," he said.

High school students from Haywood County and Hardeman County also attended the conference. "These are our future leaders," Banks said.

Banks said they hope to inspire people. "We want people to be engaged because that's what it takes," she said. "It takes all of us working together to make this world a better place."

Participants said by understanding common issues they could develop common goals.
UTM students rope in awards at weekend rodeo

The University of Tennessee at Martin conducted another flourishing performance as the campus hosted the 48th annual edition of the spring college rodeo this weekend at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

The UT Martin men’s team ramped its way to its third consecutive victory, tallying 1,245 out of a possible 2,865 points awarded to nine teams from the Ozark Region. The 1,245 points eclipsed the previous season-high of 835 points compiled at West Alabama on Oct. 8-10 and resulted in the fifth win in eight rodeos so far this season for the men’s team.

On the women’s side, UT Martin tallied 85 points to finish in seventh place. Three Rivers College placed first in the team standings with 315 points.

UT Martin claimed the top two finishers in bareback riding, as Tanner Phipps and Coy Lutz each split the best score in average (154). Lutz placed first in the opening round with a 78 before splitting second in the short go with a 76.

Meanwhile, Phipps led the way in the second round (79) after coming in second place in the first round (75). Houston Herbert also compiled points, splitting fourth in the first round (73) and finishing fifth in average (73).

Ben Walker swept top honors in all three phases of calf roping. He generated times of 8.9 in the first round and 9.0 in the short go for a 17.9 average.

A duo of cowgirls chalked up points in breakaway roping. Shara Adcock claimed second place honors in the first round (2.7), second round (4.7) and average (14.2). Natalie Fletcher’s time of 3.0 in the opening round was also good enough to split sixth place.

In steer wrestling, Slade Bronson ranked amongst the best in the field. His average (13) and second round time (7.3) each ranked fourth while his 5.7 opening round time was the sixth-best mark in the event.

UT Martin was responsible for five cowboys who combined to pitch in with the three highest point totals in team roping. Lane Mitchell was alongside East Mississippi’s Marcus Theriot for the top finish in average (12.3) and in the short go (5.7) after placing third in the opening round (6.6). The team of Walker and Douglas Rich came in second place in all three.

See Rodeo, Page 10
RODEO,
From Page 1

phases with an average of
13.5, first round time of 6.3
and a short go performance
of 7.2. Bronson and Phipps
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Three cowgirls earned
points in barrel racing, led by
the consistency of Madison
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27.95 average after finish-
ing fourth in each of the first
two rounds (13.92, 14.03).

Nealey Dalton had the best
time in the first round (13.7)
before finishing sixth in
both the short go (18.73)
and in average (32.43). Also
compiling points was Me-
gan Crow, whose first round
time of 13.96 was the sixth-
best score.

UT Martin continues
its season next weekend
at Northwest Mississippi
Community College. Action
from Senatobia, Miss. will
take place on April 21-23.

Nealey Dalton competes in barrel racing, Saturday at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

Coy Lutz competes in bareback riding, Saturday at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.
Coy Lutz competes in bareback riding, Friday at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

Ashley Brooks competes in barrel racing, Friday at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.
Lane Mitchell competes in team roping, Saturday at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

Photo by Raffe Lazarian

Quentin Sawyer waits as the sun sets outside of the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena before the start of the 48th annual UT Martin spring college rodeo Saturday.

Photo by Raffe Lazarian
Stephen McBride and Scottie Nell Hughes

Speakers to discuss chasing dreams, achieving goals at UTM

Scottie Nell Hughes, director of the Tea Party News Network, and Stephen McBride, former southern region FFA vice president, will both speak during the annual Igniting Innovation event, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin's Ned Ray McWherter Institute. The event is slated to begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday in the UT Martin Student Life Center, adjacent to the Hardy M. Graham Football Stadium.

Hughes earned a degree in communications from UT Martin in 2002 and began her career as executive producer of the “Steve Gill Show” in Nashville. Additional roles followed for other nationally syndicated talk shows, eventually leading to an on-camera opportunity and her current position with the Tea Party News Network.

McBride is a senior agriculture business major from Beech Grove and is the only UT Martin student to serve as a national FFA officer. McBride returns to UT Martin after a year-long leave of absence, during which he traveled more than 100,000 national and international miles to conventions and chapter visits. He also spent 10 days in Japan with his national team. He plans to complete his degree in December 2016.

Both speakers will address the topic of chasing one's dreams and achieving goals both personally and professionally.

Program to be held

Igniting Innovation will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Student Life Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event is sponsored by McWherter Innovators. Key note speakers will be Stephen McBride, National FFA Officer for 2014-15 and Scottie Nell Hughes, political analyst for Fox News. The public is invited to attend.
Relay For Life to hold activities, ceremony

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life of UT Martin will be held Friday at the Student Recreation Center, located at 95 Mount Pela Rd., from 6 p.m. to midnight.

The opening ceremony will begin at 6 with a celebratory cancer survivors lap.

After the kick-off for the event, a night filled with music, food and games will be held.

Cooper the band will be playing during the night. There will also be a jousting ring, knocker balls, Zumba and much more.

The theme this year will be 'Relaying around the world the with UT Martin Relay for Life.' Each team was encouraged to pick either a major city or country of their choice. With this, each team will be selling foods from that area. There will be lots of great food choices.

A silent auction will be held during the event.

At 9 p.m., a touching luminaria ceremony, with candles lit in honor and memory of locals who have battled cancer, will be held.

The closing ceremony will be at 11:30 p.m. with a lip sync battle closing out the night of activities.

State votes to reduce university obligation for new science and engineering building

A highly sought-after Science and Engineering Building is closer to reality at the University of Tennessee at Martin, thanks to a change in the university's required match to fund the project. The match reduction from 25 percent to 10 percent was led by State Sen. John Stevens (R-Huntingdon) and is the first of its kind in Tennessee government.

State building projects at public colleges and universities require a 25 percent match by the institutions to begin construction.

The STEM building is projected to cost $65 million, with $50 million originally funded by the state plus a 25 percent match by the university. UT Martin now has a one-year opportunity to match 10 percent or approximately $6.5 million of the cost to construct the 120,000-square-foot building.

The building will house the university's departments of engineering, computer science, chemistry and physics, mathematics and statistics, and an entrepreneurial center. The plans include classrooms and teaching laboratories, as well as dedicated student laboratories and project work spaces. The latter will be created in a way to encourage innovative, cross-disciplinary research and design.

"The Tennessee General Assembly has given UT Martin a unique opportunity to make a significant, positive difference for our students and West Tennessee’s economy," said Dr. Bob Smith, the university’s interim chancellor. "We’re grateful to Senator Stevens for his heartfelt commitment and leadership in making this reduction possible. Now, it’s our job to raise $6.5 million to assure that this building becomes a reality."

Smith added, "The senator’s vision to invest where the economic need exists is a historic change in how state buildings are funded."

University officials see the building as a cornerstone for providing the STEM education needed to develop the region’s work-

SEE BUILDING, PAGE 10

Tennessee Soybean Festival logo contest now underway

Each year during the first two weeks of September thousands make their way to Martin, Tennessee, to enjoy the Tennessee Soybean Festival.

The Festival Planning Committee is seeking a unique design to capture the essence of the festival and theme in a unique and professional way. The winning artwork will be used for the official festival poster, tee shirts, signage and other print and web-based marketing materials. The winning logo will forever be a part of Tennessee Soybean Festival history.

The winning artist will have permission to use the piece for his/her portfolio, but the rights will be owned by the City of Martin.

First prize award will be $500.

Submit your design electronically on a jump drive to:

Martin City Hall, 109 University St., Martin, TN 38237.

Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. on May 2.

Logo contest applications are available online at www.tnsoybeafestival.org and at Martin City Hall.
PROPOSED BUILDING — Artist's rendition of the proposed science and engineering building at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

BUILDING
From Page 1
force. A recent economic impact study conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists International in Moscow, Idaho, showed the proposed building's overall economic impact at $56.3 million in added income and the creation of 901 jobs from initial construction through the first 10 years of graduates.

The study also showed that West Tennessee will gain an additional $1.6 million in annual added income from the impact of its graduates and building operations.

The city of Martin, Weakley County government, Weakley County Economic Development Board, USDA, Northwest Tennessee Development District, Southwest Tennessee Development District and the university partnered to sponsor the study.

Rep. Andy Holt (R-Dresden) sponsored the bill in the house.

Local students inducted into Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society at UT Martin

(L-R) Ivory Russell of Decaturville and Lindsey Mooney of Scotts Hill were inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society on April 5 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Membership is based on academic achievements and exemplary character. Phi Kappa Phi is an internationally respected society 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.
Legislature
OK's reduction of UTM match on major project

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The STEM building is projected to cost $65 million, with $50 million originally funded by the state plus a 25 percent match by the university. UT Martin now has a one-year opportunity to match 10 percent or about $6.5 million of the cost to construct the 120,000-square-foot building. (A follow-up story will appear in Thursday's edition of The Messenger.)

The building will house the university's departments of engineering, computer science, chemistry and physics, mathematics and statistics, and an entrepreneurial center. The plans include classrooms and teaching laboratories, as well as dedicated student laboratories and project work spaces. The latter will be created in a way to encourage innovation.

(See Page 14, Col. 6)

UTM match...
(Continued from Page 1)

itive, cross-disciplinary research and design.

"The Tennessee General Assembly has given UT Martin a unique opportunity to make a significant, positive difference for our students and West Tennessee's economy," said Dr. Bob Smith, the university's interim chancellor. "We're grateful to Senator Stevens for his heartfelt commitment and leadership in making this reduction possible. Now, it's our job to raise $6.5 million to assure that this building becomes a reality."

Smith added, "The senator's vision to invest where the economic need exists is a historic change in how state buildings are funded."

University officials see the building as a cornerstone for providing the STEM education needed to develop the region's workforce.

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Parisian helps UTM in engineering competition

A Paris resident was one of seven University of Tennessee at Martin students who competed in the international SAE Aero Design East competition recently in Fort Worth, Texas.

Wesley Cox of Paris joined six other UTM students in placing third overall behind Georgia Tech and a national team from Poland. The UTM team also won second place in the flight category.

Cox, a senior at UTM, and his teammates built a radio-controlled aircraft from the ground up as part of the competition.

One of Cox's roles in the competition is to release packages from the aircraft that was built by the team into a target area, where the drop is graded for accuracy.
Ben Walker ropes a calf during the 48th Annual UT Martin Spring Rodeo over the weekend.

Men's Team Caps Off Another Successful Rodeo Weekend With Third Straight Win

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin conducted another flourishing performance as the campus hosted the 48th annual edition of the spring college rodeo this weekend at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

The UT Martin men's team romped its way to its third consecutive victory, tallying 1,245 out of a possible 2,865 points awarded to nine teams from the Ozark Region. The 1,245 points eclipsed the previous season-high of 835 points compiled at West Alabama on Oct. 8-10 and resulted in the fifth win in eight rodeos so far this season for the men's team.

On the women's side, UT Martin tallied 85 points to finish in seventh place. Three Rivers College placed first in the team standings with 315 points.

UT Martin claimed the top two finishers in bareback riding, as Tanner Phipps and Coy Lutz each split the best score in average (154). Lutz placed first in the opening round with a 78 before splitting second in the short go with a 76. Meanwhile, Phipps led the way in the second round (79) after coming in second place in the first round (75). Houston Herbert also compiled points, splitting fourth in the first round (73) and finishing fifth in average (73).

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UT Martin was responsible for five cowboys who combined to pitch in with the three highest point totals in team roping. Lane Mitchell was alongside East Mississippi's Marcus Theriot for the top finish in average (12.3) and in the short go (5.7) after placing third in the opening round (6.6). The team of Walker and Douglas Rich came in second place in all three phases with an average of 13.5, first round time of 6.3 and a short go performance of 7.2. Bronson and Phipps also joined forces to post times of 17.6 in average (third), 9.6 in the second round (third) and 8.0 in the first round (split fourth).

Three cowgirls earned points in barrel racing, led by the consistency of Madison Crow. She split third with a 27.95 average after finishing fourth in each of the first two rounds (13.92, 14.03). Nealey Dalton had the best time in the first round (13.7) before finishing sixth in both the short go (18.73) and in average (32.43). Also compiling points was Megan Crow, whose first round time of 13.96 was the sixth-best score.

UT Martin continues its season next weekend at Northwest Mississippi Community College. Action from Senatobia, Miss. will take place on April 21-23.
Several University of Tennessee at Martin students and alumni from Weakley County were inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society on April 5 at UT Martin. Phi Kappa Phi membership is based on academic achievements and exemplary character. Pictured are (front row, l-r) Yvannah Garcia, Georgia Brown, Cassandra Cain, Sharee Brewer, Toni Holford, Mohsin Aleriani, (back row) Amanda Mansfield, Nicole Harrell, Grace Bruner, Sarah Anderson and Michael McGraith. These inductees are all from Martin except Mohsin, an international student from Saudi Arabia, and Mansfield, from Gleason. Phi Kappa Phi is an internationally respected society 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.

Teachers Invited To Free Workshop

West Tennessee teachers in grades PK-12 can register for one of three workshop sessions on classroom organization and management to be held in June at the University of Tennessee at Martin. There is no charge to attend these sessions, which are sponsored by UT Martin's Teacher Quality Partnership Grant through the U.S. Department of Education.

Each workshop session includes three initial days in June and a half-day session in October. Districts can choose to grant professional development points for participation.

Teachers can choose to attend session one June 7-9, session two June 14-16 or session three June 21-23. All three sessions will be held from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. All attendees are also required to attend a follow-up session from 8:30 a.m.-noon, Oct. 1.

Participants can register online by visiting www.eventbrite.com and searching “UT Martin classroom management.” Registration ends May 6.

For more information, contact Tina Harrison, grant coordinator, at 731-881-7201 or by email at tharr70@utm.edu.
Local Residents Receive Spring 2016 Employee Awards

Kim Cooper (left), of Sharon, student services specialist in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, and Nathan Morgan (right), of Martin, assistant director of University Relations, received outstanding employee awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during a breakfast held April 13. Cooper will celebrate her 30-year anniversary with the university this fall, while Morgan has worked with UT Martin since the spring of 2013. Two employees are honored with this recognition each semester to recognize dedication and outstanding service to the university. They are pictured with Dr. Bob Smith, interim chancellor, after the presentation.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will wind down the spring concert season with performances by the UT Martin/community orchestra, jazz band, contemporary music group and student chamber ensemble April 25-28. All performances will take place in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall unless otherwise noted.

Community members are invited to join the UT Martin/community orchestra as they perform Mozart and Puccini’s famous works, including a guest oboe solo by Natalie King, Miss UT Martin. The performances will begin at 7:30 p.m., April 25, in the Fine Arts Building’s Harriet Fulton Theatre.

Those who enjoy jazz may be interested in attending a concert by the UT Martin big band and small jazz group as they perform the music of Mingus, Goodman and Monk. The concert will also feature Dr. Rande Sanderbeck, professor of percussion at East Tennessee State University, on drums. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m., April 26. Sanderbeck will also present a drum set clinic from 7-8 p.m., April 25, in the Percussion Rehearsal Hall of the Fine Arts Building.

The UT Martin contemporary music group will present a program of 21st century chamber works at 7:30 p.m., April 27. Selections will include a flute/percussion duet, a quartet based on traditional fiddle tunes, Cerone’s five-movement work for soprano and a larger work derived from the Attica Prison riots.

The week’s performances will conclude with a student chamber recital featuring various small ensembles by woodwind, brass and percussion students. The recital will begin at 7:30 p.m., April 28.

For more information contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

UTM Spring Concerts Set For April 25-28
Aspiring African-American leaders meet

Annual conference puts focus on leadership skills

ALI RENCKENs
CONTACTUS@JACKSONSUN.COM

Aspiring leaders and people from 15 counties looking to improve their leadership skills congregated at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital on Tuesday for the 18th annual African-American Leadership Conference, the only conference of its kind in the state.

The keynote speaker, Jackson native William Godwin, an attorney, entrepreneur, community and external affairs consultant, real estate broker and public speaker, spoke on "the challenge of self-determination," particularly in relationship to politics and the economy.

"A part of looking to the future is understanding where you came from," Godwin said. "The beauty of segregation was seeing African-American businesses flourish amidst the horror of legalized segregation."

He talked about the debate as to whether African Americans should, as Booker T. Washington believed, create and develop their own institutions or, as W.E.B. Du Bois insisted, focus on gaining political power and civic freedom.

He said desegregation undeniably opened many opportunities, but, as a result of being able to take their business anywhere they wanted, African American-owned businesses suffered, resulting in a degree of loss in African Americans' influence in society.

According to Godwin, the answer is righting this to prioritize economic freedom by supporting African-American businesses.

"When we build a black business

See Leaders, Page 6A

W.E.B. du Bois insisted, focus on gaining political power and civic freedom."

Leaders

Continued from Page 3A

class, we will have elected officials ... who are accountable to the people they represent," he said. "Let us resolve to determine our destiny, to work together as a people, to work within our communities to make this dream a reality."

Other lecture topics included educational issues, health, motivational leadership and crime.

The African-American Leadership Conference was started 18 years ago by a group of people who hoped to offer African-American leaders an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and potential. It is held by the WestStar program at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

"Eighteen years ago, a group of people came together ... there was a dream that we start this program and we would address specific issues that are important to
West Tennessee, and particularly to African Americans," UT Martin Chancellor Robert Smith said in his welcoming address. “It is one of the proudest moments of my life to see that this program has become an important force.”

Smith told the 120 attendees that there are two types of leaders: those who work for their own personal progress and those who view the world in terms of building relationships.

“This program wouldn’t exist without people who build relationships. They have the greatest impact,” he said, challenging the audience to contribute to that legacy.

Evelyn Robertson Jr., who helped start the first conference and remains a member of the conference committee, sees the conference as an opportunity to network and gain inspiration.

“It has grown tremendously,” said Robertson. “People from all over West Tennessee look forward to coming to this conference each year. The idea behind this is to create some opportunities for leaders, proven leaders and those who aspire to contact individuals who are in leadership positions, and this is an opportunity for them to be exposed to positive influences.”
Miss Tennessee 2015 Hannah Robison will provide the keynote address at the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Monday, April 25, 7 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Trenton.

Tickets are available for $5 each, and all proceeds benefit the Trenton Ministerial Alliance and its program that pays utility bills for those in need in the Trenton community.

Robison was crowned Miss Tennessee on June 20, 2015, at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson. As the newly crowned Miss Tennessee, Kirkland's, Inc. sponsors Robison as she serves as Governor Haslam's official spokesperson for Character Education and travels over 80,000 miles speaking to 50,000 schoolchildren about the “Character Education Trait: Responsibility.” Throughout her year of travels, Robison also serves as Tennessee’s goodwill ambassador for the five Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) hospitals across the state. She also holds positions as an Arthritis Foundation ambassador, Official Friends of Monroe County, and for the University of Tennessee at Martin pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry with a minor in psychology. At UTM, she has been on the Dean’s List, a recipient of Scholastic Honor Society, the American Chemical Society, and Phi Lambda Upsilon.

Robison recently served as philanthropy chair for Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority whose national philanthropy is the Arthritis Foundation. Her responsibilities included coordinating service projects for 100 members. She organized and chaired AOII’s “Attack Arthritis Week” that raised $5,500 for the Arthritis Foundation. In addition to her on-campus fundraisers, Robison has conducted various fundraisers on her own that have allowed her to raise over $20,000 for the Arthritis Foundation.

As a chemistry major and an advocate for STEM, Robison helped launch STEM programs in several Tennessee counties this year. She has been employed as UTM’s representative for the West Tennessee STEM Hub.

Robison traveled to Atlantic City, New Jersey, in September to compete for the title of Miss America and placed in the top seven. She is the first Miss Tennessee to win America’s Choice at the Miss America Pageant and is also the first Miss Tennessee to be awarded one of five $5,000 STEM Education Scholarships at the Miss America Pageant. Robison is also the first Miss Tennessee to be recognized by a separate panel of judges as first runner up to the National Quality of Life Award for her work with the Arthritis Foundation, winning an additional $9,000 in scholarships.
UTM winds down spring concerts

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The week’s performances will conclude with a student chamber recital featuring various small ensembles by woodwind, brass and percussion students. The recital will begin at 7:30 p.m. on April 28.

All performances are free and open to the public.

For more information on these and other music events, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

UTM Relay for Life to host silent auction on Friday

This Friday starting at 6 p.m. and ending at 8 p.m. the National Society of Leadership Success relay for life team will be hosting a silent auction at the UTM relay for life event held at the UTM Student Recreation Center. The NSLS relay for life fundraising team encourages and hopes to see everyone from the local area to come to the event and bid on items. The money raised from the silent auction will be directly given to the American Cancer Society.

The NSLS team would like to thank local businesses for making donations to this cause. Donations are as follows:

Sideline donated a $125 worth of membership.
Higher Ground of Martin donated a $10 gift card.
Hunan Palace of Martin donated four free lunch vouchers.
The Opera House of Martin donated a $50 gift card.
Pro Nails of Martin donated $22 worth of nail care.
Lana’s Boutique of Martin donated tanning minutes.
Country Pet and Resort of Dresden donated $50 worth of pet stay.
KN Root Beer of Martin donated a free meal.
Sonics of Martin donated $20 gift card.
Sonics of Greenfield donated two $15 gift cards.
Dominos of Martin donated two vouchers each for a free pizza and a two liter coke.
Jack’s Bar and Grill of Martin donated a $25 gift card.
La Cabana of Martin donated a $20 gift card.
Sammies of Martin donated a $50 gift card.
Little Caesar’s of Martin donated a $20 gift card.
Shoe Shack of Martin donated $20 gift card.
The Whispering Tree of Martin donated a $50 gift card.

Bidding on the items above will be done through ticket sales. Tickets will be $5 each. Each set of gift cards will be grouped together with two others. Bidders will bid on each group and there will be three winners for each group. The first place winner will have first pick, second place second pick, and third will win the remaining prize. Each gift card will be grouped as follows:

Group one will be: Sideline, Higher Ground, and Two of the Hunan Palace lunch vouchers.
Group two will be: Opera House, Pro Nails, and Lana’s Boutique.
Group three will be: Country Pet and Resort, KN Root beer, and Sonics of Martin.
Group four will be: Dominos, Jacks Bar and Grill, and La Cabana.
Group five will be: Sammies, Little Caesar’s, and Sonics of Martin.

Bids on these items will start at a later given price. Bidders will write their information down on a sheet of paper with their bid price and the highest and final bidder will win the prize. All bidding will end at 8 p.m. and winners will be announced at 9 p.m. First place winners will have a 10-minute grace period. If the first place winners do not claim their prize by the ten minute grace period first place advantage will be granted to the second place winner and so on. If winners are not heard from by 10 p.m. they will be contacted by phone over the weekend.
Chamber awards banquet recognizes leaders from throughout the county

The Weakley County Chamber of Commerce hosted the Annual Awards Banquet at the Boling University Center Ballroom on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Chamber President John Hatler welcomed guests and introduced 2011 Chamber President Todd Hampton of Martin as the master of ceremonies, while 2012 President Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum opened the evening with the invocation.

The Weakley County Chamber Robert M. Smith for his outstanding visions of service in servant leadership. Smith was the innovative co-founder of Leadership Weakley County program and the prestigious WestStar regional program in 1989. He returns to the University of Tennessee at Martin as the interim chancellor.

For more than 35 years, Smith has specialized in executive leadership development, including teaching in university executive programs across the nation. His specialties are in strengthening the senior leadership team, building strong executives, and institutional strategic performance.

CHAMBER,
From Page 1

in the U.S., retains Smith to advise the firm on presidential appointments as well as assist boards of trustees, new presidents, and executives effectively respond to change. He is also an associate with the AASCU-Pension Center for Professional Development, a national firm specializing in president-to-president consultations to improve college and university effectiveness.

Smith has also held teaching or administrative positions at Wichita State University, Ohio University. His purpose is help campus constituents implement a strong vision for their future and prepare for national search for the next chancellor.

He and his wife, Ramona, reside in Martin and Franklin and have two children, both of whom are graduates of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The chamber announced the incoming 2017 President Ricky Finney from Dresden. President-elect Finney presented John Hatler of Martin the Past President's Gavel Plaque for appreciation for his 2015-16 leadership role.

Hatler spoke on the values of the chamber and important visions for the future of Weakley County.

The Young Professionals presented the first 2016 Emerging Leader Award to Elizabeth Pritchett of Martin for her entrepreneurship in business involvement in Weakley County with her quality-of-life influence.

Yeaggin Farms, a family owned agricultural farming operation located between Dresden and Greenfield, was named 2016 Business of the Year.

Danny Nanney, who owns and operates Smith and Nanney Lumber Co., was named 2016 Weakley Countian of the Year.

See Tuesday's Press for announcement of more awards.
RADIO AWARDS - Chuck Hammer (right), a senior from Martin, received second place for best radio/sports coverage program; third place for best radio reporter and best radio news story; and honorable mentions for best radio newscast and best radio sports reporting. He also received first place for best radio sports coverage program in collaboration with Kayla Harmon (left), a senior from Lewisburg, and Jared Peckenpaugh (center), a senior from Finley.

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED
Student staff members from WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the campus radio station at the University of Tennessee at Martin, received a total of 20 awards in radio and television at the 2016 Tennessee Associated Press College Journalism Awards Ceremony held April 9 at The John Seigenthaler Center in Nashville. Pictured around the Associated Press teletype machine are (from left) Ashley Shores, of Lebanon; Ashleigh Burton, of South Fulton; Julia Ewoldt, of Savannah; Jared Peckenpaugh, of Finley; Sydney Lafreniere, of Oak Ridge; Kayla Harmon, of Lewisburg; Tori Seng, of Union City; and Chuck Hammer, of Martin.
UTM students take top state awards in journalism

If you didn’t already know it, the communications department at the University of Tennessee at Martin is one of the best in the state, and recent awards show that.

Student staff members from WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the campus radio station at the university, received four first-place awards, four second-place awards, six third-place awards and five honorable mentions at the 2016 Tennessee Associated Press College Journalism Awards Ceremony held April 9 at The John Seigenthaler Center in Nashville.

The campus cable television station, UTM-TV, also received a first-place award, and UT Martin’s student newspaper, “The Pacer,” received a third-place recognition.

“We are ecstatic at the results of this year’s competition. The students achieved a level of excellence at this year’s Associated Press Collegiate Awards that was truly special,” said Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser. “These honors represent a lot of hard work to produce quality journalism, which was recognized by professionals in the industry as being among the best.”

These 21 awards were collected by only seven students, making their accomplishments all the more impressive.

Chuck Hammer, a senior from Martin, received second place for best radio sports coverage program; third place for best radio news story; and honorable mention for best radio newscast and best radio sports reporting. He also received first place for best radio sports coverage program in collaboration with Kayla Harmon, a senior.

UTM, From Page 1
from Lewisburg, and Jared Peckenaugh, a senior from Finley.

Hammer and Harmon additionally received third place in best radio sports coverage program, and Hammer and Peckenaugh received an honorable mention in the same category.

In addition to her collaborative work, Harmon’s submissions also received both first and third place in the best radio sports reporting category.

Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, received first place for best radio reporter, second place for best radio newscast, third place for best use of sound and an honorable mention for best radio news story. Seng also collaborated with Ashleigh Burton, a senior from South Fulton, to win first place in the best radio investigative/in-depth reporting category for a story discussing sexual violence on campus. The video version of this story also received first place in the related television category for the campus cable channel, UTM-TV.

Burton also received an individual award with a second-place finish in the best use of sound category.

Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge, brought home second place in best radio news story, third place in best radio newscast and an honorable mention in the best radio reporter category.

Joey Plunk, of Bells, placed third for best news graphic/illustration. Plunk is a fine arts major who works on The Pacer staff.

“I’m elated that our students from all three areas of radio, television and newspaper won statewide AP awards. I’m especially proud of the multiple first-place and top-five awards won once again by WUTM,” said Dr. Robert Nanney, professor of communications and department chair.

“The AP awards mean a great deal because they provide clear evidence that our students have the training and talent not only to compete well professionally with other schools across the state — many of which are much larger — but also to win first place. I could not be more pleased.”

The UT Martin Department of Communications, housed within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, has produced such graduates as Scottie Nell Hughes (’02), director of the Tea Party Network; Jennifer Horbelt Bonds (’07), evening anchor for WSPD Local 6 in Paducah; and Van Jones (’90), CNN news contributor and political activist.

For more information on WUTM 90.3 FM, contact Robinson at 731-881-7555 or by email at robins@utm.edu.
The proposed 120,000-square-foot Engineering and Science classroom and laboratory building proposed for the University of Tennessee at Martin has supporters of STEM education excited about the possibilities for education and job opportunities in West Tennessee. The project carries a price tag of $65 million, and UT Martin must raise 10 percent of that amount in matching funds.

STEM project at UTM expected to make major impact on area

The University of Tennessee at Martin STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) building project needs $6.5 million to become a reality.

The price tag, supporters say, is a bargain, for two reasons:

• The local price tag for such a facility would normally be $16.25 million, but the State of Tennessee has offered an historical variance from its policy requiring 25 percent of the cost of a project come from matching funds. The boost for local fundraisers — worth almost $10 million — will only be put into play if their $6.5 million share is secured by 2017, however.

• The overall economic impact on West Tennessee, if the modern 120,000 square foot engineering and science classroom and laboratory building is constructed, is estimated to be $56.3 million in additional area income and the creation of 901 jobs from the first shovel in the ground through the first 10 years of graduates.

Some of the State of Tennessee’s willingness to cut the cost of the ambitious project locally may stem from the realization that West Tennessee is the Volunteer State’s most vulnerable economic region.

(See Page 8, Col. 3)

STEM...

(Continued from Page 1)

Out of the 21 counties making up the area, 14 had a population decline between 2010 and 2014. Seventeen of the 21 have unemployment levels above the state average, as of March, with four counties listed as “distressed” and ranked among the bottom 10 percent in the nation, according to this year’s assessment by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

That same number — 17 of 21 — showed up again when the Tennessee Department of Education took a look at ACT scores below the state’s average.

Supporters of the UT Martin project say economic recovery in an area occurs by building capacity internally, and the STEM-focused effort is an excellent approach to meeting that challenge.

They point to the fact that almost 97 percent of good jobs created since 2010 have gone to college graduates with at least a bachelor’s degree. Since the recession of 2010, the fastest growing majors have been the following:

• Science technologies (+49 percent)
• Natural resources and conservation (+45 percent)
• Mathematics and statistics (+35 percent)
• Computer science (+32 percent)
• Engineering (+26 percent)

When companies start looking for locations, the availability of labor is a top site selection priority, according to the 29th annual survey of corporate executives by Area Development Magazine. More than 82 percent of corporate executives list such a talent pool as an important feature in their final decisions.
Currently, 75 percent of UT Martin’s math students go on to a Ph.D. program. Over the past three years, 38 percent of students were accepted to medical school, 72 percent to pharmacy school and 37 percent to physical therapy school.

Those numbers, impressive as they are, can increase and businesses can, and will, take notice of an area with a very visible focus on science and technology that can fill their need for valuable employees. Best of all for West Tennessee residents who may never utilize the STEM building themselves, they will benefit both directly and indirectly from the efforts of the students who do find a place there.

The proposed state-of-the-art scientific demonstration facilities in the science and laboratory building, paired with active learning technology and a Student Innovation Center to inspire future entrepreneurs in the STEM fields, is well worth the bargain price the State of Tennessee is offering, supporters say.

Now it is up to West Tennessee residents to display the same kind of forward-looking support.

A sufficiently educated workforce is essential for regional economic growth, with higher education translating to higher earnings. Authors of “The Second Machine Age” say there has never been a worse time to be a worker with only “ordinary” skills and abilities to offer. Happily, individuals with access to prime educational opportunities, such as the STEM program would offer at UT Martin, will be equipped both to create and to capture value in the present age. In other words, the higher education proposal with a direct focus on careers that are increasingly valued in a technology- and science-driven world will enable individuals, businesses and regions to participate in shifting technological opportunities for the benefit of all concerned.

UT Martin has an enviable reputation for its relatively new engineering program. Its faculty have more than 90 years of professional practice experience to bring to their classroom teaching.

Under their guidance in the past eight years, engineering students have completed internships in more than 80 companies in West Tennessee and all have been involved with a full year concept-to-design, real-world project, so that they are ready to practice when they graduate. The engineering program can boast that 100 percent of its graduates have passed the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam, which is a critical step in professional licensure.

Those statistics have a positive impact on the region, since 85-90 percent of engineering graduates begin their careers in West Tennessee.

The current science building at UT Martin was built in 1961, long before the nation saw an explosion of interest in and need for STEM graduates. But that need is a very real one today, and universities are tasked with providing the highly educated workforce that is required.

West Tennessee students, who make up more than 90 percent of those enrolled in chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics, are heavily dependent on the local university to prepare them for the challenge. UT Martin is able to bring many resources to bear on that effort, including an outstanding faculty, but the building and equipping of the STEM project would both help attract even more distinguished teachers and more highly motivated students — magnets for business investment in the local area.

Meet & Greet At UT Martin

A Meet & Greet is planned for the public to meet the new director of the UT Martin Ripley Center, Dr. Simpfronia Taylor, Thursday, April 21st, 4 p.m. through 6 p.m., at UT Martin Ripley.
UT Martin head men's basketball coach resigns

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Written by Amber Ruch, Digital Content Executive Producer

http://www.kfvs12.com/

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - The head men's basketball coach at the University of Tennessee Martin has submitted his resignation.

According to UT Martin interim Athletics Director Kevin McMillan, Heath Schroyer submitted his resignation. He said Anthony Stewart will take over on an interim basis.

"Coach Schroyer informed me of his decision to resign this morning," McMillan said. "We are very appreciative of his efforts in lifting our men's basketball program to two of its best seasons in our Division I history. At the same time, we are excited for our success to continue with Coach Stewart at the helm. He is a key member of our program and I truly feel that the continuity that he brings will allow us to remain at the top of the Ohio Valley Conference."

Stewart, 45, will serve as interim head coach for the entire 2016-17 season. He recently completed his second season as associate head coach at UT Martin, helping the Skyhawks to 41 victories and two postseason appearances in that time.

A native of Akron, Ohio, Stewart graduated from University of Mount Union with a bachelor's degree in business management in 2003. He also completed his Master's degree in business administration from Chancellor University in 2006.

Local colleges react to ‘guns on campus’ bill

April 21, 2016 by Mallory Cooke

http://www.wbbjtv.com/

JACKSON, Tenn. — Schools react after state lawmakers passed a bill this week that would allow employees with handgun carry permits to be armed on campuses of the state’s public colleges and universities.

(360x360)

McCommon said they feel the legislation comes with challenges. "Our biggest concern I think is not knowing the level of experience with certain people, them knowing how to act at a time of distress," he said.

Gov. Bill Haslam raised concerns about the measure because it did not give institutions the opportunity to opt out.

Blake Monroe, a sophomore, said he would feel safer if faculty had guns on campus but with some reservations. ‘I think that possibly the certification should go just a little bit further than your average carry permit,’ he said.

McCommon said they are also concerned about accidents and what would happen if law enforcement had to respond to an active shooter on campus. "A good guy could inadvertently be shot because if they see a gun," McCommon said.

The University of Tennessee at Martin released a statement.

'While disappointed with the legislation because we don't see a need for more guns on campus, we're encouraged by the specific limitations on where employees may carry and the requirement to notify and register with campus law enforcement.' UT Martin Interim Chancellor Dr. Bob Smith said in the statement. "UT Martin is fortunate to have a highly trained and effective university police department. We're confident in the ability of our officers to uphold the law and maintain campus safety."

Republican Rep. Andy Holt of Dresden sponsored the bill. Holt said employees could not bring weapons to stadiums or gymnasiums, hospitals, school-sponsored events, or meetings where disciplinary or tenure issues are being discussed.

The bill now goes to the governor's desk for approval.
Schroyer resigns at UT Martin; Stewart named interim Head Coach

Heath Schroyer has submitted his resignation as the University of Tennessee at Martin head men's basketball coach and Anthony Stewart will take over on an interim basis, Skyhawk Interim athletics director Kevin McMillan announced today.

"Coach Schroyer informed me of his decision to resign this morning," McMillan said. "We are very appreciative of his efforts in lifting our men's basketball program to two of its best seasons in our Division-I history. At the same time, we are excited for our success to continue with Coach Stewart at the helm. He is a key member of our program and I truly feel that the continuity that he brings will allow us to remain at the top of the Ohio Valley Conference."

Stewart, 45, will serve as interim head coach for the entire 2016-17 season. He recently completed his second season as associate head coach at UT Martin, helping the Skyhawks to 41 victories and two postseason appearances in that span.

Stewart has also previously served as an assistant coach at Ohio University (2012-14), Southern Illinois University (2011-12), University of Wyoming (2007-11), Long Beach State University (2004-06) and Columbus State Community College (2001-04).

"I would like to thank Kevin for this opportunity," Stewart said. "Coach Schroyer has been a close friend of mine for over a decade and I am honored to continue building the foundation that he set here at UT Martin."

A native of Akron, Ohio, Stewart graduated from University of Mount Union with a bachelor's degree in business management in 2003. He also completed his Master's degree in business administration from Chancellor University in 2006.

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Schroyer resigns at UTM

Heath Schroyer announced on Thursday he's leaving the UT Martin men's basketball team he's led for the past two years.

He will be an assistant coach at N.C. State in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

But UTM interim athletic director Kevin McMillan didn't take long to decide what to do with the program for the foreseeable future.

"Having Coach [Anthony] Stewart as the interim coach through the end of [next season] pretty much assures the program of having continuity through this year," said McMillan, who is the women's basketball coach. "Coach Stewart has been the head recruiter for the program and knows all the guys well, and I think having him and the rest of the coaching staff in place is the best option for the program at this point."

Schroyer coached the Skyhawks to 41 victories over the last two seasons and nearly won the Ohio Valley Conference this past year, losing in the conference championship.

Stewart was there for every victory.

"I would like to thank Kevin for this opportunity," Stewart said in a press release from the school. "Coach Schroyer has been a close friend of mine for over a decade, and I am honored to continue building the foundation that he set here at UT Martin."

McMillan said the process that ended with Schroyer leaving Martin was a quick one, but Schroyer kept McMillan in the loop throughout the process.

"So it didn't catch me off guard, but he hadn't been talking to them for long before he left," McMillan said.

See Schroyer, Page 2D
Making this hire does relieve McMillan of yet another item on his agenda at work as he fulfills the role of athletic director on a temporary basis and football coach Jason Simpson takes care of associate athletic director duties once spring football is done.

"Things haven't been that much different because this is a slow time of year, and our players will have their last workout [Friday] before they really start preparing for finals," McMillan said. "But we've got to make sure this department keeps moving along, and that's what I've got to do right now."

Brandon Shields, 425-9751

UT Martin wants stability with Stewart as interim head coach

MARTIN, TN - Considering UT Martin has an interim chancellor and athletics director, the decision to name Anthony Stewart the Skyhawks' interim head coach was the best option moving forward according to interim athletics director Kevin McMillan.

"That's not an ideal situation and I understand the ramifications of that for recruiting, scheduling, all those kind of things," McMillan said. "You would almost do a disservice to name someone a head coach right now with an interim (athletics director) and interim chancellor because you could have a chancellor and (athletics director) come in here and have a totally different mindset and it could become a nightmare."

Two Maury County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Minterooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

• Karolynne D. Bivings, of Spring Hill, daughter of Kevin Bivings and Kim Bivings, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.

• Hannah Lightfoot, daughter of Bill and Karen Lightfoot, of Hampshire, will be a freshman. She received the Advance Scholarship.

• Tanna Norman, of Santa Fe, was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society on April 5 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Robert Smith had been interim chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin about three months when he saw serious problems in accreditation paperwork that ultimately landed UTM on probation.

Smith realized UTM had not taken adequate steps to address concerns raised in evaluations by the university’s accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS).

He had about 48 hours to rewrite the report in September 2015, but knew UTM was in trouble. Smith would later say in an email: “We turned in a terrible report. When I got it, there wasn’t much I could do as the data (or total lack of it) was a heritage from before I got here.” The email was sent to Bill Austin, who is listed on UTM’s website as a professor emeritus of mathematics.

In December, SACS notified UTM it would be placed on a 12-month academic probation because it repeatedly failed to properly address five required standards. The announcement shocked UTM students, parents, employees and leadership and raised concerns about the credibility of an otherwise respected university.

UTM initially provided little information to the public about the nature of the problems because, according to a university spokesman, UTM didn’t know what the “specifics are that SACS wants us to address.”

To learn more, The Jackson Sun filed a public records request with the university. The Sun
UTM

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requested all correspondence pertaining to SACS' probation sent or received by Smith and any department heads and deans between Dec. 7 and Dec. 18, 2015, around the time UTM learned of the probation.

In response, UTM provided more than 1,000 emails to and from Smith and members of the academic leadership team at the university. The emails include correspondence with UTM parents and students, a UTM representative on the UT system board of trustees and UT system President Joe DiPietro.

From the emails, The Jackson Sun learned:

> UTM knew about the problems that triggered its probation as early as the fall of 2012 and failed to properly address them. While the university said in December it didn't know the specifics of the problems, the report Smith filed in September focused on four related concerns identified by SACS regarding UTM's failure to develop traceable standards to gauge student learning campus wide. A fifth area of concern focused on UTM's lack of traceable data for general education courses.

> Emails from Smith indicate a change in leadership was made at UTM because of the accreditation issues. Chancellor Tom Rakes stepped down from his position on May 31, 2015, to take a teaching position at UTM. Rakes said in emails to the Sun that it was his decision to leave the chancellorship and accept a position as a professor at UTM. UT system President DiPietro also said in an interview that it was Rakes' choice to return to teaching at UTM.

> Smith said he was brought to UTM on June 1 in part because of his experience with the accreditation process but emails indicate he didn't realize the severity of the problems or lack of progress at UTM for more than three months. He said in an interview that his No. 1 priority during his first few months had been enrollment.

> UTM's faculty members were resistant to changes required to address the SACS deficiencies or lacked a sense of urgency in the matter. Some faculty members were "in complete denial of their responsibilities in this process," Smith said in an email. He described it as something that held the university back.

> The academic probation represents a public relations challenge and an enrollment concern for UTM, which, like other four-year institutions, has seen a drop in enrollment as the state implemented a free community college tuition program. Some UTM students and parents reacted with confusion and anger over the probation, questioning the quality of the institution.

**Prior knowledge**

SACS originally notified UTM about 18 standards it needed to address in November 2012 as part of the re-accreditation process. UTM had resolved seven of the standards by April 2013. The university submitted a report on the remaining 11 standards, and SACS notified the school in December 2013 that issues remained with the five standards that eventually led to UTM's probation.

Since December 2013, UTM has filed two monitoring reports in an attempt to address the five standards. The second report was filed in September 2015, and SACS notified the university it would be placed on probation in December.

It was the second report Smith saw a little more than three months into his tenure, according to emails provided to the Sun. After reading it and rewriting it, he knew the report would likely not meet with approval from SACS, but he did not expect UTM to be placed on probation, according to emails.

"The decision blew us out of the water," Smith wrote to Austin, the professor emeritus, on Dec. 13. "However, I knew whatever would happen was not going to be good. I had hoped the decision would not have been this bad... I told [UT system President Joe DiPietro] when we turned in the report that we were in trouble. However, neither he nor I thought this would be the outcome."

In an email sent to Stephanie Kolitsch, UTM's coordinator for SACS accreditation, on Dec. 9 Smith said, "You and I discussed this possibility so we knew it might come out this way."

In an email sent to DiPietro, Crawford Gallimore, a representative of UTM on the UT system board of trustees, and others on Dec. 9, Smith said SACS' ruling was the "worst case outcome..." and that the university made a mistake.

An email exchange about how to present the probation in a letter to faculty and staff shows the university looked at how Auburn University communicated accreditation problems in a letter to its constituencies.

"The letter below includes some very nice material that the president sent me from Auburn's case," Smith said in an email to Tonja Johnson, vice president for communications and marketing for the UT system. "I've included a lot of that but not the tone. Auburn faced a circumstance that doesn't match up to ours. Consequently, I'm not comfortable with the defiant tone they had. We know we messed up. We have to deal with it."

Former UTM Athletic Director Phil Dane suggested that some of UTM's stakeholders should "publicly rip SACS so they are the bad guy" because the organization appeared to be on a power trip rather than a mission to help UTM fulfill its goals.

In response, Smith said, "As appealing
as that is we are still responsible and WE didn’t do the job we needed to do.”

Rakes’ departure

Tom Rakes stepped down as UTM’s chancellor on May 31, 2015, and now teaches an online course at UTM. He was hired in 2002 as vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of educational studies. In 2005, he was named provost, and he was elected chancellor by the University of Tennessee board of trustees in 2007.

A news release from the university about Rakes’ departure from the chancellor’s job lauded his accomplishments and the milestones reached by UTM during his tenure.

In two emails from Smith, the interim chancellor, to Mike Dunnavant, the parent of a UTM student, Smith indicates the accreditation problems led to a leadership change.

In an email to Smith, Dunnavant said, “Someone’s head should roll, but that won’t happen (sic) in higher education or state government as it should.”

In Smith’s response, he said, “In fact, I hope you’ve discerned that my arriving here a few months ago is an example of what you would have expected but doubted would happen at an institution.”

Smith noted his success with institutional accreditation. “That is why I’m here and others are gone,” he wrote.

In a follow-up email to Dunnavant, Smith said SACS’ action was a “major residue of the past.”

“I suppose it is what athletic teams and campuses face when they have to change out a coach and the NCAA comes down after the fact with sanctions and the coach goes away unscathed but the rest of us pay the price,” Smith wrote.

In emails to the Sun, Rakes said it was his decision, unprompted by the UT system administration, to leave the chancellorship and to take a teaching role.

The Jackson Sun asked UTM spokesman Bud Grimes to explain Smith’s emailed comments about a change in leadership at the university. The Sun asked if Smith was referring to Rakes in the emails. Grimes responded, “No, a person reading these could assume that he was referencing Dr. Rakes. But, these comments potentially address personnel matters, and he can’t discuss this further.”

In an interview in March, DiPietro, the UT system president, also said it was Rakes’ wish to take a faculty position.

In response to a question about UTM’s accreditation problems not being resolved during his tenure, Rakes said it normal to have a number of ongoing projects and priorities that remain to be addressed when there is a change in leadership.

He referred to the monitoring report filed while he was still in office and said, “At the time of submission, I believed that we had sufficient documentation to meet standards. Our accreditor outlined the standards they believed were not met and requested additional response.”

That response was filed under Smith’s administration in September 2015.

DiPietro said Rakes must have had a misunderstanding with SACS when SACS representatives went to UTM for an update on the university’s progress in addressing the accreditation concerns.

DiPietro said in an email to Gallimore, the member of the UT board of trustees, on Dec. 9: “Tom Rakes had lead (sic) me to believe after the site visit exit interview that the review committee had questions regarding this essential but thought they were OK.”

“After review by the C&R committee (the SACS’ Committees on Compliance and Reports) of the facts they must have found differently? Or else the site team was more concerned than Tom ascertained?” DiPietro wrote.

Smith said in an interview in March it is not productive to talk about who is at fault for UTM’s probation.

“It has not helped me, either personally or as the leader of the university, to devote any energy in looking back and placing blame,” Smith said. “We’re moving forward, and I want people to be enthusiastic and want them to feel that we’re going to be successful and that this is something that they have entirely within their control to do.”

Smith’s role

UTM had been under scrutiny for the five standards that ultimately led to its probation for more than two and a half years when Smith began work at the school on June 1, 2015. UTM turned in one report SACS found unsatisfactory in September 2014 and had been told to turn in another in September of 2015, more than three months after Smith’s arrival.

But Smith’s focus during his first few months was on enrollment, not on the accreditation problems.

“So between June and the first day of classes, we were putting 100 percent of our effort into shoring up enrollment for the fall,” Smith said in an interview. “That was our number one task.”

“Our status with accreditation was not an agenda item,” he said.

However, Smith said in an email to DiPietro and Gallimore, the member of the UT board of trustees, on Dec. 9, “I recognized coming in that we were facing problems. It just didn’t feel right.”

Smith noted in the email that faculty had two days of training related to the accreditation concerns in August and that a workshop was scheduled for January.

“Since our progress report was turned in prior to the results of any of this, there was little indication to [SACS] that we had made any progress since the initial review two years ago. Apparently, we didn’t do much of anything.”

In an email to UTM Chancellor Emeritus Margaret Perry two days later, on Dec. 11, Smith said he was stunned in September when he saw the monitoring re-

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port that led SACS to put UTM on probation.

"I worried something might be wrong but people kept telling me we were doing fine. Our own report told me we were in trouble," Smith wrote.

He and Kolitsch, UTM's coordinator for SACS accreditation, rewrote as much of the report as possible in the 48 hours before the report was due "but I knew we were headed down a bad path," Smith said in an email.

When asked in March if he would have adjusted his priorities knowing what he knows now, Smith said, "I don't know how you would predict that you ought to be looking at something that you don't know is even out there... I've asked myself [the same question]."

A culture issue

Emails from Smith and Lynn Alexander, dean of humanities and fine arts, indicate part of UTM's problem in addressing its deficiencies was with faculty.

In an email to Perry, the chancellor emeritus, Smith said UTM was engaged in addressing the problems. "Nevertheless, we have faculty who are still in complete denial of their responsibilities in this process. That is not only frustrating, it is what holds us back."

In an email to Austin, the professor emeritus, on Dec. 13, Smith said, "I had no idea Stephanie [Kolitsch, UTM's coordinator for SACS accreditation] was having so much trouble from the departments and, worse, she got no backing from the administration to hold people's feet to the fire."

Alexander said in a Dec. 14 email to faculty that attendance at workshops to address the SACS issues was "good but not excellent."

"But many faculty have expressed reluctance to take the necessary steps" to correct UTM's deficiencies and document the efforts.

"Most of us began teaching before assessment was a buzzword," he wrote. "If our students did well, graduated and found good jobs, we were successful. That is no longer sufficient - at any university."

In March, Smith said the entire university understands the importance of SACS' standards. He said he is confident the university won't have accreditation issues in the future.

"The cold reality, that's what this has all been about," Smith said. "I kind of wish it had been done earlier, but the fact that we're engaged now is very, very en-

The announcement that UTM was on probation generated feelings of anger and confusion among those with ties to UTM.

Smith provided a glimpse of that in an email to Perry, the chancellor emeritus: "I'm sitting here the night before [December] Commencement responding to angry and confused (more of the latter than the former) students and parents. This is a nightmare."

Gallimore, a member of the UT board of trustees, said in an email to Smith, "I have every confidence you will get this fixed; I just don't understand how we got to this point."

Mike Dunnivant, the parent of a UTM student with whom Smith corresponded, told Smith he had worked on college campuses and had been involved in reaccreditations.

"This is an embarrassment and a serious black eye for an institution with the stature of UTM," Dunnivant said in an email to Smith. "Many staffers have dropped the ball in a major way, no matter how you try to spin this institutional failure."

Smith provided a detailed response to Dunnivant, including information about his background in institutional accreditation and a change in leadership at UTM. Dunnivant thanked Smith for his "straightforward and honest response."

"I have full faith and confidence, based on your experience, that you will successfully resolve this serious situation," Dunnivant wrote.

Bob Reid, whose daughter is a junior at UTM, told Smith in an email he was "very, very concerned" about the effects of the probation on UTM's reputation.

"I am always concerned about the potential impact, especially one that may cause a negative thought towards my daughter and the school she attended once she enters the work marketplace," Reid said later in an email to The Jackson Sun.

Hunter Laws, who graduated from UTM in December, contacted Smith by email regarding the university being put on probation. He told The Jackson Sun that he would have transferred had he known about the school's accreditation problems.

"I am deeply concerned about the probation because I have a degree from this institution, and I believe having a strong, respected name behind you can help further you in life," Laws said in an email to The Jackson Sun. "I shouldn't have to worry that potential employers may question my qualifications due to the university's wrongdoings."

DiPietro, president of the UT system, said in an email to Smith and others on Dec. 9 that the probation could "negatively impact enrollment."

In March, Smith said it is difficult to tell if UTM's probation has affected enrollment because of the Tennessee Promise program, which provides two free years of community college to high school graduates who meet certain standards. The program began with 2015 high
TYLER WHETSTONE
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Here are some answers to key questions regarding the University of Tennessee at Martin's probationary status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS), an accrediting body for educational institutions.

Why does accreditation matter to a university?
Accreditation is vital to universities. According to Doug Lederman, editor of Inside Higher Ed, an online news source on higher education, without accreditation, universities cannot receive federal financial aid, which students rely on to attend the school. Unaccredited or unrecognized schools normally do not meet the standards of the U.S. Department of Education, and their degrees lack credibility.

Who develops the standards schools must meet to be accredited?
The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS) forms the standards, which are voted on by member institutions. Every institution accredited by SACS, which is nearly every university in the Southeast, operates under the standards. They are approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

How did UTM end up on probation with SACS?
In the fall of 2012, UTM hosted SACS for a full 10-year review of its accreditation. In November 2012, SACS told UTM it needed to work on 18 standards. UTM addressed the standards and reported back to SACS.

In April 2013, SACS said UTM needed more work on 11 of the 18 standards. UTM made further efforts to address the 11 standards, but SACS said in December 2013 that UTM did not fully address five of the 11 standards. UTM was required to submit a monitoring report due to the lack of progress.

In September 2014 UTM filed its first monitoring report, but in December 2014, SACS notified UTM that the monitoring report was not complete. A second report was required.

In September 2015, UTM filed its second monitoring report, and, again, SACS found it unsatisfactory. UTM was placed on probation in December. SACS representatives will visit UTM this fall for a review.

Where did UTM fall short?
Four of the five standards UTM failed to adequately address relate to planning and evaluating processes that track student progress in all courses. This requires the university to set goals, establish ways to show it has achieved the goals and use the goals to improve.

According to SACS' resource manual, schools are responsible for showing improvement based on the analysis of the standards. Just having a plan for improvement is not enough.

Similarly, the fifth standard relates to planning for and evaluating progress in the general education areas SACS expects all students, regardless of major, to learn.

How serious are these problems?
The standards are not what SACS considers core standards. John Hardt, vice president of SACS, said while some standards are more important than others, all standards must be completed.

"It's not a matter of which you can pick and choose which ones to follow," Hardt said.

Lederman said, "So much of what [SACS] is saying is, 'You said you were going to take student learning more seriously and change what you do based on whether your students are [progressing]. It doesn't look like you're doing that.'"

What has UTM done to address these standards?
UTM has held multiple workshops for faculty, among other measures. Interim Chancellor Robert Smith said UTM fulfills these standards, but has not documented them.

"It sounds crazy that it is as simple as this, but that is exactly what it is," he said. "So most of what we're working on is [having people] going back and chronicling and tying that into this continuous improvement process."

What happens next?
UTM will submit its third monitoring report and host SACS representatives this fall, when the university is to prove it has addressed the five standards identified as problem areas by SACS.

After the visit, SACS will likely decide if UTM will be cleared from probation or have its probation extended for a second year.

It is possible, though not likely, according to Hardt, the SACS vice president, that UTM could have its accreditation revoked if its progress with the five standards is not acceptable.

Reach Tyler at (731) 425-9629. Follow him on Twitter @tyler_whetstone.
school graduates, and state-funded four-year schools across the state saw enrollment declines last fall.

"It is something that we're not taking for granted," Smith said. "So when we have the opportunity to speak about it if we have been transparent, we have been direct, and because of the work that is being produced here, we are very optimistic."

**Moving forward**

UTM will submit its third monitoring report to SACS this fall, and SACS will make another visit to see the progress the school has made.

SACS will then likely decide one of three things, according to John Hardt, vice president of SACS: UTM has completed the five standards and will be removed from probation; UTM continues to show "good cause" and will remain on probation for a second year; or UTM has not done what SACS requested and will be removed from SACS membership.

SACS is expected to announce its decision in December. Hardt said it is unlikely UTM's accreditation would be revoked.

Doug Lederman is the editor of Inside Higher Ed, an online news source on higher education.

He said as long as SACS feels UTM has made progress it wouldn't revoke UTM's accreditation.

"Now at some point if a [school] can't get its act together, it can be a real problem, but I would be surprised if a school in the UT system can't get together and do the basic blocking and tackling needed to fix this," Lederman said.

In the Dec. 9 email to DiPietro and Gallimore, a member of the UT board of trustees, Smith questioned whether the university would be able to rectify the situation in time for the fall report.

"We will be hard pressed to finish the development of the standards, collect evidence, review results, and execute changes based on those assessments by fall 2016 but we will absolutely give it our best try," Smith wrote.

Smith was more upbeat in March, when he said in an interview that UTM's progress is notable. He said his email to DiPietro and Gallimore was sent right after he received news of the probation, and doesn't reflect how he now feels about the school. Smith expressed cautious optimism and said the school has made good progress on addressing SACS' concerns.

"I think the report we're going to turn in is going to be so voluminous that the weight of it alone is going to impress the committee," Smith said.

Reach Tyler at (731) 425-9629. Follow him on Twitter @tyler_whetstone.

**What you need to know about UTM's status**

SACS is expected to decide in December whether UTM will be removed from academic probation, have its probation extended or lose its accreditation, an option a SACS official says is unlikely.
Time line of UTM's accreditation problem

Fall 2012: The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted representatives of its accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS), for a full 10-year review of its accreditation.

November 2012: SACS told UTM it needed to work on 18 standards. UTM addressed the standards and reported back to SACS.

Feb. 26-28, 2013: SACS made a visit to UTM again.

April 2013: SACS said UTM needed more work on 11 of the 18 standards.

August 2013: UTM responded with information on the 11 standards SACS said still needed to be addressed.

December 2013: SACS said the university did not fully address five of the 11 standards. UTM was required to submit a monitoring report due to the lack of progress.

September 2014: UTM filed its first monitoring report.

December 2014: SACS notified UTM that the monitoring report was not satisfactory. A second report was required.

September 2015: UTM filed its second monitoring report.

December 2015: SACS again found UTM's monitoring report unsatisfactory. UTM was placed on probation.

This fall: SACS representatives will visit UTM for another review and will determine UTM's accreditation status.

— Tyler Whetstone
UTM's accreditation problems subject of expose

A three page expose on UT Martin's accreditation problems was the subject of Sunday's Jackson Sun. The paper sought university emails through the Tennessee Open Records law through a public records request and detailed the University's problems with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges also known as SACS and the efforts of UT Martin Interim Chancellor Dr. Bob Smith to correct them.

The paper revealed a number of problems with the university's efforts to comply with the Commission's request to fix internal problems that caused the university to land itself on probation. Without correcting these problems the university stands to lose federal funds. The university is preparing to submit a third report this fall and hopefully will get the university back in good standing with SACS.

If the university falls short again, the probation could be extended. The accreditation problems came as a result of the university's educators failing to properly document their efforts to show that it is doing the job of educating students.

Chancellor Bob Smith said he and the staff are working diligently to correct the problems and to get the University back in good graces with SACS.

The University was placed on a 12-month probation academic probation because it repeatedly failed to properly address five required standards.
Local students receive scholarships to UT Martin

Four Henry Countians who will be freshmen at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-17 academic year have been awarded scholarships.

Three have received an Achievement scholarship. They are Felicity Davis of Paris, granddaughter of Pat Lewis and daughter of the late Kevin Wilson; Katie Henson, daughter of Todd and Kelly Henson of Paris; and Bradley N. Vaughn-Watson of Puryear, son of Pam Vaughn and Larry Watson.

Matthew H. Counce, son of James and Kim Counce of Paris, received the Excellence scholarship.

Blaylock to be UTM’s commencement speaker

Dr. Paul Blaylock will address the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring 2016 graduating class during commencement exercises beginning at 11 a.m., May 7, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the university’s main campus.

Blaylock received a bachelor of science degree in liberal arts from UT Martin in 1968 before earning a medical degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis in 1972. He later graduated from the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore., and has spent the past 40 years serving as both a trauma doctor and a trial lawyer in the Portland area.

Blaylock received the UT Martin Outstanding Alumni Award during homecoming festivities in 2003 in recognition of outstanding achievement in his chosen professions. During his time at UT Martin, he was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and served as president of the Student Government Association.

The student government office was officially named after him in 2006.

Blaylock was also a close mentee and friend of Dr. Phil Watkins, then vice chancellor of student affairs and SGA adviser, and their friendship is memorialized in the bronze statues titled “Friends” outside the Paul Meek Library.

He was later honored with both the President’s Award and the Jefferson Award from the American College of Legal Medicine for his disaster work at ground zero following 9/11 and additional community and charity contributions.

The UT Martin spring commencement ceremony, expected to be the largest in university history, is a ticketed event. However, attendees without tickets are welcome to watch a livestream webcast from the overflow area located inside the Skyhawk Fieldhouse. Tickets may only be obtained from individual graduates.

A livestream will also be available online at www.ovcdigitalnetwork.com/watch/?Live=3448 for those who are unable to attend in person.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Teacher workshops planned for June

West Tennessee teachers in the fields of mathematics and science are invited to attend one of several two-day workshops this summer at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Events will be tailored to the needs of elementary, middle school and high school classrooms and will provide teaching materials free of charge.

There is no charge to attend these workshops, which are sponsored by UT Martin's Teacher Quality Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Attendees may choose to receive either a $100-per-day stipend or professional development points for their participation. Teachers should check with their respective districts to verify that professional development points will be honored.

The elementary STEM workshop will be held for math and science teachers in grades three through six. Teachers may choose to attend either the June 6-7 or the June 8-9 session, which will both be held 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in room 207 of UT Martin's Gooch Hall.

Middle school math teachers can attend the June 27-28 session on the UT Martin main campus or the June 29-30 session at the UT Martin Jackson Center. Both sessions will be held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The first session will meet in room 408 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building, and the second session will meet in room 118 at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

The high school STEM workshop is geared toward mathematics classes. Teachers may choose the June 20-21 session, held in room 408 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building on the UT Martin main campus, or the June 22-23 session, held in room 118 of the UT Martin Jackson Center. Both sessions will be held 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information, contact Tina Harrison, grant coordinator, at 731-881-7201 or by email at tharr70@utm.edu.
Medina resident named UTM 'Distinguished Alumni'

MARTIN, Tenn. – Patricia Pipkin, president of DCA/DCPR in Jackson, served as keynote speaker during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications Awards Banquet, held April 14 in the university’s Duncan Ballroom.

Pipkin, a 1996 graduate, completed an internship with the United Way during her senior year and worked with the university newspaper, but knew she hadn’t found “the” job. As graduation grew nearer, she took to the Yellow Pages and called the first advertising agency in the book – Davidson and Chandler Advertising in Jackson, now known as DCA/DCPR.

As luck would have it, Davidson and Chandler did have an opening for an intern in their public relations department – an unpaid opening.

Despite warnings from family and friends, Pipkin started her internship the day after graduation, picking up two other part-time jobs to make ends meet.

“I had a few people tell me I was crazy for taking a free position. They told me, ‘You have a college degree. Don’t work anywhere for free,’ she said. “But I just felt that this was my chance to get my foot in the door. You never know what’s going to happen.”

Her first day on the job is one she will never forget. “I got there and I had an actual desk, an actual computer. Of course, it was the smallest desk and the smallest computer in the entire building, but I was ok with that. I was determined that this was my desk and my computer for 25-30 hours a week, and I had to make something of it,” she said.

Her first assignment came from Seth Chandler himself, partner in the firm and present-day owner and CEO. Ingrid Croce, a new client, was publicizing an autobiographical cookbook chronicling her life with husband and singer Jim Croce. Chandler’s assignment was “simple.”

“She said, ‘Why don’t you see if you can get her on Good Morning, America, or something like that?’ and then he walked away,” Pipkin remembered. However, she was determined to conquer this first challenge, and Ingrid Croce did appear on the television show due in part to Pipkin’s efforts.

After a few months of unpaid work, Pipkin had the opportunity to interview for a position as head media buyer. She earned the position, and attributes much of her success to that internship.

“To this day I fully believe working for free for those months and getting my foot in the door, learning all the different aspects of the agency, I fully believe that helped me land that job. All of the hard work and the sacrifices of being broke and eating cereal and Ramen noodles for dinner, having all those jobs, it all paid off,” she said.

Pipkin used her remarks to encourage students in attendance to seek out real-world work experience and not be afraid of position: that may seem daunting at first. She started her career working for free at the company’s smallest desk and, after working her way up the ladder, became company president in January 2006.

“You can’t be afraid to step out of the classroom and get the real-world experience; being a student is not enough,” she said. “Whether it’s through a club or an organization on campus or a charity or a company you can intern with – those real-world experiences, combined with the knowledge of the classroom and the help of all the professors, they are going to be invaluable to you down the road.”

Pipkin is now responsible for all client advertising budgets and handles media placement from the local to the international level.

She closed her speech by telling the audience, “If something’s not worth working hard for then it’s really not worth having. … Live and savor every moment of your life, because this is not a dress rehearsal.”

Pipkin, originally from Springfield, Tenn., currently lives in Medina with her husband and two sons.
UTM names new Director

Dr. Simpronia “Sim” Taylor is the new director of the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center, effective April 18.

Taylor most recently served as Director of Student Affairs at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, a position she began in 2010. She previously served UTHSC as Student Affairs Coordinator and as Grant Coordinator in the College of Medicine.

Before beginning her UT career, Taylor spent time as office manager at Montessori School of Louisville, Ky., and Principal of Timothy Christian Academy in Athens, Ga.

She received her educational doctorate in workforce education in 2011 and a Master of Education degree in business management from Dillard University in 1989.

(See TAYLOR, page 2)

Taylor is named UTM-Ripley Director

(Continued from page 1)

Taylor also holds certifications as a middle grades teacher and a business education teacher from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

“We are excited to welcome Dr. Taylor and look forward to the expertise and excitement she brings to our efforts,” said Dr. Brian Donavant, interim executive director, UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

Taylor succeeds Texas Culver, who served as interim director and will return to his faculty position as lecturer of educational studies at the center.

“I am grateful for his (Culver’s) counsel and stewardship during this transitional period and look forward to his continuing contributions to our students and operations in Ripley,” said Donavant.

For more information, contact Taylor at the UT Martin Ripley Center at 221-8778.

Morrow receives scholarship to attend UTM

Carson Morrow, of Dyersburg, has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Morrow, the daughter of Angie and Shane Morrow, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Communications students earn top awards at Tennessee Associated Press College Journalism Awards

MARTIN – Student staff members from WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the campus radio station at the University of Tennessee at Martin, received four first-place awards, four second-place awards, six third-place awards and five honorable mentions at the 2016 Tennessee Associated Press College Journalism Awards Ceremony held April 9 at The John Seigenthaler Center in Nashville.

The campus cable television station, UTM-TV, also received a first-place award, and UT Martin’s student newspaper, “The Pacer,” received a third-place recognition.

“We are ecstatic at the results of this year’s competition. The students achieved a level of excellence at this year’s Associated Press Collegiate Awards that was truly special,” said Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser. “These honors represent a lot of hard work to produce quality journalism, which was recognized by professionals in the industry as being among the best.”

These 21 awards were collected by only seven students, making their accomplishments all the more impressive.

Chuck Hammer, a senior from Martin, received second place for best radio/sports coverage program; third place for best radio reporter and best radio news story; and honorable mentions for best radio newscast and best radio sports reporting. He also received first place for best radio sports coverage program in collaboration with Kayla Harmon, a senior from Lewisburg, and Jared Peckenpaugh, a senior from Finley.

Hammer and Harmon additionally received third place in best radio sports coverage/program, and Hammer and Peckenpaugh received an honorable mention in the same category.

In addition to her collaborative work, Harmon’s submissions also received both first and third place in the best radio sports reporting category.

Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, received first place for best radio reporter; second place for best radio newscast; third place for best use of sound; and honorable mention for best radio newscast. Seng also collaborated with Ashleigh Burton, a senior from South Fulton, to win first place in the best radio investigative/in-depth reporting category for a story discussing sexual violence on campus. The video version of this story also received first place in the related television category for the campus cable channel, UTM-TV.

Burton also received an individual award with a second-place finish in the best use of sound category.

Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge, brought home second place in best radio news story; third place in best radio newscast and an honorable mention in the best radio reporter category.

Joey Plunk, of Bells, placed third for best news graphic/illustration. Plunk is a fine arts major who works on The Pacer staff.

“I’m elated that our students from all three areas of radio, television and newspaper won statewide AP awards. I’m especially proud of the multiple first-place and top-five awards won once again by WUTM,” said Dr. Robert Nanney, professor of communications and department chair. “The AP awards mean a great deal because they provide clear evidence that our students have the training and talent not only to compete well professionally with other schools across the state – many of which are much larger – but also to win first place. I could not be more pleased.”

The UT Martin Department of Communications, housed within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, has produced such graduates as Scottie Nell Hughes (‘02), director of The Tea Party Network; Jennifer Horbelt Bonds (‘07), evening anchor for WSFD Local 6 in Paducah; and Van Jones (‘00), CNN news contributor and political activist.

For more information on WUTM 90.3 FM, contact Robinson at 731-881-7555 or by email at rrobins@utm.edu.
Student staff members from WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," the campus radio station at the University of Tennessee at Martin, received a total of 20 awards in radio and television at the 2016 Tennessee Associated Press College Journalism Awards Ceremony held April 9 at The John Seigenthaler Center in Nashville. Pictured around the Associated Press teletype machine are pictured from left: Ashley Shores, of Lebanon; Ashleigh Burton, of South Fulton; Julia Ewoldt, of Savannah; Jared Peckenaugh, of Finley; Sydney LaFreniere, of Oak Ridge; Kayla Harmon, of Lewisburg; Tori Seng, of Union City; and Chuck Hammer, of Martin.

SHAPE DONATES — The University of Tennessee at Martin SHAPE (Sports, Health, Athletics, Physical Education) Club recently donated $1,000 to Special Olympics of Upper West Tennessee after holding its annual 5K Color Run to benefit Special Olympics. On hand for the presentation were (from left) vice president Logan Callins, Taylor Daughtery, secretary Karis Theus, president Anna Warren, Special Olympics area director Dr. Clinton Smith, Dacy Thomasson, Tanner Petty, Kirsten Ford, Alexandria Hancock and Tyrell Wakefield. The money raised by the 5K will help cover the expenses of local Special Olympians who will be participating in the Special Olympics State Summer Games in Nashville in May.
UT Martin commencement to be held May 7 on campus

Dr. Paul Blaylock will address the University of Tennessee at Martin's spring 2016 graduating class during commencement exercises beginning at 11 a.m. May 7 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the university's main campus.

Blaylock received a bachelor of science degree in liberal arts from UT Martin in 1968 before earning a medical degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis in 1972.

He later graduated from the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore., and has spent the past 40 years serving as both a trauma doctor and a trial lawyer in the Portland area.

Blaylock received the UT Martin Outstanding Alumni Award during homecoming festivities in 2003 in recognition of outstanding achievement in his chosen professions.

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The UT Martin spring commencement ceremony, expected to be the largest in university history, is a ticketed event. However, attendees without tickets are welcome to watch a livestream webcast from the overflow area located inside the Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Tickets may only be obtained from individual graduates, according to a UT Martin spokesman.

A livestream will also be available online at www.ovdigitalnetwork.com/watch/?Live=3448 for those who are unable to attend in person.

For more information about the upcoming commencement, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.

Free STEM workshops offered this summer for area teachers

West Tennessee teachers in the fields of mathematics and science are invited to attend one of several two-day workshops this summer at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Events will be tailored to the needs of elementary, middle school and high school classrooms and will provide teaching materials free of charge.

There is no charge to attend these workshops, which are sponsored by UT Martin's Teacher Quality Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Attendees may choose to receive either a $100-per-day stipend or professional development points for their participation. Teachers should check with their respective districts to verify that professional development points will be honored.

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Middle school math teachers can attend the June 27-28 session on the UT Martin main campus or the June 29-30 session at the UT Martin Jackson Center. Both sessions will be held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The UT Martin Jackson Center sessions will be held in room 408 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building on the UT Martin main campus if the minimum number of participants is not met.

Participants may register by visiting www.eventbrite.com and searching "UT Martin STEM." Registration will be open online until May 20.

For more information, contact Tina Harrison, grant coordinator, at (731) 881-7201 or by email at tharrison@utm.edu.
FACULTY RECOGNIZED — The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted its annual Honors Day recently to recognize student and faculty accomplishments during the spring 2016 semester. Among those on hand for the awards presentation were (from left, front row) Dr. Teresa Collard, Outstanding Advisor Award; Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor; Dr. Julie Hill of Union City, 2015 Outstanding Teaching Award and 2016 presenter; (middle row) Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs; Dr. Laura Brown, 2015 Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award and 2016 presenter; Dr. Eric Pelren, 2016 Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award; (back row) Dr. Daniel Nappo, University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award; Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn, University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award; and Dr. Mahmoud Haddad and Dr. Dawn Wilkins, Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Awards.

Percussion ensemble to be featured at Memphis Latino Festival in May

The University of Tennessee at Martin World Percussion Ensemble is the featured performance at this year's Memphis Latino Festival.

The concert will be from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. May 7 at Overton Park in Memphis.

The event, which will welcome about 5,000 people, will showcase the richness and diversity of Brazil. The festival will also feature Brazilian Zumba, martial arts displays, the annual Cinco K Mayo 5K, a one-mile family fun run and various contests.

There will also be a marketplace of arts, crafts and refreshments for visitors to enjoy.

The ensemble will also perform at 2 p.m. at the Brooks Museum of Art centennial celebration, "Party for the Century." Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Julie Hill, director of percussion studies, at (731) 881-7418 or jhill@utm.edu.
Engineering Students Win In Aero Design Competition

Seven students from the University of Tennessee at Martin competed in the international SAE Aero Design East competition, held March 11-13 in Ft. Worth, Texas, and won third place overall behind Georgia Tech and a national team from Poland. The team also won second place in the flight category. Pictured with their aircraft are (l-r) Dr. Doug Sterrett, professor of engineering and team supervisor; Guara Patel, of Humboldt; Junior Overacker, of Jackson; Taylor Higgason, of Petal, Miss.; Josh Johnson, of Martin; Matthew Laudermilk, of Milan; Wesley Gox, of Paris; and Cameron Westbrook, of Nashville. The students are seniors concentrating in mechanical engineering with the exception of Westbrook, who is a sophomore.

University of Tennessee At Martin
Business, Counseling Programs Receive 2016 National Rankings

The University of Tennessee at Martin's bachelor's degree program in business and master's degree in counseling have been nationally ranked this semester.

Collegevaluesonline.com ranked the UT Martin Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree, with a major in management, 18th on their list of best-value online business degrees in 2016. UT Martin is the only Tennessee institution included in the top 30 programs.

According to the ranking page, "A four-year, online degree in management from UTM covers all the core competencies of business leadership—from finance and information systems to management and marketing—all of which can swiftly open the door to administrative careers in government, retail, manufacturing, and service/hospitality."

The UT Martin business program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Affordablecollegesonline.org ranked the university's master's degree program in counseling 35th nationally on their list of the "Best Online Master's Degrees in Counseling: 2016." Colleges and universities were evaluated based on a variety of criteria, including online tuition rate, student-faculty ratio, job placement rates, and financial aid options.

The UT Martin master's degree in counseling offers concentrations in addictions counseling, and student affairs and college counseling, as well as licensure options for clinical mental health counselors or school counselors.

In order for universities to qualify for this ranking they must be public, not-for-profit institutions and offer at least five online master's degrees.

The program is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, formerly the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.
Brittany McClanahan, of Martin, received the spring 2016 Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during an awards ceremony April 24.

The award is named for the late Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who was a strong advocate of student employment. It recognizes exemplary work ethic and commitment to the university.

McClanahan has served as a student worker in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources for the past two years, working primarily in the Graves Stables located in the university's Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources Teaching Complex. She is responsible for feeding and caring for the university horses used by the equestrian team and the livestock laboratory classes. She also helps instruct animal science students who work in the stables during feeding times as part of class requirements.

Meghan Cunningham, equestrian coach, nominated McClanahan for this award based on her dedication not only in normal working situations, but also in those that require extraordinary effort.

"During the spring of 2015 when we had terrible weather conditions and the university was closed for extended periods of time, Brittany never missed a day. There were times when, because of road conditions, the regular staff was unable to get to the farm, but Brittany filled in as needed," Cunningham explained on the nomination form. "She took the initiative and extra time to haul water to our animals when pipes were frozen during extreme temperatures without being told to do so. Brittany puts the animals on our farm first and is very conscious about her quality of work. She treats the university animals as if they were her own and provides care and oversight beyond anyone's expectations."

McClanahan is a senior studying veterinary health technology. She plans to graduate in May 2017.
Skyhawk ROTC Cadets Earn Proficiency Badge

MARTIN, Tenn. – Seven cadets from the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk ROTC Battalion earned the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge after a competition held March 4-5 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind.

The proficiency badge is a decoration of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, and is a foreign award approved for wear on the United States Army uniform.

ROTC cadets and Army soldiers must complete five events to qualify for this recognition: a 100-meter swim in uniform, first aid application, pistol qualification, a road march, and a nuclear, biological and chemical preparedness test.

Three cadets from UT Martin received the proficiency badge. Bradley Chism, of Ramer, placed at the gold level; and Remington Burch, of Trenton, and Todd McDunn, of Clarksville, both placed at the silver level. Four cadets from the Murray State division also received the badge. Mark Anderson, of Anchorage, Alaska, and Ethan Davis, of Mascoutah, Ill., both received bronze-level badges and Alexander Baldwin, of Owensboro, Ky., and Daniel Christian, of Versailles, Ky., both received silver-level badges.

An ROTC unit was first established at UT Martin in 1952, followed by the start of a four-year ROTC program in 1964. The military science program, of which ROTC is a part, includes Bethel University in McKenzie; Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson; Jackson State Community College, Lane College and Union University in Jackson; and Murray State University in Murray, Ky.

For more information on the military science program or the Skyhawk ROTC Battalion, contact the Department of Military Science and Leadership at 731-881-7682 or by email at armyrotc@utm.edu.
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD - Patricia Pipkin (center), president of DCA/DCPR in Jackson, received the Communications Distinguished Alumni Award from the UT Martin Department of Communications during an awards dinner April 14. She also served as keynote speaker at the department's student awards banquet earlier in the day. Pipkin graduated from UT Martin in 1996 and earned her current title in 2006. Originally from Springfield, Tenn., she currently lives in Medina with her husband and two sons. Pipkin is joined by Dr. Robert Nanney (left), professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Communications, and Dr. Jerald Ogg, university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

UT MARTIN MATH COMPETITION - The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics hosted the 2016 Middle School/Junior High School mathematics contest on April 7. A total of 297 students sat for the exams, representing 17 different public and private schools in West Tennessee. Students were scored individually, and the top four student scores from a single school constituted the team score. Medina Middle School won first place in both the sixth and eighth-grade categories. Members of the Medina Middle School sixth grade team are (upper photo, front row from left) Matthew Minton, Ethan White, Avery Luckey and Bryan Myers; (back row) Andrew Lencioni, Sophie Browning and Matthew Roberson along with UTM dean, Dr. Richard Helgeson. Eighth grade team members are (lower photo, front row from left) Camryn Luckey, John-Dalton Drake and Mark Jackson; (back row) Lauren Drake, Charlie Ostrander, Rachel Tiger and Elizabeth Wilks, and Dr. Helgeson.
Medina resident Pipkin named UTMartin ‘Distinguished Alumni’

Patricia Pipkin, president of DCA/DCPR in Jackson, served as keynote speaker during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications Awards Banquet, held April 14 in the university’s Duncan Ballroom.

Pipkin, a 1996 graduate, completed an internship with the United Way during her senior year and worked with the university newspaper, but knew she hadn’t found “the” job. As graduation grew nearer, she took to the Yellow Pages and called the first advertising agency in the book – Davidson and Chandler Advertising in Jackson, now known as DCA/DCPR.

As luck would have it, Davidson and Chandler did have an opening for an intern in their public relations department – an unpaid opening.

Despite warnings from family and friends, Pipkin started her internship the day after graduation, picking up two other part-time jobs to make ends meet.

“I had a few people tell me I was crazy for taking a free position. They told me, ‘You have a college degree. Don’t work anywhere for free,’” she said. “But I just felt that this was my chance to get my foot in the door.

“Never know what’s going to happen.”

Her first day on the job is one she will never forget. “I got there and I had an actual desk, an actual computer. Of course, it was the smallest desk and the smallest computer in the entire building, but I was ok with that. I was determined that this was my desk and my computer for 25-30 hours a week, and I had to make something of it,” she said.

Her first assignment came from Seth Chandler, himself, partner in the firm and present-day owner and CEO, Ingrid Croce, a new client, was publicizing an autobiographical cookbook chronicling her life with husband and singer Jim Croce. Chandler’s assignment was “simple.”

“He said, ‘Why don’t you see if you can get her on Good Morning, America, or something like that?’ and then he walked away,” Pipkin remembered. However, she was determined to conquer this first challenge, and Ingrid Croce did appear on the television show due in part to Pipkin’s efforts.

After a few months of unpaid work, Pipkin had the opportunity to interview for a position as head media buyer. She earned the position, and attributes much of her success to that internship.

“To this day I fully believe working for free for those months and getting my foot in the door, learning all the different aspects of the agency, I fully believe that helped me land that job. All of the hard work and the sacrifices of being broke and eating cereal and Ramen noodles for dinner, having all those jobs, it all paid off,” she said.

Pipkin used her remarks to encourage students in attendance to seek out real-world work experience and not be afraid of positions that may seem daunting at first. She started her career working for free at the company’s smallest desk and, after working her way up the ladder, became company president in January 2006.

“You can’t be afraid to step out of the classroom and get the real-world experience; being a student is not enough,” she said. “Whether it’s through a club or an organization on campus or a charity or a company you can intern with – those real-world experiences, combined with the knowledge of the classroom and the help of all the professors, they are going to be invaluable to you down the road.”

Pipkin is now responsible for all client advertising, budgets and handles media placement from the local to the international level.

She closed her speech by telling the audience, “If something’s not worth working hard for then it’s really not worth having.

... Live and savor every moment of your life, because this is not a dress rehearsal.”

Pipkin, originally from Springfield, Tenn., currently lives in Medina with her husband and two sons.
Miss Tennessee points to crown at Prayer Breakfast

By Crystal Burns

Miss Tennessee 2015 Hannah Robison felt at home in Trenton on Monday morning. A Paris native who attends the University of Tennessee at Martin, Robison’s aunt Kim Sturgeon, formerly of Trenton, and her third cousin Rachel Walker joined her for the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast, a staple of the Teapot Festival.

Robison spoke on the four points of her crown, which represent the tenets—style, success, scholarship, and service—of the Miss America organization.

Style, Robison said, isn’t just about what she wears or how she does her hair.

“The unique thing about Miss America is they want you to bring your own brand to the competition,” she said.

Each year, Miss Tennessee travels the state speaking to schoolchildren as Governor Bill Haslam’s official spokesperson for Character Education. Each young lady chooses a character trait to focus on and is encouraged to use her own style to present her message to audiences. Robison left the breakfast to address Trenton Elementary students about the character trait responsibility.

Robison is unique in that she is the first Miss Tennessee in seven years to be brunette and the first in 14 years to play the piano. The Miss America pageant encourages competitors to use their style to find success, which Robison does by promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) education.

She is a senior at UT Martin where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry with a minor in psychology. At UTM, Robison has been on the Dean’s List and worked on organic chemistry research projects under a UTM professor.

“I’m a huge science nerd,” she said. “I’m constantly in the chemistry lab. It’s been so incredible to get to share my love of science.”

Robison admitted that the scholarship portion of the pageant was a huge challenge.

(Continued on page 4)

Miss Tennessee points...

(Continued from page 1)

pageant was a huge draw for her as Miss America is the leading provider of scholarships for women in the world. Thanks to the money she has received winning Miss Tennessee and other awards she has garnered from Miss America, Robison will graduate from UT Martin with no debt.

Her favorite part of her job as Miss Tennessee, however, is the service component. As Miss Tennessee, Robison serves as the state’s goodwill ambassador for the five Children’s Miracle Network hospitals across the state. She holds positions as an Arthritis Foundation ambassador, Official Friends of Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt Board intern, and Volunteer Tennessee Honorary Board chair.

“arthritis.

“arthritis.

“The service point of the crown is why I really wanted the job,” Robison said.

Because it isn’t practical to transport a piano on her trips across the state, Robison needed other ideas for entertaining children at hospitals. She said some Miss Tennessee winners have done craft projects with the kids, but that isn’t her style either. Robison takes simple science experiments that give patients hands on learning lessons.

During one memorable visit to a Children’s Miracle Network hospital, Robison rolled her science cart into the room of an 8-year-old boy who was unable to attend her demonstration in the playroom. The youngster was being treated for a type of arthritis.

Robison said that all three of her passions—service, STEM education, and arthritis awareness—came together as she visited with the boy.

“Miss Tennessee is definitely more than a crown,” she said. “It’s a service job.”

Food Rite donates sausage, eggs, biscuits, gravy, coffee, and milk to the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast so that all proceeds from tickets benefit the Trenton Ministerial Alliance, which helps pay utility bills for community members in need.
Twenty-eight students from the University of Tennessee at Martin joined together to provide a little cheer to the city of Bradford by painting five wooden window panels to be installed in the downtown district.

These panels are completely student-designed and painted as part of a joint community service effort by the UT Martin League of Striving Artists and the University Scholars Organization. The panels measure roughly seven feet tall and three feet wide and serve several purposes.

First, the creation of these panels allowed non-art students to work side-by-side with art students to learn a new craft and try their hands at flat painting, color mixing and blending techniques. Second, the project brought students together for a common purpose and enabled them to use their respective talents to improve the mood in a historic district.

Third, the installation of these panels will allow students from the Bradford Special School District to observe art created by artists who are also students, hopefully inspiring them to further their knowledge of art beyond high school.

"It has been a great experience for the students of UT Martin to implement this type of service project for a community, and it's a great memento for the town of Bradford for years to come," said Jason Stout, associate professor of art and league faculty adviser.

The primary mission of the UT Martin League of Striving Artists is to encourage young art enthusiasts and artists in academics, community, service, leadership and artistic development.

For more information, contact Stout at 731-881-3402 or by email at jstout@utm.edu.

(Continued from page 1)

BRIGHTENING UP DOWNTOWN BRADFORD - Twenty-eight students from the University of Tennessee at Martin joined together to provide a little cheer to the city of Bradford by painting five wooden window panels to be installed in the downtown district. Participants pictured are (from left) students Rachel Melton; Luke Robinson; Ashlynn Parry; Jason Stout, associate professor of art; Pam Dethloff, Gibson County Office on Aging Director; Becca Toungette; Nathan Allen; and Taylor Connett.
UTM offers free STEM workshops for teachers

West Tennessee teachers in the fields of math and science are invited to attend one of several two-day STEM workshops this summer at U.T. Martin (UTM). These free events will be tailored to the needs of elementary, middle school, and high school classrooms and will provide teaching materials free of charge.

Sponsored by UTM's Teacher Quality Partnership Grant from the U.S. Dept. of Ed, participants may choose to receive either a $100-per-day stipend or professional development points for workshop completion. Teachers should check with their respective districts to verify that professional development points will be honored.

Elementary School Workshops: Science and Math for grades 3-6. Teachers may choose to attend either the June 6-7 or the June 8-9 session, which both will be held from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in room 207 of UTM's Gooch Hall.

Middle School Workshops: Math. Teachers can attend the June 27-28 session on the UTM main campus, or the June 29-30 session at the UTM Jackson Center. Both sessions will be held from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Martin session will meet in room 408 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building, and the Jackson session will meet in room 118 at the UTM Jackson Center.

High School Workshops: Math. Teachers can attend the June 20-21 session on the UTM main campus, or the June 22-23 session at the UTM Jackson Center. Both sessions will be held from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Martin session will meet in room 408 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building, and the Jackson session will meet in room 118 at the UTM Jackson Center.

To Register: Visit www.eventbrite.com and search "UT Martin STEM". Online registration will be open until May 20. If the minimum number of participants is not met, all sessions scheduled to be held at the UTM Jackson Center will be moved to room 408 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building on the Martin campus.

For more information, contact grant coordinator Tina Harrison at 731-881-7201 or tharr170@utm.edu.

PHI KAPPA PHI INDUCTEES - Amber Malin-Robinson (left), of Holladay, and Makensie Bawcum, of Camden, were inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society of UT-Martin on Tuesday, April 5. Phi Kappa Phi recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all fields of higher education. Membership is based on high academic achievement and exemplary character.
UTM programs score national rankings

THE JACKSON SUN

The bachelor's in business and master's in counseling degree programs at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been nationally ranked this semester, according to a news release.

"A four-year, online degree in management from UTM covers all the core competencies of business leadership — from finance and information systems to management and marketing — all of which can swiftly open the door to administrative careers in government, retail, manufacturing, and service/hospitality," according to collegevaluesonline.com.

The website ranked the university's bachelor's degree in business administration degree, with a major in management, 18th on their list of best-value online business degrees in 2016. UT Martin is the only Tennessee institution included in the top 30 programs.

The business program is accredited by the Association to Advance Colleague Schools of Business. Visit www.collegevaluesonline.com/rankings/business-degree-online-more-best-values/ to find the complete online ranking.

The university's master's degree in counseling was ranked 35th nationally by affordablecollegesonline.org on its list of the "Best Online Master's Degrees in Counseling: 2016." Colleges and universities were evaluated based on a variety of criteria, including tuition rate, student-faculty ratio, job placement rates and financial aid options.

For universities to qualify for this ranking they must be public, not-for-profit institutions and offer at least five online master's degrees.

The program is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, formerly the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Contact the College of Business and Global Affairs at (731) 881-7208 or bagrad@utm.edu, or the Department of Educational Graduate Studies at (731) 881-7128 or edstudserv@utm.edu for more information.

UTM
Continued from Page 1B

The University of Tennessee at Martin has earned two national rankings this semester, for their bachelor's in business and master's in counseling degree programs.
University plans teachers’ workshops for this summer

West Tennessee teachers in the fields of mathematics and science are invited to attend one of several two-day workshops this summer at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Events will be tailored to the needs of elementary, middle school and high school classrooms and will provide teaching materials free of charge.

There is no charge to attend these workshops, which are sponsored by UT Martin’s Teacher Quality Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Attendees may choose to receive either a $100-per-day stipend or professional development points for their participation. Teachers should check with their respective districts to verify that professional development points will be honored.

The elementary STEM workshop will be held for math and science teachers in grades three through six. Teachers may choose to attend either the June 6-7 or the June 8-9 session, which will both be held 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in room 207 of UT Martin’s Gooch Hall.

Middle school math teachers can attend the June 27-28 session on the UT Martin main campus or the June 29-30 session at the UT Martin Jackson Center. Both sessions will be held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The first session will meet in room 408 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building, and the second session will meet in room 118 at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

The high school STEM workshop is geared toward mathematics classes. Teachers may choose the June 20-21 session, held in room 408 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building on the UT Martin main campus, or the June 22-23 session, held in room 118 of the UT Martin Jackson Center.

Both sessions will be held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The UT Martin Jackson Center sessions will be held in room 408 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building on the UT Martin main campus if the minimum number of participants is not met.

Participants may register by visiting www.eventbrite.com and searching “UT Martin STEM.” Registration will be open online until May 20.

For more information, contact Tina Harrison, grant coordinator, at 731-881-7201 or by email at tharr70@utm.edu.

HELPING SPECIAL OLYMPICS — Members of the UTM SHAPE club donated $1,000 to help the Special Olympics program. Pictured are (from left) Logan Callins (vice president), Taylor Daughtery (publicity), Karis Theus (secretary), Anna Warren (president), Clinton Smith (area director), Dacy Thomasson (publicity), Kirsten Ford (publicity), Alexandria Hancock (publicity), and Tyrell Wakefield.
LOCALS INDUCTED — Several University of Tennessee at Martin students and alumni from Weakley County were inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society on April 5 at UT Martin. Phi Kappa Phi membership is based on academic achievements and exemplary character. Pictured are (back row, from left) Amanda Mansfield, Nicole Harrell, Grace Bruner, Sarah Anderson and Michael McGrath; (front row) Yvannah Garcia, Georgia Brown, Cassandra Cain, Sharee Brewer, Toni Holford and Mohsin Aleriani. These inductees are all from Martin except Mohsin, an international student from Saudi Arabia, and Mansfield, from Gleason. Phi Kappa Phi is an internationally respected society 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.

By MARCUS WOODS
Special to the Press
One of the biggest fears most humans face is having to speak in public.

A local organization was formed to help with this issue.

The Martin Toastmasters was organized three years ago to help professionals with their fear of speaking in front of groups. The benefits of becoming involved with the Martin Toastmasters include the opportunity to become better speakers and presenters while building confidence and gaining leadership and listening skills. The group meets every Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. at the Martin Church of Christ activity building at 232 Oxford Street and is led by group president Kristina Pitz.

"Toastmasters has been a great opportunity for me to improve my public speaking skills," says Pitz. She admits that at one time, she was not good thinking on her feet. Over time, Pitz gained the confidence to think better on her feet thanks to the table topic discussions, where members speak for two minutes on a given subject.

"Now as I stand in front of a group of students and as they fire questions at me, because of the table topics, I can answer those questions in a more coherent manner," Pitz said. Pitz is employed as a coordinator in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at UT Martin. Recently, she was asked to speak to the UT Board of Trustees and credits Toastmasters for helping her to prepare for the opportunity.

"Being able to speak well is one of the important skill sets that a professional can have and is one of the top ones that employers are looking for," says Melanie Young, an adjunct instructor in business communication at UT Martin and a career counselor for youth.

Young helps students to build transferable skills in both a personal and professional setting.

"Toastmasters allows you to present in a comfortable setting where you won’t be graded or lamb basted for mistakes you make when speaking," says Young.

CONQUERING FEARS — Erica Bell addresses Martin Toastmasters meeting. Photo by Marcus Woods

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"The process helps you to focus, catch those 'um's' and allows you to develop a level of credibility when presenting."

"I joined Toastmasters because I wanted to improve my speaking and leadership skills," says Tiffany Emerson. "As a professional I believe that participating in Toastmasters would help me to be more efficient in what I do in speaking to others." Emerson joined the Martin Toastmasters three years ago. She is an adjunct English instructor at UT Martin.

Aubree St. Thomas joined the Martin Toastmasters in hopes to put her speaking skills to good use in her future occupation in counseling.

"I enjoy the opportunity to develop my speaking and leadership skills to help other people," says St. Thomas. She recently reunited with the group this week with her new membership packet in hand, excited to be back with the organization. She is a current student at UT Martin working towards her master’s degree in education, specializing in clinical mental health counseling. She aspires to counsel either at the university level or in a private setting, assisting those who are aging to help them to get through the tough times in their lives.

The group meets weekly and is open to men and women who are wanting to improve their speaking ability and become better leaders. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. For more information about the Martin Toastmasters, call (731) 881-7478 or contact them by email at martintostamsters@gmail.com.

Scholarships awarded to Weakley County students

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Scholarship winners for the 2015-16 academic year are:
• Amber Nicole Gentry, daughter of Randy and Luci Gentry, of Martin, who will be a senior. She received the Carl Seal Student Teaching Award.
• Christopher Wayne Mayo, of Gleason, who will be a senior. He received the Literary Award.

Scholarship winners for the 2016-17 academic year are:
• Alexis Brooke Grady, daughter of Michael and Amy Grady, of Martin, who will be a freshman. She received the Advance Award.
• Joy Hazlewood, daughter of Matthew and Annie Hazlewood, of Martin, who will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.

UTM Percussion to perform

The University of Tennessee at Martin World Percussion Ensemble is the featured performance at this year's Memphis Latino Festival. The concert will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., May 7, at Overton Park in Memphis.

The event, welcoming approximately 5,000 people, will showcase the richness and diversity of Brazil. The festival will also feature Brazilian Zumba, martial arts displays, the annual "Cinco K Mayo" 5K, a one-mile family fun run and various contests. There will also be a marketplace of arts, crafts and refreshments for visitors to enjoy.

The ensemble will also perform at 2 p.m. at the Brooks Museum of Art centennial celebration, "Party for the Century." Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Julie Hill, director of percussion studies, at 731-881-7418 or jhill@utm.edu.
TOP COWBOY — Tanner Phipps established himself as the top cowboy in bareback riding, as he finished first in average (153) and in the opening round (79) while placing second in the short go (74).

UT Martin Rodeo rides into the top five

The University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo teams were each responsible for top-five performances at the rodeo hosted by Northwest Mississippi Community College this weekend.

The UT Martin men’s team came in third place with 580 points while the women’s squad piled up 130 points, which tied for fifth in the team standings. West Alabama (690 points) and Arkansas-Monticello (295 points) claimed the men’s and women’s titles, respectively.

Tanner Phipps established himself as the top cowboy in bareback riding, as he finished first in average (153) and in the opening round (79) while placing second in the short go (74). Also tallying points for UT Martin was Coy Lutz and Houston Herbert. Lutz finished third in average (140), third in the first round (71) and fourth in the second round (69). Herbert’s score of 70 in the short go ranked third while his 137 average split fifth and his 67 first round score placed fifth.

Three UT Martin cowboys accumulated points in calf roping, paced by Slade Bronson. He finished second across the board, tallying a 9.9 time in the first round and a 9.8 time in the short go for a 19.7 average. Robbie Van Holten also secured points in all three phases, finishing third in the opening round (10.2), fifth in average (23.2) and sixth in the short go (13.0). Micayla Gray picked up points in goat tying, finishing second in the short go with a time of 7.8. She also split fourth with a 16.1 average.

In team roping, Ben Walker and Douglas Rich registered points for UT Martin. The duo came in fourth place in both the average (24.7), the short go (11.9) while placing sixth in the opening round (12.8).

Three cowgirls notched points for UT Martin in barrel racing. Nealey Dalton claimed first-place accolades in average (29.41) and in the short go (14.49) while finishing sixth in the opening round (14.92). Macy Randolph placed third in the first round (14.77) while also coming in fifth in average (29.91) and sixth in the second round (15.14). Raegan Taylor also earned points in average, splitting sixth with a time of 30.15.

UT Martin concludes the regular season next weekend (April 28-30) when it travels to Texarkana, Ark. for a rodeo hosted by Cosatator Community College.

Richardson’s putt puts UTM atop OVC

MUSCLE SHOALS, Ala. — The UT Martin men’s golf team weathered a one hour and 27 minute weather delay to come from behind and capture its first Ohio Valley Conference men’s golf championship on Wednesday at The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at The Shoals.

UT Martin entered the final day as the team leader but fell behind on the front nine on Wednesday. At 3:22 p.m. a thunderstorm forced the teams off the course with just eight groups remaining and the Skyhawks battling for the lead.

After the delay, the Skyhawks completed the rally to top Morehead State by a shot as sophomore Hunter Richardson made a tough par putt on the final hole.

It was UT Martin’s first OVC men’s golf championship and surpassed its previous best finish, a second place effort in 2011.

Two years ago at the same course, the Skyhawks rallied on the final day only to see weather cancel the final round of play and revert to 36-hole totals, which potentially cost the team the championship.

With the victory, UT Martin earned the OVC’s automatic bid into the NCAA Championship. The 2016 field will be announced on May 3.

The NCAA Regionsals will be held May 16-18 and take place at six sites, including Franklin.

Following the regionals, the national finals will be held May 27-June 1 in Eugene, Ore.

The championship was one of the closest in history with six teams separated by just five shots, which happened for the first time in OVC history. It also marked the first OVC title decided by one shot since 2012.

UT Martin finished with a three-round total of 879 (+15) and was followed by Morehead State (+16), Jacksonville State (+17), Eastern Kentucky (+19), Belmont (+20) and Murray State (+20).

The field was rounded out by Tennessee Tech (+30), Austin Peay (+31), SIUE (+39), Tennessee State (+69) and Eastern Illinois (+77).

Richardson, the league’s top ranked golfer in the GolfStat national rankings entering the championship, won the individual medalist crown by three shots after rounds of 69-72-70 to finish at 211 (-5).

He is the second straight UTM golfer to win the medalist crown, joining Brendon Caballero from a year ago. It marks the first OVC program since Austin Peay in 1988 and 1989 to have different back-to-back medalists.

Richardson had three birdies on the back nine to claim the crown and top Eastern Kentucky’s Will Sallee (the second two leader) by three shots.

Belmont’s Ashton Van Horne was named the OVC Player of the Year in a vote of league head coaches following the final round. He is the first Belmont golfer to earn the award in what is the Bruins fourth year in the conference.

He currently leads the OVC with a 70.6 stroke average and has two medalist titles and two runner-up finishes during the season after earning an at-large berth to the NCAA Regionals a year ago.

The all-tournament team, which is comprised of the top five finishers and ties, included Richardson, Sallee and Van Horne as well as Jacksonville State’s Carmelo Aguado and Daniel Pico.
Pipkin speaks at banquet

Patricia Pipkin, president of DCA/DCPR in Jackson, served as keynote speaker during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications Awards Banquet, held recently in the university’s Duncan Ballroom.

Pipkin, a 1996 graduate, completed an internship with the United Way during her senior year and worked with the university newspaper, but knew she hadn’t found “the” job.

As graduation grew nearer, she took to the Yellow Pages and called the first advertising agency in the book – Davidson and Chandler Advertising in Jackson, now known as DCA/DCPR.

As luck would have it, Davidson and Chandler did have an opening for an intern in their public relations department – an unpaid opening.

Despite warnings from family and friends, Pipkin started her internship the day after graduation, picking up two other part-time jobs to make ends meet.

“I had a few people tell me I was crazy for taking a free position. They told me, ‘You have a college degree. Don’t work anywhere for free.’” she said. “But I just felt that this was my chance to get my foot in the door. You never know what’s going to happen.”

Her first day on the job is one she will never forget. “I got there and I had an actual desk, an actual computer. Of course it was the smallest desk and the smallest computer in the entire building, but I was ok with that. I was determined that this was my desk and my computer for 25 to 30 hours a week, and I had to make something of it,” she said.

Her first assignment came from Seth Chandler himself, partner in the firm and present-day owner and CEO, Ingrid Croce, a new client, was publicizing an autobiographical cookbook chronicling her life with husband and singer Jim Croce. Chandler’s assignment was “simple.”

“He said, ‘Why don’t you see if you can get her on Good Morning America, or something like that?’ and then he walked away,” Pipkin remembered. However, she was determined to conquer this first challenge, and Ingrid Croce did appear on the television show due in part to Pipkin’s efforts.

After a few months of unpaid work, Pipkin had the opportunity to interview for a position as head media buyer. She earned the position, and attributes much of her success to that internship.

“Today I fully believe working for free for those months and getting my foot in the door, learning all the different aspects of the agency, I fully believe that helped me land that job. All of the hard work and the sacrifices of being broke and eating cereal and Ramen noodles for dinner, having all those jobs, it all paid off,” she said.

Pipkin used her remarks to encourage students in attendance to seek out real-world work experience and not be afraid of positions that may seem daunting at first.

She started her career working for free at the company’s smallest desk and, after working her way up the ladder, became company president in January 2006.

“You can’t be afraid to step out of the classroom and get the real-world experience; being a student is not enough,” she said. “Whether it’s through a club or an organization on campus or a charity or a company you can intern with — those real-world experiences, combined with the knowledge of the classroom and the help of all the professors, they are going to be invaluable to you down the road.”

Pipkin is now responsible for all client advertising budgets and handles media placement from the local to the international level.

She closed her speech by telling the audience, “If something’s not worth working hard for then it’s really not worth having. Live and savor every moment of your life, because this is not a dress rehearsal.”

Pipkin, originally from Springfield, Tenn., currently lives in Medina with her husband and two sons. She was further honored during a dinner April 14 with the Communications Distinguished Alumni Award from the UT Martin Department of Communications.
PIPKIN RECEIVES AWARD — Patricia Pipkin (center), president of DCA/DCPR in Jackson, received the Communications Distinguished Alumni Award from the UT Martin Department of Communications during an awards dinner April 14. She also served as keynote speaker at the department’s student awards banquet earlier in the day. Pipkin graduated from UT Martin in 1996 and earned her current title in 2006. Originally from Springfield, Tenn., she currently lives in Medina with her husband and two sons. Pipkin is pictured with Dr. Robert Nanney (left), professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Communications, and Dr. Jerald Ogg, university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

The Relay for Life Event this past Friday at the University of Tennessee at Martin Campus Rec center was a success. The Relay for Life had a money raising goal at $15,000 and the event exceeded that goal by raising a total of $18,273.46.

The Relay made a total of $6,988.23 of funds online and a total of $11,285.77 the night of the event. The team that made the most money by the end of night of the event was the National Society of Leadership and Success at a total of $1,473.50.

The Chi Omega team raised $1,041 online, and $187.25 the night of the event, totaling $1,228.25. The McCullough Minions team raised $980 total. NSLS made $960 online and at the event an additional $513.50, totaling $1,453.50. NTSA made $815 online and at the event an additional $45, totaling $860.

The Zeta team made $750 online and at the event made an additional $37, totaling $787. Women in Communications made $468.50 online and at the event an additional $183.50, totaling $652. Relay for Life committee made $445 total online. The Relay Committee did not set up a booth at the event.

The ADPi team made $289 online and at the event an additional $1,314.45, totaling $1,603.45. The SCS relay team made $256 online and did not have a booth at the event. The UTM SSWA Phi Alpha team made $147 online and at the event an additional $78.75, totaling $225.75. The Residence life team made $142 online and at the event an additional $43.75, totaling $185.75. The Sigma Alpha and Alpha Gamma Rho made $118 online and at the event an additional $307 totaling $425. The AOPI team made $85 online and at the event an additional $1,173.23, totaling $1,258.25. The Sigma Chis made $51 online and at the event an additional $36, totaling $87. The Shape club made $20 online at the event made an additional $26, totaling $46. The Gamma Beta made $20 online and did not have a booth at the event. Psi Chi team made $10 online and at the event an additional $26, totaling $36. The Sigma Gamma Rho made a total of $6.78. The Japanese club made $30.75 at the event. Sodexo also turned in $89 at the end of the event.
SURVIVORS' WALK — Cancer survivors complete the first lap of their walk at the UTM Relay for Life. Organizers raised $18,273.46 at the one-day event.

Photos by Doug Marshall.

TUNING UP THE CROWD — Matt Hammons, Joseph Kyle, Fieby Scott, Cooper Brown, Will Kwasigroh and Patricia Taylor, members of Coopertheband, were on hand to entertain during the fundraiser.
TAKING CANCER NEEDS SERIOUSLY — Kayla Brockmeyer, head director of Relay for Life, addresses the crowd at the Relay for Life event.

THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY ENTERPRISE, RIPLEY, TENNESSEE, APRIL 28, 2016

Director

DR. SIMPFRONIA "SIM" TAYLOR was named as the new director of the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center, effective April 18th.

Taylor has served as director of student affairs at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, a position she began in 2010. She previously served UTHSC as student affairs coordinator and as grant coordinator in the college of medicine. Before beginning her UT career, Taylor spent time as office manager at Montessori School of Louisville, Ky., and principal of Timothy Christian Academy in Athens, Ga.

She received her educational doctorate in workforce education in 2011 and a Master of Education degree in business education in 1996, both from the University of Georgia. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in business management from Dillard University in 1989. Taylor also holds certifications as a middle grades teacher and a business education teacher from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

“We are excited to welcome Dr. Taylor and look forward to the expertise and excitement she brings to our efforts,” said Dr. Brian Donavant, interim executive director, UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.
The Brazilian Ensemble, part of the Percussion Ensemble, perform during a recent event.

UTM Percussionists to perform in Memphis

If you happen to be in the Memphis area the first Saturday in May, you may want to check out a special event that will feature the University of Tennessee at Martin World Percussion Ensemble.

The event is this year's Memphis Latino Festival and it's set to start at 11:30 a.m., May 7 at Overton Park in Memphis. The event which usually welcomes about 5,000, will showcase the richness and diversity of Brazil. The festival also will feature Brazilian Zumba, martial arts displays, the annual "Cinco K Mayo" 5K, a one-mile family fun run and various contests.

There will be a marketplace of arts, crafts and refreshments for visitors to enjoy.

The ensemble will perform at 2 p.m. at the Brooks Museum of Art centennial celebration, "Party for the Century." Admission is free.

For more information, contact Julie Hill, director of percussion studies, at 731-881-7418 or jhill@utm.edu.