UT Martin to offer Masters in Communication

The Jackson Sun

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a Master of Arts in strategic communication beginning in the fall 2015 semester, the school announced in a press release this week.

The program, approved Thursday by the UT Board of Trustees during its winter meeting at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, is subject to final approval in April by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

The executive-style degree is intended to prepare professionals to plan, create and manage communication to achieve organizational goals. The program will be presented primarily online, with periodic on-campus weekends required.

"Extensive research indicated the need and desire for a master's degree that was professionally focused as opposed to theoretical preparation for a doctoral program on developing strategic communication management skills," Dr. Tracy Rutledge, assistant professor of communications and graduate program coordinator, said. "Our graduate program is unique in this region because of the integrated curriculum. This integration reflects a strong demand in the workplace for professionals who understand how to plan and manage many types of communication initiatives."

The degree program is appropriate for students and professionals from a variety of academic backgrounds, including but not limited to public relations, marketing, mass communication, advertising, business administration, agricultural business and political science.

The coursework is designed to allow working professionals the flexibility to accommodate busy schedules through online assignments, as well as develop networking relationships with faculty mentors and peers through on-campus weekends.

Interested participants must meet the university-wide requirements for graduate admission, as well as the specific requirements for the strategic communication program, noted in the UT Martin graduate catalog. Students may request to transfer up to six semester credit hours from other appropriate graduate programs at accredited universities, subject to approval by the UT Martin Department of Communications graduate faculty.

All applicants should submit application packets to the UT Martin Office of Graduate Studies at 227 Administration Building, Martin, Tenn., 38238. Packets should include a graduate school application, official transcripts from all attended institutions, official GRE test scores, a graduate assistant application, current resume, three current letters of recommendation from professional sources, and a 500-word statement of professional goals and how the strategic communication program would contribute to the achievement of those goals.

For more information, contact Rutledge at 731-881-7554 or by email at trutledge@utm.edu.

Martin

Continued from Page A3

Strategic communication integrates skills and concepts from organizational and management communication; marketing communication and sales; public relations; technical communication; and mass communication, and is applicable across a wide variety of career fields.

It requires a strong knowledge of traditional, social and mobile media; the ability to produce effective oral, written and visual messages; and strategic management communication and leadership skills, the release said.
Gibson County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. — Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement.

- Brant Allen, son of Dr. Steve and Brenda Allen, of Trenton, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor’s Award.
- John Hunter Beal, son of John and Tina Beal, of Medina, will be a freshman. He received the Dean’s Scholarship.
- Grant T. Holden, son of Todd and Dana Holden, of Milan, will be a freshman. He received the Dean’s Scholarship.
- Grayson Ray Whitworth, son of Glyn and Lyn Whitworth, of Rutherford, will be a freshman. He received the Dean’s Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

UT-Martin announces winners of scholarships

Several Lauderdale County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement.

- Leah Jacobs, daughter of Mike and Tonya Jacobs of Halls, will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.
- Chad Allen Lewis of Gates, son of Tammie Lewis and Allen Lewis, will be a freshman. He received the Dean’s Scholarship and the Leaders-in-Residence Award.
- Jessica Sorrell, daughter of James and Deborah Sorrell of Gates, will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling 731-881-7040.
Weakley County students receive scholarships

Two Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement.

* Jonathan Chase Spencer, son of Brooke Spencer and Eric Spencer, will be a freshman. He received the Dean’s Scholarship.

* Spencer Stewart, son of Steven and Wynefer Stewart, of Gleason, will be a freshman. He received the Dean’s Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

UT Martin to offer Master of Arts in Strategic Communication

Beginning Fall Semester 2015

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a Master of Arts in strategic communication beginning in the fall 2015 semester. The program approved Thursday by the UT Martin Board of Trustees during its winter meeting at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, is subject to final approval in April by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

The executive-style degree is intended to prepare professionals to plan, create and manage communication to achieve organizational goals. The program will be presented primarily online, with periodic on-campus weekends required.

“Executive research indicated the need and desire for a master’s degree that was professionally focused— as opposed to theoretical preparation for a doctoral program— on developing strategic communication management skills,” said Dr. Tracy Rutledge, assistant professor of communications and graduate program coordinator. “Our graduate program is unique in this region because of the integrated curriculum.

Strategic communication is a very broad area that pulls together communications disciplines that are typically separated. ... This integration reflects a strong demand for workplace professionals who understand how to plan and manage many types of communication initiatives.”

Strategic communication integrates skills and concepts from organizational and management communication; marketing communication and sales; public relations; technical communication; and mass communication, and is applicable across a wide variety of career fields. It requires a strong knowledge of traditional, social and mobile media; the ability to produce effective oral, written and visual messaging; and strategic management communication and leadership skills.

The degree program is appropriate for students and professionals from a variety of academic backgrounds, including but not limited to public relations, marketing, advertising, business administration, agricultural business and political science.

The coursework is designed to allow working professionals the flexibility to accommodate busy schedules through online assignments, as well as develop networking relationships with faculty mentors and peers through on-campus weekends.

The program was developed based on industry research conducted by the Commission on Public Relations Education and the educational standards of the Association of the Education of Journalism and Mass Communication.

All program participants will complete a minimum of 33 credit hours with no final course letter grade lower than a “B.” Students will complete 15 hours of core courses, including three professional seminars, each requiring an on-campus weekend at the beginning and end of the semester. These seminars focus on research and writing skills, academic advising, and the development, defense and completion of a capstone project. Other core courses include applied research methods for professionals and media and communication theory for professionals.

Students will also complete three credit hours in either organizational communication leadership theory and practice, depending on their career goals. Elective courses will finish the last 18 hours of credit and will be offered in online, face-to-face or hybrid options as appropriate for the course material. Electives are offered in public relations and marketing communication; mass communication media management and media production; technical communication; and issues in strategic communication.

Students will work with an academic advisor to choose the elective courses which best benefit their individual career paths.

“One of my frustrations as I considered graduate schools was that so few were practical and in tune with current media and market needs. (This program) achieves both in a way that our graduating seniors, alumni and other working professionals have already told us they find very attractive,” said Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Communications. “I’m so proud of the hard work of Dr. Rutledge and the rest of our faculty and staff in the creation of this new master’s degree. ... It represents more than two years of vision, planning and execution that will make available very practical and vital skill sets for working professionals in communications and other fields, as well as those about to enter the workforce.”

Interested participants must meet the university-wide requirements for graduate admission, as well as the specific requirements for the strategic communication program, noted in the UT Martin graduate catalog. Students may request to transfer up to six semester credit hours from other accredited programs at accredited universities, subject to approval by the UT Martin Department of Communications graduate faculty.

All applicants should submit application packets to the UT Martin Office of Graduate Studies at 227 Administration Building, Martin, Tenn., 38238. Packages should include a graduate school application, official transcripts from all attended institutions, official GRE test scores, a graduate assistant application, current curriculum vitae, three recent letters of recommendation from professional sources, and a 500-word statement of professional goals and how the strategic communication program would contribute to the achievement of those goals.

For more information, contact Rutledge at 731-881-7554 or by email at trutledge@utm.edu.
Dr. Tracy Rutledge, UT Martin assistant professor of communications and graduate program coordinator, led development of the university’s new Master of Arts in strategic communication. The new degree program, approved Thursday by the UT Board of Trustees, will begin in the fall 2015 semester, subject to final approval in April by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Two new majors and one new Concentration available through UT Martin Graduate Programs

Students seeking a master’s degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Martin will have two new majors and one new interdisciplinary concentration to choose from, beginning in the fall 2015 semester. Graduate students will be able to focus their studies on either student affairs and college counseling or addiction counseling, or can work toward earning a library information specialist PreK-12 license.

The specialization in student affairs and college counseling will prepare individuals to work in college counseling centers, financial aid, minority affairs and other student affairs services in higher education settings. This degree will help university professionals manage individual student needs within changing college environments by focusing on the development of the student as they grow in a collegiate setting.

The specialization in addiction counseling will prepare counselors to work in a wide range of addiction counseling, treatment and prevention programs, as well as in mental health counseling settings. The successful completion of coursework, post-graduate experiential requirements and state licensure exams will lead to careers as Tennessee licensed professional counselors and alcohol and drug abuse counselors.

The library information specialist PreK-12 concentration is designed to give individuals the necessary training to earn a degree or endorsement as a school library information specialist. In the state of Tennessee, individuals must have a teaching license and pass the required coursework and Praxis exams to qualify as a library information specialist. The initial licensure K-12 program will offer a major in teaching plus the necessary endorsement for individuals who need a teaching license. Licensed teachers can enroll in the degree program and/or the endorsement-only option through the interdisciplinary major.

For more information on admissions requirements for these and other education graduate programs, contact Kimberly Page at 731-881-7128 or by email at kpage6@utm.edu.
Local Boy Scouts Attend Merit Badge Clinic

Members of five local Boy Scout troops participated in a clinic hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin student members of the American Chemical Society, Feb. 14, to help the Scouts earn their chemistry merit badges. Scouts were able to hear mini-lectures on green chemistry and chemical safety, as well as tour the UT Martin laboratories and participate in a variety of hands-on activities. SMACS members assisted with six learning stations and taught the scouts about copper plating, the chemistry of cooking, pollution, Cartesian divers, toothpaste and household cleaners, and separations of solutions. Scouts were then able to view a chemical "magic show" to demonstrate reactions between various compounds.

TROOP 40 – DRESDEN: Pictured are (l-r): Layla Gargus, SMACS president; Dr. Phillip Davis, UT Martin professor of chemistry; Connor McDaniel; Paul Nichols; Tony Woodrough, scoutmaster; and Stephanie Gourley, SMACS member. The Scouts are members of Troop 40 in Dresden.
The University of Tennessee at Martin wind ensemble will join the concert band in a joint performance at 3 p.m., Sunday, March 15, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin campus.

UT Martin Wind Ensemble and Concert Band to present combined concert March 15

The concert band, led by Bill Waterman, director of athletic bands, will present a program titled “Sketches,” which includes the public premier of “Distance,” a piece by Los Angeles composer Britt Burns.

The performance is free and the public is invited.
The University of Tennessee at Martin has recognized the outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students — including several from Obion County — with publication of the fall Chancellor's Honor Rolls.

To be eligible, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

The honorees from Obion County are:

- Hornbeak — Atton R. Alexander, high honors; Rebecca A. Bloodworth, highest honors; Christopher A. Douglas, high honors; Susan B. Douglas, highest honors; Jessica D. LaMastus, high honors; Brook Ruby, highest honors; Crystal E. Stockdale, highest honors; Gary E. Singlety, high honors; and Tadd L. Whitmore, highest honors.
- Kenton — Lauren C. Barnes, high honors.
- Obion — Amber L. Cunningham, highest honors; Tara E. Evans, highest honors; Rachel C. Holloway, high honors; Natalie T. McInt wolch, high honors; Brittany M. Shaver, honors; Chelsea D. Southerland, high honors; and Jennifer A. Webber, high honors.
- Rives — Jake R. Blakely, highest honors; Matthew L. Brooks, high honors; Tabitha P. Brown, high honors; Garrett D. Ellison, high honors; Darren R. Howard, highest honors; Justin R. James, honors; Jenna A. Land, high honors; Megan E. Morrow, highest honors; Shelly N. Pate, honors; and Juan Jose M. Rivas, high honors.

South Fulton — Austia L. Akers, honors; Taylor H. Allen, honors; Marina G. Barlay, honors; Samantha E. Connor, honors; James R. Cox, high honors; Stephanie Cox, honors; Samuel L. Curtis, honors; Maeghan M. Evans, high honors; Senadine Evans, high honors; Jonathan L. French, highest honors; Summer D. Frields, high honors; Mikaela M. Hardy, highest honors; Harrison L. Hawkins, honors; Whitney H. Johnson, highest honors; Madison B. Lewis, high honors; Macy T. Maxwell, highest honors; Emily D. McCartney, highest honors; James R. Moore, highest honors; Abigail R. Needham, high honors; Victoria C. Perez, highest honors; Lynndi F. Pierce, high honors; Beau A. Rinker, highest honors; Ryan C. Rook, honors; Carl T. Taylor, honors; Adam D. Tolley, high honors; Lauren K. Wheeler, honors; and Rachel J. White, high honors.

Troy — Devairi N. Akers, honors; William C. Casper, high honors; Adrienne R. Devauster, high honors; Riedy C. Davis, high honors; Yolanda M. Garr, high honors; Jonathan S. Kelly, honors; Benjamin C. Kendall, highest honors; Thomas W. Kendall, highest honors; Cory A. Luther, honors; Andrea N. Martin, highest honors; Ian M. McGrew, honors; Calista J. Morris, honors; Diana G. Ramos, honors; Crystal E. N. Rickett, honors; Lajita L. Roberson, highest honors; and Taylor M. Turner, honors.

Union City — Erica J. Armstrong, high honors; Mitchell B. Arnett, highest honors; Carrie G. Arnold, highest honors; William H. Arnold, highest honors; Brady T. Baer, highest honors; Vanessa L. Barker, highest honors; Brittany M. Barnett, highest honors; John K. Bays, high honors; Tiffany J. Bogle, honors; Eric R. Brown, honors; Madison L. Breeden, high honors; Jennifer L. Brooks, honors; Dylan G. Brown, high honors; Britton M. Buigg, high honors; Daniel C. Carr, honors; Hayden E. Cledenin, high honors; Carly A. Coleman, honors; Devin S. Cline, honors; Helen C. Davis, honors; Leonidas E. Davis, honors; K'Taira A. Davis, honors; Nicholas J. Dial, honors; Jackson R. Donnell, high honors; Mary H. Driver, high honors; Joshua T. Dyer, highest honors; Kayla A. Ford, highest honors; Felicia C. Freeman, highest honors; Elizabeth C. Fuller, highest honors; Danielle J. Gansreit, honors; Derik H. Giffin, highest honors; Steven G. Gossett, high honors; Morgan E. Grisland, honors; Maria G. Guerrero, highest honors; Aubree A. Guz, honors; James K. Hardin, honors; Jim C. Hunt, honors; Jonathan M. Harrada, highest honors; Trevor D. Johnson, high honors; Victoria D. Jones, honors; Matthew R. Keathley, high honors; Kimberly M. Klein, high honors; Sherri M. Langford, highest honors; Danielle A. Leggett, honors; Timothy C. Long, high honors; Makayla Lynn, high honors; Mallory A. Martin, highest honors; Taylor S. Martin, highest honors; Luci Martinez, honors; Kaylee E. Matthews, highest honors; Macy M. McClure, highest honors; Garrett T. McDaniel, honors; Tamika D. McKinnon, high honors; Alyssa T. McMillin, highest honors; Mary A. Minyard, highest honors; Benjamin T. Nolde, honors; Victoria L. Ready, highest honors; Lauren D. Richards, high honors; April M. Ring, high honors; Cody A. Robertson, highest honors; Inezka Rodriguez Olvera, highest honors; Laura B. Sanchez, highest honors; Nancy Sanchez, honors; Victoria L. Seng, highest honors; Whitney D. Smith, honors; Chloe B. Smithson, highest honors; Landan C. Sowell, high honors; Marley J. Speed, high honors; Julie E. Spencer, highest honors; Catherine E. Snowfield, high honors; Krista N. Tate, highest honors; Robert A. Terrell, high honors; Joshua W. Thompson, honors; Sarah C. Triplett, honors; Andrew L. Warner, high honors; John A. Warner, highest honors; Kacee A. Warren, honors; Mason R. Warren, highest honors; Katelyn L. Williams, honors; Michael L. Williams, honors; Whitney B. Wisdom, high honors; and Colton A. Woodward, honors.

Dresden — Rebecca M. Grogan, highest honors and Colton T. Rinker, highest honors.

Fulton — Terrence L. Bishop, honors.

Martin — Matthew C. Adams, honors; Christopher L. Armstrong, honors; Ryne J. Burden, honors; Krista L. Corum, honors; Connor D. Rinker, honors; and Jessica G. Tejeda, high honors.

Murfreesboro — Katie B. Van cleave, honors.

Owensboro, Ky. — Leann L. Stideman, honors.

Port Chester, N.Y. — Jennifer A. Villa, highest honors.
Phi Kappa Phi’s lecture rescheduled for March 24

Dr. Richard Garlitz, associate professor of history and philosophy at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will present Phi Kappa Phi’s 2015 Muriel Tomlinson lecture at 7 p.m. March 24 in the Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on the main campus.

The lecture, originally scheduled for Feb. 10, was rescheduled due to weather-related campus closings.

Garlitz will present a lecture titled “Friends Like These: The Legacy of the 1953 Coup on United States-Iranian Relations.” His research examines the roles that American colleges and universities played in international development during the first two decades of the Cold War, especially as part of the U.S. government-sponsored Point Four Program.

Garlitz presents the accounts of technical advisors from three American universities who worked in Iran during the coup. Their understanding of events, both during the early 1950s and over subsequent decades, sheds light on how Americans understood relations between those two countries that culminated in the Iranian Revolution, the onset of the Islamic Republic and the highly adversarial state of contemporary United States-Iranian relations.

Garlitz completed undergraduate work in history and English at Purdue University. He received a master’s degree in history from Ball State University and a Ph.D. in history from Ohio University. He joined the UT Martin faculty in 2008 and teaches courses on American foreign relations, the Middle East and world history. He is co-editor of “Teaching America to the World and the World to America: Education and Foreign Relations since 1870,” published by Palgrave Macmillan, and anticipates the release of his book, “A Mission for Development: Utah Universities, the Point Four Program and United States-Iranian Relations,” in 2017.

The Muriel Tomlinson lecture is presented each spring semester in honor of Dr. Muriel Tomlinson, a UT Martin faculty member and chair of the Department of Modern and Foreign Languages from 1959-76. She created the campus language laboratory and was a supporter of the ideals of Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

Phi Kappa Phi chapter 127 was founded at UT Martin in 1971. Students, faculty and staff who have reached high levels of academic success are honored with membership each year. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation’s oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Becky Cox, associate professor of educational studies, at (731) 881-7134.

Meditation course planned

Proper meditation techniques can help lower stress and blood pressure, as well as improve physical and mental health. A course in meditation is available through the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

The course will meet 1-3 p.m. March 14 on the main UT Martin campus.

The registration fee is $20 per person.

Instructor Kate Healy Dykes has more than 20 years of experience teaching meditation and yoga. All students should bring a yoga sticky mat to class. Blankets and cushions will be provided, but students may bring their own.

For more details, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 771-7082.

Wedding, event class slated

A certified wedding and event planning course will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from March 10 to April 30 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The classes will run from 6-8:30 p.m.

The registration fee is $995 per person and is offered through the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies, partnered with Lovegevity’s Wedding Planning Institute.

This course teaches the fundamentals of planning, orchestrating and delivering social events, including weddings, baby showers and anniversary or birthday parties. Participants will be introduced to concise formulas for detailing the personal and professional aspects of any social event.

For more information, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 771-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/degree.php.
European travel study offered

Community members are invited to join students and faculty from the University of Tennessee at Martin on a travel study across eastern Europe to visit some of the most musical cities on the continent.

The trip is set for May 8-24 and the estimated cost is $3,643.89 per person.

Participants must be registered and submit a $1,700 deposit by March 31.

Drs. Jonathan Vest and Mark Simmons, both associate professors of music, will lead the trip through stops in Hungary, Austria, Italy, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The tour will include visits to the renowned Kodaly Institute in Budapest, Hungary, and the Orff Institute in Salzburg, Austria.

For more information, contact Vest at (731) 881-7482 or by email at jvest@utm.edu.

Aquafit class to begin next week

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer an Aquafit class from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays starting Monday through April 22 on campus.

The registration fee is $35 per person. Aquafit is a low-impact fitness class to help build muscle, increase cardio fitness and improve flexibility. Students of all swimming levels are welcome.

To register, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php or call at (731) 881-7082.

Gibson County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Carlmell, interim executive director, Student Engagement.

Included are:
• Hohner Porter, son of Billy and Sherry Porter of Trenton, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor's Award.
• Keeley Davis, daughter of John and Brandie Davis of Bradford, will be a freshman. She received the Dean's Scholarship.
• Emily Rice, daughter of Mike and Juli Rice of Medina, will be a freshman. She received the Dean's Scholarship.
• Brian T. Schreiber, son of Bill and Cheryle Schreiber of Milan, will be a freshman. He received the University Scholar Award.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, TN 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Ut Martin Students Participate in 1st Annual National Model Congress Conference in Washington

MARTIN, Tenn., March 4 -- The University of Tennessee at Martin issued the following news release:

Five students from the University of Tennessee at Martin participated in the first annual National Model Congress Conference, Feb. 26-28, at the Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, D.C.

C. The students represented real-world senators in writing, amending and passing bills through Senate committees and on the Senate floor.

Participants attended workshops and mock committee meetings, acting as their represented senators. The model Congress passed more than 20 bills using the Senate's unique rules of order and debate.

Mark Maloney, a senior communications major from South Fulton, received an Honorable Senator Award; and Marabeth Kennedy, a sophomore political science major from Franklin, and John Domanski, a junior political science major from Bon Aqua, both received Outstanding Senator Awards...

Haslam defends UT's plan for increased out-of-state enrollment

Richard Locker, The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal 1:36 p.m. CST March 5, 2015

Gov. Bill Haslam said the University of Tennessee's plan to increase out-of-state enrollment to increase revenue is a result of the state's drop in appropriations over the years.

And legislative leaders this week called the plan "a wake-up call" for lawmakers to increase state funding for higher education, which has sharply decreased as a percentage of the costs of running the state's public campuses.

The UT Board of Trustees last week endorsed a multifaceted plan by UT President Joe DiPietro to try to close a $377 million funding gap projected over the next 10 years for the university system. It allows each of the university's primary campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin to tailor their own mix of the plan's several options to reduce costs and increase revenue — all with a goal of keeping tuition increases low.

One of the options is to increase the number of out-of-state students — who pay on average 2½ times the tuition charged in-state residents — to as much as 25 percent of each campus's undergraduate enrollment. That would double the current 12 percent average at Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin.
UT Martin’s education graduate program adds majors, concentration

Students seeking a master’s degree in education from UT Martin will have two new majors and one new interdisciplinary concentration to choose from, beginning in the fall 2015 semester. Graduate students will be able to focus their studies on either student affairs and college counseling or addictions counseling, or can work toward earning a library information specialist PreK-12 license.

The specialization in student affairs and college counseling will prepare individuals to work in college counseling centers, financial aid, minority affairs and other student affairs services in higher education settings. This degree will help university professionals manage individual student needs within changing college environments by focusing on the development of the student as they grow in a collegiate setting.

The specialization in addictions counseling will prepare counselors to work in a wide range of addiction counseling, treatment and prevention programs, as well as in mental health counseling settings. The successful completion of coursework, post-graduate experiential requirements and state licensure exams will lead to careers as Tennessee licensed professional counselors and alcohol and drug abuse counselors.

The library information specialist PreK-12 concentration is designed to give individuals the necessary training to earn a degree or endorsement as a school library information specialist. In the state of Tennessee, individuals must have a teaching license and pass the required coursework and Praxis exams to qualify as a library information specialist. The initial licensure K-12 program will offer a major in teaching plus the necessary endorsement for individuals who need a teaching license. Licensed teachers can enroll in the degree program and/or the endorsement-only option through the interdisciplinary major.

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NEW PROGRAM — Dr. Tracy Rutledge, UT Martin assistant professor of communications and graduate program coordinator, led development of the university's new Master of Arts in strategic communication. The new degree program, approved Feb. 26 by the UT Board of Trustees, will begin in the fall 2015 semester, subject to final approval in April by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

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“Extensive research indicated the need and desire for a master's degree that was professionally focused — as opposed to theoretical preparation for a doctoral program — on developing strategic communication management skills,” said Dr. Tracy Rutledge, assistant professor of communications and graduate program coordinator. “Our graduate program is unique in this region because of the integrated curriculum. Strategic communication is a very broad area that pulls together communications disciplines that are typically separated. ... This integration reflects a strong demand in the workplace for professionals who understand how to plan and manage many types of communication initiatives.”

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The degree program is appropriate for students and professionals from a variety of academic backgrounds, including but not limited to public relations, marketing, mass communication, advertising, business administration, agricultural business

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and political science.

The coursework is designed to allow working professionals the flexibility to accommodate busy schedules through online assignments, as well as develop networking relationships with faculty mentors and peers through on-campus weekends. The program was developed based on industry research conducted by the Commission on Public Relations Education and the educational standards of the Association of the Education of Journalism and Mass Communication.

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"One of my frustrations as I considered graduate schools was that so few were practical and in tune with current media and market needs. (This program) achieves both in a way that our graduating seniors, alumni and other working professionals have already told us they find very attractive," said Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Communications graduate faculty.

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For more information, contact Rutledge at 731-881-7554 or by email at trutledge@utm.edu.

Wind ensemble and concert band performs Sunday

UT Martin’s wind ensemble will join the concert band in a joint performance at 3 p.m. on Sunday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin campus.

The wind ensemble, conducted by Dr. John Oelrich, UT Martin assistant professor of music and director of bands, will open with two pieces by American composer Aaron Copland. Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music, will then join the ensemble as a guest soloist in George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue.”

The concert band, led by Bill Waterman, director of athletic bands, will present a program titled “Sketches,” which includes the public premier of “Distance,” a piece by Los Angeles composer Britt Burns.

The performance is free and the public is invited.

For more information, contact Oelrich at 881-7403 or by email at joelrich@utm.edu.
LUNCHEON SPEAKER — Dr. Lee Clements is the pastor of the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin.

Clements to speak at history month, scholarship banquet

The UT Martin Faculty Women's Club will host their annual history month and scholarship luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on March 17, in room 206 of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus. Dr. Lee Clements, pastor of the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin, will present a lecture on "Women in Ministry."

Clements earned a Bachelor of Arts from Tulane University and a Master of Science from the University of Arkansas. She served as a U.S. naval officer, completing three recruiting tours and serving as the special assistant for women's policy at Navy Personnel Command, before attending seminary. She earned a master's and doctoral degree in divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and became pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin in 2005.

Tickets for the luncheon are $14 and may be purchased from the UT Martin information desk in the Boling University Center by March 11.
Sumner County education achievements

5:43 p.m. CST March 5, 2015

UT Martin names local students to chancellor’s honor roll

MARTIN, Tenn. – The outstanding academic achievements of the following undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2014 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls.

Bethpage: Kelsey Gregory, Honors; and John J. Norman, Honors.

Castalian Springs: Laura E. Coker, Highest Honors.

Cottontown: Michelle E. Stinson, High Honors.

Gallatin: Julianna Bennett, Highest Honors; Angela C. McCabe, Highest Honors; James D. Satterfield, High Honors; and Amanda L. Sipe, Highest Honors.

Hendersonville: Jonah L. Boggess, Honors; Shannon K. Boggess, High Honors; Christy A. Chicas, Honors; Stephen L. Downing, Highest Honors; Jarod C. Neal, High Honors; John A. Newman, High Honors; Madelyn V. Newman, High Honors; Michaela E. Short, Highest Honors; Austin K. Thomas, Highest Honors; William T. Thurman, Highest Honors; and Brendalynn G. Triplett, High Honors.

Portland: Lauren E. Kinney, Honors; and Alexandra D. Mullins, Highest Honors.

Westmoreland: Rachael E. Carter, Highest Honors.

White House: Jordan C. Baker, High Honors; Arianna L. Howell, Highest Honors; and Ashley N. Wendt, Highest Honors.

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 GPA based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2-3.49), high honors (3.5-3.79) or highest honors (3.8-4.0).
McNeil receives UT Martin scholarship

MARTIN, Tenn. — A Sumner County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2015-16 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Stephen McNeil, son of the late Steve McNeil and Brenda McNeil of Portland, will be a freshman. He received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.

Snow impacts local businesses in Martin

By Katie Shambo
By kshambo@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Mar 8, 2015 at 7:21 PM CDT
(Story Updated: Mar 8, 2015 at 10:49 PM CDT)

MARTIN, Tenn. — Winter weather over the last several weeks has been bad for the local economy.

Local leaders are encouraging people to shop local to support small businesses.

Emergency managers said Martin was one of the hardest hit areas by last week’s storm with reports of more than a foot of snow.

That snow left shoppers and their cash stuck at home.

"Everything was closed plus we could not drive. We could not go anywhere. I did not eat for two days," Ali Alqallaf said.

Alqallaf is a student at University of Tennessee at Martin and spent his spring break with serious spring fever.

The last two snow storms in West Tennessee meant a lot less money for local businesses.

"It was slower but we’re open seven days a week and people know we’re going to be open," Doug Thweatt said.

Thweatt owns The Hearth Restaurant in Martin. Through all the snow he never closed his doors, but did see about 40 percent less people dining in.

"People were glad to see us... even some of the major fast food chains were closed," Thweatt said.

Thweatt estimates he lost $10,000 dollars in sales.

Down the street at E.W. James Supermarket, a place shoppers rush when snow is in the forecast, also took a hit.

Manager Zach Rea said they lost about $3,000 dollars one night and had to close early another.

"Losing hours, you lose money in the paycheck, and makes it harder to make ends meet," Rea said.

Many hope with spring in sight, people will get out and help pump money back into the local economy.

"I don’t wanna stay at home. I want to go out, I want to eat," Alqallaf said.

Other businesses in Martin estimate their February sales were cut in half due to the winter weather.
UT Martin to host high school music festival

Written by Alycia Dobrinick

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - Talented musicians from around Tennessee will spend three days at the University of Tennessee at Martin to hone their skills and present a concert.

The university will host the second annual honor chamber music festival March 19-21. A final concert will take place at noon March 21 and is free and open to the public.

The musicians taking part were chosen through an audition process.

The students will work with UT Martin faculty to improve skills in listening, self-analysis, musical awareness, timing, intonation, style, and professionalism.

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UTM students return from Spring Break

Posted on March 9, 2015 by Steve James in Local News

UT-Martin students return to classes today from Spring Break.

UTM students were out for their annual spring break last week. Perfect timing to miss the snow and ice that closed the university's administrative offices Thursday and Friday.

Motorists driving along University Street and Mt.Peliah Road are reminded to watch for student and staff pedestrians today.
UT Martin wind ensemble to perform with concert band

The University of Tennessee at Martin wind ensemble will join the concert band in a joint performance Sunday, March 15, at 3 p.m. in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin campus.

The wind ensemble, conducted by Dr. John Oelrich, UT Martin assistant professor of music and director of bands, will open with two pieces by American composer Aaron Copland. Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music, will then join the ensemble as a guest soloist in George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue.”

The concert band, led by Bill Waterman, director of athletic bands, will present a program titled “Sketches,” which includes the public premier of “Distance,” a piece by Los Angeles composer Britt Burns.

The performance is free and the public is invited.

For more information, Oelrich at 731-881-7403 or by email at joelrich@utm.edu.

REED Center offers ‘Small Business Boot Camp’ course in April

A four-week small business boot camp for aspiring entrepreneurs and new small business owners will be offered from 6-8 p.m. every Tuesday in April at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. Course participation is $25 per person.

Participants will be introduced to a variety of topics, including how to write a business plan, financing, how to pitch an idea to a lender and small business marketing strategies. Class members will also have the opportunity to speak with current small business owners about their personal experiences and receive legal and accounting information from licensed professionals.

“This class has really opened my eyes and mind to what I need to make my business succeed,” said Mykia Campbell, boot camp graduate and owner of Mykia’s Therapeutic Massage at J Marlins salon in Martin. “The class presenters are thorough with the information and very helpful. I would highly recommend this class to anyone starting a business or already in business.”

Registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis up until the first session. For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin REED Center at 587-7333 or register online at www.tsbdc.org/training.

The UT Martin REED Center is located at 406 South Lindell Street in Martin. The small business boot camp is co-sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center.
Black UTM students support legislative push to ban racial profiling

Posted: Mar 11, 2015 4:40 PM CST
Updated: Mar 11, 2015 5:02 PM CST
By Briana Conner  CONNECT
By Jason Thomason

MARTIN, Tenn. - Racial profiling can be difficult to discuss. If it hasn't happened to you, you can probably still identify with being judged based on how you look.

Recent reports accusing police of racial profiling in communities of color have had deadly consequences. Tony Robinson in Madison, Eric Garner in New York, and Michael Brown in Ferguson were all unarmed black men killed by police.

Wednesday, the police chief in Ferguson resigned after a report from the justice department revealed racially-based practices within his department. These instances are the inspiration for a proposed law in Tennessee that takes a hard line on racial profiling.

At The University Of Tennessee at Martin diversity is celebrated. "I feel like everybody on campus is treated equally," said senior Leslie Howard, although he has been profiled in the past. He said, "It makes you feel bad and disgusting. Well, it makes me feel bad and disgusting."

Racial profiling is also a practice that Tennessee lawmakers are trying to prevent by requiring every law enforcement agency in the state to have a policy against it. "It makes me feel like somebody understands that it happens and it's real," said Kache Brooks.

Brooks is a junior and the president of the Black Student Alliance. She said the law would make people feel more comfortable on campus. "I'm hopeful that it will get done."

University of Tennessee Martin Police denied our request for an interview, but a spokesperson said they do not have a policy on racial profiling yet. Howard said, "I don't see a problem with us not having it, but it would be good to have it since everyone else is feeling the affects of it." He said he hoped the consequences of racial profiling would not continue. "I would never want that to happen to my kids, because it really does psychologically make you feel some kind of way."

Brooks said it will take more than policy to create real change. "Polices can't change people's mindset or how they feel toward people of color," she said.

The Martin Police Department does have a written policy on racial profiling. It defines what it is, lays out training guidelines, and has instructions for disciplinary action. Right now, that is not required.

The bill passed the Tennessee Senate unanimously earlier this week and right now it's in the house awaiting action. The legislature passed a "Racial Profiling Prevention Act" in 2008, but it has expired. That law only "strongly encouraged" law enforcement agencies to have a written policy on racial profiling.
New majors, concentration to be available in the fall

Students seeking a master's degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Martin will have two new majors and one new interdisciplinary concentration to choose from, beginning in the fall 2015 semester.

Graduate students will be able to focus their studies on either student affairs and college counseling or addictions counseling, or they can work toward earning a library information specialist PreK-12 license.

The specialization in student affairs and college counseling will prepare individuals to work in college counseling centers, financial aid, minority affairs and other student affairs services in higher education settings.

This degree will help university professionals manage individual student needs within changing college environments by focusing on the development of the students as they grow in a collegiate setting.

The specialization in addictions counseling will prepare counselors to work in a wide range of addiction counseling, treatment and prevention programs, as well as in mental health counseling settings.

The successful completion of coursework, postgraduate experiential requirements and state licensure exams will lead to careers as Tennessee licensed professional counselors and alcohol and drug abuse counselors.

The library information specialist PreK-12 concentration is designed to give individuals the necessary training to earn a degree or endorsement as a school library information specialist.

In the state of Tennessee, individuals must have a teaching license and pass the required coursework and Praxis exams to qualify as library information specialists.

The initial licensure K-12 program will offer a major in teaching plus the necessary endorsement for individuals who need teaching licenses.

Licensed teachers can enroll in the degree program and/or the endorsement-only option through the interdisciplinary major.

For more information on admissions requirements for these and other education graduate programs, contact Kimberly Page at (731) 881-7128 or by email at kpage6@utm.edu.

Combined concert to be held Sunday

The University of Tennessee at Martin wind ensemble will join the concert band in a joint performance at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin campus.

The wind ensemble, conducted by Dr. John Oelrich, UT Martin assistant professor of music and director of bands, will open with two pieces by American composer Aaron Copland. Dr. Elaine Harris, UT Martin professor of music, will then join the ensemble as a guest soloist in George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

The concert band, led by Bill Waterman, director of athletic bands, will present a program titled "Sketches," which includes the public premier of "Distance," a piece by Los Angeles composer Britt Burns.

The performance is free and the public is invited.

For more information, contact Oelrich at (731) 881-7403 or by email at joelrich@utm.edu.
Musicale scheduled for Friday

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Epsilon Iota chapter of the Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity will present its spring musicale performance at 5 p.m. Friday in the Blankenship Recital Hall of the Fine Arts Building.

Performances will include both vocal and instrumental presentations by a variety of soloists and small groups.

The Sigma Alpha Iota choir will also perform traditional pieces titled “SAI Garden” and “The Rainbow.” Faculty members Dr. Christa Frye, adjunct instructor of music, and Dr. Liz Aleksander, assistant professor of music, will join the student ensemble.

The Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity was founded in 1903 at the University School of Music in Ann Arbor, Mich.

The organization strives to uphold the highest standards of musicianship and citizenship in the community and throughout the world. The UT Martin chapter was founded in 1969 and seeks to uplift the local community through music and music education.

For more information about the performance, contact Bridget Huenefeld, chapter program director, at brinhuen@ut.utm.edu.

STUDENT SENATORS — Five students from the University of Tennessee at Martin participated in the first National Model Congress Conference recently at the Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, D.C. The students represented real-world senators in writing, amending and passing bills through Senate committees and on the Senate floor. Among those who attended were (from left) Marabeth Kennedy, a sophomore political science major from Franklin; Mark Maloney, a senior communications major from South Fulton; Roderick Bennett, an East Florida College student serving as Congress president pro tempore; Dr. Anderson Starling, UT Martin assistant professor in the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science; John Domanski, a junior political science major from Bon Aqua; Rikki Erwin, a freshman communications major from Brighton; and Elizabeth Sanders, a senior family and consumer science major from Smithville.

Maloney received an Honorable Senator Award, while Domanski and Ms. Kennedy received Outstanding Senator Awards. The UTM delegation was also recognized as an outstanding delegation.
Local students honored for academic achievements

UTM selected as top school by Military Advanced Education

"Military Advanced Education" has selected the University of Tennessee at Martin as a Top School in its 2015 MAE Guide to Colleges and Universities." The guide, now in its eighth year of publication, measures best practices in military and veteran education at more than 600 institutions nationwide. The guide presents the results of a questionnaire of the military-supportive policies in place at private, public, for-profit, not-for-profit, four-year and two-year colleges of all types. This year institutions were evaluated on their military culture, financial aid, flexibility, on-campus support and online support services available to military personnel.

"We believe the guide serves as an invaluable tool for both education services officers and transition officers at every U.S. military installation, along with the service members they counsel. Published 10 times each year, MAE's editorial coverage includes exclusive interviews with military executive leadership, educators and members of Congress. Article topics include best practices; career and transition spotlights; service member, school and program profiles; and periodic special reports. KMI Media Group, Inc. is the leading independent publisher of targeted information about military requirements, technologies and operations. Serving as a unique forum for senior military and Department of Defense leadership, KMI focuses on distinct and essential communities within the defense market.

For more information or to view the online guide, visit www.mae-kmi.com.

UT Martin

Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, interim executive director, Student Engagement.

•Brant Allen, son of Dr. Steve and Brenda Allen of Trenton, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor's Award.

•John Hunter Beal, son of John and Tina Beal of Medina, will be a freshman. He received the Dean's Scholarship.

•Grant T. Holden, son of Todd and Dana Holden of Milan, will be a freshman. He received the Dean's Scholarship.

•Grayson Ray Whitworth, son of Glyn and Lyn Whitworth of Rutherford, will be a freshman. He received the Dean's Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
WTN Small Business Conference Rescheduled

The West Tennessee Small Business Conference, originally scheduled for Feb. 19, will now be held from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 24, at the First United Methodist Church in Jackson. The conference fee is $75 per person. If five or more representatives from the same business attend, the cost is $65 per person. Registration fees include continental breakfast, lunch and all seminar materials.

The conference theme is "Growing Your Business in Small Town America" and is designed for existing business owners, non-profit organizations, emerging entrepreneurs and any individuals seeking networking opportunities and professional development. Michael Angelo Caruso, communications consultant, is this year's keynote speaker.

Caruso is a professional speaker and communications consultant to companies and organizations all over the world. He has delivered more than 2,000 presentations and keynote speeches on the subjects of leadership, selling and internet marketing. His clients include Bank of America, Citgo, Royavac, Hallmark, the National Institutes of Health, Verizon Wireless, the United States Navy and Nissan. More information can be found at www.michaelangelocaruso.com.

Advance registration is required by March 19. Participants may register online at www.utmforever.com/2015wtsbc, by fax to 731-881-7019, by email to Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, at vgrimes@utm.edu, or by mail to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238. Checks should be made payable to WestStar. Please include the name, business name, complete address and phone number of all persons for whom you are registering.

The First United Methodist Church is located at 200 S. Church Street in Jackson.

Two students earn UTM scholarships

Two Henry County students recently have been awarded dean's scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the 2015-16 academic year.

Students receiving these scholarships are Lillie Akers and Michael Williams.

Akers is the daughter of John and Julie Akers of Cottage Grove. Williams is the son of Van and Diana Williams of Paris. Both will be in the freshman class in fall 2015.

The dean's scholarship is for $1,500 each year and can be renewed up to four years.

Akers and Williams were required to make a 25 on the ACT and a 3.5 GPA in order to qualify for the scholarship.
UT Martin Reed Center Offers 'Small Business Boot Camp'

A four-week small business boot camp for aspiring entrepreneurs and new small business owners will be offered from 6-8 p.m. every Tuesday in April at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. Course participation is $25 per person.

Participants will be introduced to a variety of topics, including how to write a business plan, financing, how to pitch an idea to a lender and small business marketing strategies. Class members will also have the opportunity to speak with current small business owners about their personal experiences and receive legal and accounting information from licensed professionals.

"This class has really opened my eyes and mind to what I need to make my business succeed," said Mykia Campbell, boot camp graduate and owner of Mykia's Therapeutic Massage at J Marlins salon in Martin. The class presenters are thorough with the information and very helpful. I would highly recommend this class to anyone starting a business or already in business.

Registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis up until the first session. For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin REED Center at 731-587-7333 or register online at www.tsbdc.org/training. The UT Martin REED Center is located at 406 South Lindell Street in Martin. The small business boot camp is co-sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center.

McNairy County Student Receives Scholarship To Attend UT Martin

A McNairy County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement. Megan E. Thomas, daughter of Kevin and Tammy Thomas, of Adamsville, will be a freshman. She received the Dean's Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Martin Education Graduate Programs, Beginning In Fall 2015

Students seeking a master's degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Martin will have two new majors and one new interdisciplinary concentration to choose from, beginning in the fall 2015 semester. Graduate students will be able to focus their studies on either student affairs and college counseling or addictions counseling, or can work toward earning a library information specialist PreK-12 license.

The specialization in student affairs and college counseling will prepare individuals to work in college counseling centers, financial aid, minority affairs and other student affairs services in higher education settings. This degree will help university professionals manage individual student needs within changing college environments by focusing on the development of the student as they grow in a collegiate setting.

The specialization in addictions counseling will prepare counselors to work in a wide range of addiction counseling, treatment and prevention programs, as well as in mental health counseling settings.

The successful completion of coursework, post-graduate experiential requirements and state licensure exams will lead to careers as Tennessee licensed professional counselors and alcohol and drug abuse counselors.

The library information specialist PreK-12 concentration is designed to give individuals the necessary training to earn a degree or endorsement as a school library information specialist. In the state of Tennessee, individuals must have a teaching license and pass the required coursework and Praxis exams to qualify as a library information specialist. The initial licensure K-12 program will offer a major in teaching plus the necessary endorsement for individuals who need a teaching license. Licensed teachers can enroll in the degree program and/or the endorsement-only option through the interdisciplinary major.

For more information on admissions requirements for these and other education graduate programs, contact Kimberly Page at 731-881-7128 or by email at kpage6@utm.edu.
Women's Studies Symposium, equaliTEA event set for March 24

The fourth annual Women's Studies Symposium, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Women’s Center, will be held from 1-4 p.m., March 24, in the Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. The fifth annual equaliTEA event will be held immediately following. Seating is limited and advance registration is required.

The symposium will begin with registration at 12:15 p.m., followed by a keynote address by Dr. Victoria Seng, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, on the topic of breast cancer awareness. Two breakout sessions will follow the keynote speech. Participants may choose one breakout session for each time slot. The topics at 2 p.m. are interviewing and professional presentation; adopting healthy behaviors; creating democratic communities; and gender interactions. The topics for 3 p.m. sessions are self-marketing; self-defense; a discussion of current women’s issues; and a discussion of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

The fifth annual equaliTEA event will be held at 4 p.m. Drs. Teresa Collard, associate professor of communications, and Lisa LeBlue, professor of family and consumer sciences, will present “Febb Burn and Suffrage Songs: A Fictionalized Historical Performance” during high tea with scones, sandwiches and dessert served.

The equaliTEA event is $10 for community members, but there is no admission charge for the symposium sessions. UT Martin faculty, staff and students may attend all events free of charge.

Participants may choose to attend all or part of the day’s events. The symposium is limited to 150 participants, and the equaliTEA is limited to 100 participants. Advance registration is required by March 19.

For more information or to receive a registration form, contact the UT Martin Women’s Center at womenscenter@utm.edu or Collard at tcollard@utm.edu.

UTM percussion studio presents ‘World Bizarre’ on March 20

UT Martin’s percussion studio will host a “World Bizarre” event from 7-9 p.m. on March 20 at the Soleil Garden Center in Union City. The admission fee is $10 and includes dinner and a beverage.

This event is a night of entertainment from around the world, complete with food, drink and door prize drawings. Door prize tickets are $1 each.

The Soleil Garden Center is located at 2317 Nailing Drive in Union City. All proceeds benefit the UT Martin percussion studio.
Online graduate degree in counseling ranked Top 50

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s master’s degree program in counseling has been ranked in the top 50 online programs in 2015 by bestcounselingdegrees.net.

According to the website, the ranking considers school accreditation, residency requirements, specialization options, online availability and licensure track or Ph.D. options. “These 50 schools set high goals for themselves and their students, and have achieved a high degree of excellence in preparing graduates for practical licensure and further graduate study,” wrote Kirsten Hughes, correspondent to bestcounselingdegrees.net and author of the rankings article.

The UT Martin program is offered primarily online, with a four-day, on-campus residency requirement. Students work toward a Master of Science in education with a major in counseling and can choose to concentrate in school counseling or clinical mental health counseling. Licensure track is available in both concentrations.

The program was also named one of the best online master’s in counseling degree programs for 2014 by bestonlinecollege.org. UT Martin is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Greek Week raises more than $9,000 for charity

UT Martin, hosted its annual “Greek Week” events Feb. 9-13 and raised $9,704.36 to benefit the Carl Perkins Center and the Weakley County Backpack Program. Twenty-two sorority and fraternity organizations participated in the week of activities.

Service night was held Feb. 10, and each organization hosted a fundraising event to benefit local charities. The Chi Omega and Omega Psi Phi organizations won first place by raising the most money as a group. The Sigma Phi Epsilon and Phi Beta Sigma organizations placed first in the Greek Olympics, Feb. 11, which included a variety of traditional physical activities. The annual line dance event was held Feb. 12, and the winners were Sigma Alpha, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Phi Beta Sigma. Step show was the final event on Feb. 13, and the Alpha Delta Pi and Kappa Alpha Order organizations took home first place.
HISTORY — Jerry Surette (right), campaign participant, discusses voter registration policies with a family on their porch (June 1964, digital print). A photographic exhibit titled "The Other Freedom Summer: An Exhibit of Nick Lawrence’s Images of Fayette County, Tennessee, Voter Registration Drive, June-August 1964" is on display at UT Martin’s J. Houston Gordon Museum, housed within the Paul Meek Library, through May 31.

**Exploring Tennessee’s Freedom Summer**

A photographic exhibit titled "The Other Freedom Summer: An Exhibit of Nick Lawrence’s Images of Fayette County, Tennessee, Voter Registration Drive, June-August 1964" is on display at UT Martin’s J. Houston Gordon Museum, housed within the Paul Meek Library, through May 31.

The 1964 Mississippi Summer Project, also known as the Freedom Summer, is well-known in historical contexts. However, another voter registration campaign was held that same year in Fayette County.

This photographic exhibit chronicles that event, when dozens of students from Cornell University traveled through Fayette County to encourage minority adults to register to vote in the upcoming election. That year, more than 68 percent of Fayette County’s population was black, but this majority accounted for less than seven percent of registered voters.

One of the participants was recent college graduate Nick Lawrence, a photographer from Cornell University. Lawrence documented the lives and daily routines of the citizens he encountered. Thirty-five of his images are included in the exhibit, documenting the hard-working rural poor and their resolve to advance their right to vote.

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**Scholarship to be given**

The Philharmonic Music Guild of Martin will present the Harriet Fulton Music Scholarship of $500 to a graduating high school senior in Weakley County who will major in music at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the 2015-16 school year.

The primary basis for selection will be musical ability and potential and an acceptable academic standing.

Auditions will be held April 16 at 4 p.m. in Room 233 at the UTM Fine Arts Building.

Students or teachers wanting application forms can contact Charlotte May at 587-6848. Forms must be returned by April 9.

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**May to present horn recital on March 22**

Jered May, a junior music performance major, will present his junior horn recital at 3 p.m. on March 22, in the Blankenship Recital Hall on the UT Martin campus.

May, a native of Greenwood, Ark., will perform a variety of pieces, including "Nachtpoema" by Van Eechaute, "Concert-Rondo" by Mozart and the "Morceau de concert" by Saint Seans. He will also present the sarabande, minuets and gigue from the first cello suite by Bach.
UT Martin percussion trio performs tonight

The ARC Percussion Trio will perform a free concert at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Harriet Fulton Theater in the Fine Arts Building on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Paul Zacarias, a sophomore music major from Franklin; Brandon Blankenstein, a junior music education major from Jonesborough; and CJ Barrow, a junior music major from Goodlettsville, formed the trio in their freshman year. They will perform a variety of works, including two special commissions arranged by fellow UT Martin students. The trio will give the world premiere of "Light of Setting Suns" by Justin Lee, a junior music education major from Clarksville, and present "Black Mamba" by Joshua Spaulding, a senior music education major from Johnson City.

The concert is open to the public. For more information, contact Barrow at chrbarr@utk.edu.

http://www.kfvs12.com

UT Martin online graduate degree in counseling ranked top 50 in 2015

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - The University of Tennessee at Martin's master's degree program in counseling has been ranked in the top 50 online programs in 2015 by a counseling website.

According to the website, bestcounselingdegrees.net, the ranking considers school accreditation, residency requirements, specialization options, online availability and licensure track or Ph.D. options.

"These 50 schools set high goals for themselves and their students, and have achieved a high degree of excellence in preparing graduates for practical licensure and further graduate study," said Kristen Hughes, author of the rankings article.

The UT Martin program is offered primarily online, with a four-day on-campus residency requirement.

Students work toward a Master of Science in education with a major in counseling and can choose to concentrate in school counseling or clinical mental health counseling.

For more information, you can contact Kimberly Page, Education Graduate Programs administrative specialist, at 731-881-7128 or by email at kpogee5@utm.edu.
The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Tuesday, March 17, 2015

GRADUATES PROGRAM – Justin Hargrove (second from left) and Clint Workman (second from right) received AgStar graduation plaques from Matt Fennel (left) of Tennessee Farm Bureau and Dr. Todd Winters, dean of College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin, during a recent graduation banquet in Jackson.

AgStar Program graduation held

Justin Hargrove of Hornbeak and Clint Workman of South Fulton were honored last week for completing the AgStar program.

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

They received graduation plaques from Matt Fennel of Tennessee Farm Bureau and Dr. Todd Winters, dean of College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Winters spoke to the graduates about the importance of being involved in their industry and community during the March 10 graduation banquet held in Jackson.

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

UTM Rodeo pageant rescheduled for April 4

The 10th annual Miss UTM Rodeo pageant will be held April 4 at Watkins Auditorium in the University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The pageant was rescheduled because of inclement weather.

Doors open at noon and registration is at the door only.

Age groups are as follows: birth to 12 months at 1 p.m., 1-3 years at 1:30, 4-6 years at 2, 7-9 years at 2:30, 10-12 years at 3, 13-15 years at 3:30 and 16-20 years at 4.

The pageant is open to any girl who has not previously won her age division. The 16- to 20-year-old winner is required to be at all rodeo week activities.

The registration fee is $25 for beauty only, with additional categories available for an additional fee.

For more information, contact Beth Weldon at (731) 225-1227.
Beginner Quickbooks course offered at UTM REED Center

Anyone interested in learning the basics of Quickbooks, an accounting software for small businesses, can participate in a training class from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center.

Quickbooks is a leading accounting software due to its powerful, user-friendly features. In this beginner course, participants will learn to define and understand basic accounting terms, set up their business within the Quickbooks program, and record sales, payments and vendor bills. Computers with Quickbooks software will be provided for in-class use.

The course is sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center. The UT Martin REED Center is located at 406 S. Lindell St. in Martin. There will be a break for lunch.

The registration fee is $75 per person and the class is limited to the first 10 participants. For more information or to reserve a seat, contact Landy Fuqua, REED Center director, at (731) 587-7333 or by email at reed@utm.edu.

Citywide clean-up begins next week in Martin

UT Martin Recycles! and the City of Martin will sponsor a citywide clean-up initiative coordinated by the Martin Beautiful Committee during the week of March 23-28.

There are two ways to participate: You can select your own area to clean or combine your efforts with a larger group and work on more substantial clean-up projects.

The sponsors endorse recycling when and wherever possible. If you discover recyclable materials during the clean-up, you’re welcome to take the materials to the UT Martin Recycle Center, located at 108 N. Moody St. The center operates Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To combine your efforts with a larger group of volunteers, you’re welcome to join everyone on March 28 at the UT Martin Recycle Center, especially between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Those volunteers will comb the City of Martin focusing on areas selected by Led Symmes, the Martin Beautiful coordinator for this event, who will have designated certain areas for special clean-up attention.

If you would prefer to work on your own or at a different time during the clean-up week, you can select any public area for cleaning. Once you have gathered your waste, you should place it curbside where you would normally place brush. Republic Waste trucks will then collect it during their regular brush pick-up day. They will collect brush and limbs, furniture and carpet, but hazardous materials such as oil, paint or chemicals will not be collected.

Please place any items at the curb early in the day of your regular brush pick up.

You may pick up trash bags and gloves all next by visiting the UT Martin Recycle Center. The gloves, bags and supplies are provided by Tennessee Department of Transportation’s Weakley County Litter Grant.

If you belong to a group or organization that has community service as part of its mission, the Martin Clean-Up is tailor-made for you. Please join the group as they strive to make Martin the cleanest city in West Tennessee.
Linda Bond Edwards gives credit to a higher power

Jennifer Portman, Tallahassee Democrat  6:26 p.m. EDT March 17, 2015

http://www.tallahassee.com/

Maybe it comes from her solid upbringing in the Haywood Farms Project, an innovative black housing development established in the 1930s in the rural Douglas community near Stanton, Tennessee.

Or perhaps the 57-year-old’s poise comes from more than a decade with GTE as a top human resources executive, followed by a bold move at 35 to quit for law school and launch a successful second career as an employment law attorney.

The woman herself, however, would give all the credit to God.

"I grew up understanding I am blessed to bless others," said Linda Bond Edwards, selected by the Tallahassee Democrat this year as one of the 25 Women You Need to Know.

The blessings she has been granted and those she’s given are impressive.

One of eight children from a stable, working class family, Bond Edwards, like her seven siblings, was expected to go to college and become a professional. While teaching was pushed as an appropriate occupation for a woman at the time, she pursued a degree in business and the then-little-known field of human resources management.

After graduating from the University of Tennessee at Martin, she got a job at a GTE plant that manufactured camera flashcubes. She took every opportunity that came her way, rising through the ranks to corporate headquarters, a journey that took her coast-to-coast.

But in 1992, it became clear she needed a change. Within five months of deciding to leave GTE, she applied and was accepted into Florida State’s College of Law. She applied at the suggestion of a friend from Gadsden County that she met in college.

“I’ve always been a woman of faith, so I stood on my faith and started praying,” she said with a laugh, remembering the leap she took. "It was God-ordained."

Her house in Connecticut sold the first weekend it was on the market. She chose FSU for law school because it was closest to her family in Tennessee. She fully intended to move to Dallas when she was finished, but joined Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and found she had landed right where she belonged.

“I was really moved by the spiritual leadership,” she said.

Bond Edwards soon became one of those leaders in her own right. For more than a decade now she’s been teaching a Sunday school class at the church for women ranging in age from their 20s to their 80s. One of the early inspiring teachers of the class was the esteemed educator Aquilina Howell.

The community involvement instilled early on in Bond Edwards extends beyond her church and ministry to other volunteer work. An attorney with Rumberger Kirk and Caldwell, she has donated her efforts to many local organizations, including serving as president of the board for Big Bend Habitat for Humanity. As president of Tallahassee Women Lawyers, she developed a program to expose girls attending Nims Middle School to the possibilities their lives may hold. Bond Edwards also is passionate about and advocates for a more diverse judiciary in Florida.

Bond Edwards’ personal life — which she never worried much about — also fell into place as if ordered by a higher power. She married Russell Edwards five years ago in April. At 52, in a single day, she became a wife, a stepmother and a grandmother for the first time, roles she relishes with joy.

Her advice to others is simple

"Remember who you are," she said, "and whose you are."

Linda Bond Edwards

(Photo: Joe Rondone/Democrat)
Two new majors, new concentration available through UTM programs

Students seeking a master's degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Martin will have two new majors and one new interdisciplinary concentration to choose from, beginning in the fall 2015 semester. Graduate students will be able to focus their studies on either student affairs and college counseling or addictions counseling, or can work toward earning a library information specialist PreK-12 license.

The specialization in student affairs and college counseling will prepare counselors to work in college counseling centers, financial aid, minority affairs and other student affairs services in higher education settings. This degree will help university professionals manage individual student needs within changing college environments by focusing on the development of the student as they grow in a collegiate setting.

The specialization in addictions counseling will prepare counselors to work in a wide range of addiction counseling, treatment and prevention programs, as well as in mental health counseling settings. The successful completion of coursework, post-graduate experiential requirements and state licensure exams will lead to careers as Tennessee licensed professional counselors and alcohol and drug abuse counselors.

The library information specialist PreK-12 concentration is designed to give individuals the necessary training to earn a degree or endorsement as a school library information specialist. In the state of Tennessee, individuals must have a teaching license and pass the required coursework and Praxis exams to qualify as a library information specialist. The initial licensure K-12 program will offer a major in teaching plus the necessary endorsement for individuals who need a teaching license. Licensed teachers can enroll in the degree program and/or the endorsement-only option through the interdisciplinary major.

For more information on admissions requirements for these and other education graduate programs, contact Kimberly Page at 731-881-7128 or by email kpage6@utm.edu.

UTM OFFERS NEW COURSES - The option to earn a library information specialist PreK-12 license is one of three new choices for students seeking a master's degree in education from University of Tennessee Martin. Graduate students can also focus their studies on either student affairs and college counseling or addictions counseling. The new programs will be offered starting in the fall 2013.
Jones, Gateley compete in UTM competition

Two local high school singers competed in the first annual University of Tennessee at Martin “Death by Voice High School and College Aria Competition” recently at Blankenship Recital Hall on the UTM campus. Anna-Grace Jones of Dyer and Meleah Gateley of Humboldt were sponsored by their voice teacher, Heather Korn of Trenton.

All singers were required to sing a solo aria in its original language. Anna-Grace Jones won the competition with the Italian aria “Sebben crudele” by Antonio Caldara. As the winner of the high school category, she will be a featured soloist in the upcoming UT-Martin Spring Choral Concert in April. Meleah Gateley is a sophomore at HomeLife Academy in Jackson and Anna-Grace Jones is a sophomore at Gibson County High School.

Women’s Studies Symposium, equaliTEA scheduled March 24

The fourth annual Women’s Studies Symposium, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Women’s Center, will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., March 24, in the Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. The fifth annual equaliTEA event will be held immediately following. Seating is limited and advance registration is required.

The symposium will begin with registration at 12:15 p.m., followed by a keynote address by Dr. Victoria Seng, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, on the topic of breast cancer awareness. Two breakout sessions will follow the keynote speech. Participants may choose one breakout session for each time slot. The topics at 2 p.m. are interviewing and professional presentation; adopting healthy behaviors; creating democratic communities; and gender interactions. The topics for 3 p.m. sessions are self-marketing; self-defense; a discussion of current women’s issues; and a discussion of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

The equaliTEA event will be held at 4 p.m. Drs. Teressa Collard, associate professor of communications, and Lisa LeBleu, professor of family and consumer sciences, will present “Febb Burn and Suffrage Songs: A Fictionalized Historical Performance” during high tea with scones, sandwiches and dessert served.

The equaliTEA event is $10 for community members, but there is no admission charge for the symposium sessions. UT Martin faculty, staff and students may attend all events free of charge.

Participants may choose to attend all or part of the day’s events. The symposium is limited to 150 participants, and the equaliTEA is limited to 100 participants. Advance registration is required by March 19.

‘World Bizarre’ slated

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion studio will host “World Bizarre” from 7-9 p.m. Friday at Soleil Garden Center at 2317 Nailling Drive in Union City.

The admission fee is $10 and includes dinner and a beverage.

This event is a night of entertainment from around the world, complete with food, drink and door prize drawings. Door prize tickets are $1 each.

All proceeds will benefit the UT Martin percussion studio.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music and director of percussion studies, at (731) 881-7418 or by email at jhill@utm.edu.
$9,700+ raised for charities

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted its annual “Greek Week” events last month and raised $9,704.86 to benefit the Carl Perkins Center and the Weakley County Backpack Program.

Twenty-two sorority and fraternity organizations participated in the week of activities.

Service night was held Feb. 10 and each organization hosted a fundraising event to benefit local charities. The Chi Omega and Omega Psi Phi organizations won first place by raising the most money as a group.

The next day, the Sigma Phi Episilon and Phi Beta Sigma organizations placed first in the Greek Olympics, which included a variety of traditional physical activities. The annual line dance event was held Feb. 12 and the winners were Sigma Alpha, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Phi Beta Sigma.

Step Show was the final event on Feb. 13 and the Alpha Delta Pi and Kappa Alpha Order organizations took home first place.

Online grad program ranks in top 50

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s master’s degree program in counseling has been ranked in the top 50 online programs in 2015 by bestcounselingdegrees.net.

According to the website, the ranking considers school accreditation, residency requirements, specialization options, online availability and licensure track or Ph.D. options.

“These 50 schools set high goals for themselves and their students, and have achieved a high degree of excellence in preparing graduates for practical licensure and further graduate study,” wrote Kirsten Hughes, correspondent to bestcounselingdegrees.net and author of the rankings article.

The UT Martin program is offered primarily online, with a four-day on-campus residency requirement. Students work toward a master of science degree in education with a major in counseling and can choose to concentrate in school counseling or clinical mental health counseling. Licensure track is available in both concentrations.

The program was also named one of the best online master’s in counseling degree programs for 2014 by bestonlinecollege.org. UT Martin is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

For more information, contact Kimberly Page, Education Graduate Programs administrative specialist, at (731) 881-7128 or by email at kpage6@utm.edu.
Women’s event slated for Tuesday

The fourth annual Women’s Studies Symposium, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Women’s Center, will be held from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center.

The fifth annual equaliTEA event will be held immediately following. Seating is limited and advance registration is required.

The symposium will begin with registration at 12:15 p.m., followed by a keynote address by Dr. Victoria Seng, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, on the topic of breast cancer awareness.

Two breakout sessions will follow the keynote speech. Participants may choose one breakout session for each time slot.

The topics at 2 p.m. are interviewing and professional presentation; adopting healthy behaviors; creating democratic communities; and gender interactions.

The topics for 3 p.m. sessions are self-marketing; self-defense; a discussion of current women’s issues; and a discussion of schizophrenia and other psychiatric disorders.

The fifth annual equaliTEA event will be held at 4 p.m. Drs. Teresa Collard, associate professor of communications, and Lisa LeBleu, professor of family and consumer sciences, will present “Febb Burn and Suffrage Songs: A Fictionalized Historical Performance” during high tea. Scones, sandwiches and dessert will be served.

The equaliTEA event is $10 for community members, but there is no admission charge for the symposium sessions. UT Martin faculty, staff and students may attend all events free of charge.

Participants may choose to attend all or part of the day’s events.

The symposium is limited to 150 participants, and the equaliTEA is limited to 100 participants. Advance registration is required by Thursday.

For more information or to receive a registration form for the events, contact the UT Martin Women’s Center at womenscenter@utm.edu or Collard at tcollard@utm.edu.

Facility featured in musicale

Faculty members from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will demonstrate their abilities in a faculty recital at 12:15 p.m. Monday in the Blankenship Recital Hall on the UT Martin campus.

Faculty members will perform four pieces with a combination of vocal and instrumental components.

Alessandro Scarlatti’s piece “7 Arie con Tromba Sola” will be performed by Dr. Amy Yeung, professor, soprano vocalist; Dr. John Oelrich, assistant professor, trumpet; and Delana Easley, lecturer, piano.

“Int a Deep Funk” by composer Daniel Doff will be performed by Dr. Elizabeth Aleksander, assistant professor, bass clarinet.

Dr. Yeung; Dr. Charles Lewis, adjunct instructor, flute; and Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor, piano, will present Handel’s composition “L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato, HWV 55.”

Dr. Douglas Owens, assistant professor, baritone saxophone, and Mrs. Easley will perform Garland Anderson’s piece “Sonata for Baritone Saxophone and Piano, op.6.”

This recital is free and open to the public.

For more information about Monday’s performance, contact Dr. Aleksander at (731) 881-7413 or by email at ealeksan@utm.edu.

Percussion focus of free class

Richard Henson Jr. received his bachelor’s degree in music from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2010 and has since performed classical percussion across the southeast.

He will return to his alma mater to teach a percussion master class at 2 p.m. Monday in the percussion recital hall of the Fine Arts Building.

The course will focus on the upright frame drum.

Henson is a part-time director of percussion studies at Southern Adventist University and a part-time instructor of percussion at Lee University, where he teaches world percussion, applied lessons and percussion techniques and assists with the percussion ensemble.

There is no admission charge for Monday’s class and the public is invited to attend.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, at (731) 881-7418 or by email at jhill@utm.edu.
FOURTH ANNUAL WOMEN’S STUDIES SYMPOSIUM, FIFTH ANNUAL EQUALITEA SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 24

MARTIN, Tenn. – The fourth annual Women’s Studies Symposium, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Women’s Center, will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., March 24, in the Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. The fifth annual equaliTEA event will be held immediately following. Seating is limited and advance registration is required.

The symposium will get underway with registration at 12:15 p.m., followed by a keynote address by Dr. Victoria Seng, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, on the topic of breast cancer awareness. Two breakout sessions will follow the keynote speech. Participants may choose one breakout session for each time slot. The topics at 2 p.m. are interviewing and professional presentation; adopting healthy behaviors; creating democratic communities; and gender interactions. The topics for 3 p.m. sessions are self-marketing; self-defense; a discussion of current women’s issues; and a discussion of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

The fifth annual equaliTEA event will be held at 4 p.m. Dr. Teresa Collard, associate professor of communications, and Dr. Lisa LeBleu, professor of family and consumer sciences, will present “Febb Burn and Suffrage Songs: A Fictionalized Historical Performance” during high tea with scones, sandwiches and dessert served.

The equaliTEA event is $10 for community members, but the symposium sessions are free. UT M faculty, staff and students may attend all events free of charge. Participants may choose to attend all or part of the day’s events. The symposium is limited to 150 participants, and the equaliTEA is limited to 100 participants. Advance registration is required by March 19.

For more information or a registration form, contact the UTM Women’s Center at womenscenter@utm.edu or Collard at tcollard@utm.edu.
INNOVATION — Kristen Welch, Shelby Johnson and the rest of the McWherter Innovators are hosting a special event March 26 called “Igniting Innovators.”

Rodeo pageant rescheduled
The 10th annual Miss UTM Rodeo pageant will be held April 4 at Watkins Auditorium in the University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The pageant was rescheduled because of inclement weather.

Doors open at noon and registration is at the door only.
Age groups are as follows: birth to 12 months at 1 p.m., 1-3 years at 1:30, 4-6 years at 2, 7-9 years at 2:30, 10-12 years at 3, 13-15 years at 3:30 and 16-20 years at 4.

The pageant is open to any girl who has not previously won her age division. The 16-20-year-old winner is required to be at all rodeo week activities.

The registration fee is $25 for beauty only, with additional categories available for an additional fee.

For more information, contact Beth Weldon at (731) 225-1227.

Inspire, motivate, challenge:
‘Igniting Innovators’ event scheduled for March 26

By CLAY SMITH
Special to The Press
The McWherter Innovators, ambassadors of the Ned McWherter Institute for Collaboration and Innovation, will be host an event called “Igniting Innovators” on March 26 at 7 p.m. at the Student Life Center in Martin.

The three part event will feature an Inspire section featuring motivational speaker Lisa Smartt. Smartt lives in Dresden and speaks around the country, helping people learn how to laugh and learn from their mistakes, and to learn to embrace failure on the road to success. Smartt will also have a book signing at the end of the event.

The Celebrate portion of the event will feature videos of successful local businesses. After the videos are shown, Martin Mayor Randy Brundige will be awarding one of the businesses as “Innovator of the Year.”

The final portion of the event, Challenge, will be a meet and greet between students, people of the community, and members of the Martin Business Association.

“Challenge is an opportunity for students and local business people to all come together, collaborate, network, and find people who share similar goals, to help all parties succeed in what they’re trying to accomplish,” say Kristen Welch, a sophomore Heath & Human Performance; Hippotherapy major. Kristen helped organize the event and is part of the second group of McWherter Innovators, which is the latest round of students in the Institute.

“I think a lot of people think, ‘I’ve always had this idea, but I don’t know to go about getting it out there,’” says Shelby Johnson, a sophomore Theatre major who also helped organize the event. “We’re trying to give them an outlet and put them in contact with people who can help students make their ideas a reality.”

Among those attending will be members of the Martin Business Association and the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneurial Center. The event is free to the public; finger foods and the famous “pineapple punch” will be provided. Business professional dress attire is preferred.
UT Martin to highlight faculty talent in spring musicale

Faculty members from UT Martin’s Department of Music will demonstrate their abilities in a faculty recital at 12:15 p.m. Monday in the Blankenship Recital Hall.

Faculty members will perform four pieces with a combination of vocal and instrumental components. Alessandro Scarlatti’s piece “7 Arie con Tromba Sola” will be performed by Dr. Amy Yeung, professor, soprano vocalist; Dr. John Oelrich, assistant professor, trumpet; and Delana Easley, lecturer, piano. “In a Deep Funk” by composer Danuel Dorff will be performed by Dr. Elizabeth Aleksander, assistant professor, bass clarinet. Yeung; Dr. Charles Lewis, adjunct instructor, flute; and Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor, piano; will present Handel’s composition “L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato, HWV 55,” and Dr. Douglas Owens, assistant professor, baritone saxophone; and Easley will perform Garland Anderson’s piece “Sonata for Baritone Saxophone and Piano, op.6.”

This recital is free and open to the public.

UT Martin spring preview day is Saturday

High school students and their parents are invited to attend UT Martin’s annual spring preview day from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday in the Boling University Center.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. outside Watkins Auditorium, followed by campus tours at 11 a.m. and an academic fair at noon. Students will be able to learn about the different departments and majors within each of UT Martin’s five colleges. Current students and faculty members will be on hand to answer questions about class choices, campus life and other aspects of the college transition.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 881-7020.

Sign your child up for LEGO camp

Children from ages six to 13 are invited to participate in LEGO camps at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Jackson Center. Remaining camps will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., April 18 and May 16.

Students will build and explore machines and mechanisms, investigate motorized machines, calibrate and capture wind, and study gearing mechanisms. Hands-on activities will allow children to interact with technology, science, engineering and mathematics. Students will have fun with problem solving, predictions, model design, renewable energy sources, and energy consumption.

Children will work in teams of two or three students. The fee is $40 per camp.

For more information or to register, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082, or online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
UTM's Schroyer named Coach of the Year finalist

By Justin Walters
By jwalters@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Mar 23, 2015 at 3:30 PM CDT
(Story Updated: Mar 23, 2015 at 8:27 PM CDT)

MARTIN, Tenn - University of Tennessee at Martin men's head basketball coach Heath Schroyer is being recognized as one of the best.

The first-year coach was named one of 16 finalists for the 2015 Hugh Durham National Coach of the Year Award on Monday.

The annual honor spotlights the nation's top mid-major coach.

Schroyer took over an eight-win team and guided the Skyhawks to 20 wins this season for just the sixth time in program history.

Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant set for April 4th

Posted on March 24, 2015 by Steve James in Local News

The 10th Annual Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant will be held next Saturday, after being rescheduled from last month due to the winter weather.

Age groups include, birth to 12 months, one to three years, four to six years, seven to nine years, 10 to 12 years, 13 to 15 years, and 16 to 20 years.

The pageant is open to any girl who has not previously won her age division. The 16 to 20-year-old winner is required to be at all rodeo week activities.

The registration fee is $25 dollars for the beauty category only, with additional categories requiring an additional fee.
LIBRARY BOOK AWARD — Dr. Nathan Howard, associate professor, Department of History and Philosophy, was recently awarded the 2014 Friends of Paul Meek Library Book Award. Faculty members at the University of Tennessee at Martin are asked to submit proposals each fall to suggest how the campus library could improve its collection in a certain area. Howard’s proposal encouraged the expansion of the library’s late antiquity selection, which is a new field based on anthropology, literature, history, classics and theology. The Friends of the Paul Meek Library group offers up to $1,200 of the proceeds from the annual homecoming book sale to fund the new purchases suggested by the winning faculty member. The materials requested by Howard are currently on display in the library’s leisure reading area. Pictured are (from left) Georgia Baskett, librarian and Friends member; Dr. Harriette Spiegel, Friends treasurer; Howard; Dr. Charles Julian, library director; and Dr. Lynn Alexander, professor and dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

LCD Faculty Trio to perform Sunday at UT Martin

The LCD Faculty Woodwind Trio will present a free concert at 3 p.m. on March 29 in the Blankenship Recital Hall of UT Martin’s Fine Arts Building.

The trio was formed by Dr. Elizabeth Aleksander, assistant professor of music (clarinet); Charles Lewis, lecturer of music (flute); and Dr. Douglas Owens, assistant professor of music (oboe, saxophone and bassoon), to present woodwind performances both on and off-campus.

The trio will perform “Tarantella” by Whitney Tustin, “Trio, op. 46” by Michael Kibbe, “Threesome for Woodwind Trio” by Gwyneth Walker, “Dévorsissement, op. 45” by Aubert Lemel and, “Trio” by Paul Harvey, Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, will play piano accompaniment for “Quartet,” by Bill Douglas – a piece commissioned by a consortium including Owens and Harriss.

The performance is free and open to the public.

Academic Speaker Series:
Dr. Pamela Thomas to speak on issues of soil and society

Dr. Pamela Thomas, associate director in the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Services soil science division, will speak as part of UT Martin’s Academic Speaker Series on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Thomas will give a presentation titled “International Year of Soils: Issues of Soil and Society.” Before beginning her current position in 2014, Thomas was a soil scientist with the Virginia Tech Soil Survey Program in the tidewater area, and later served as coordinator of the Virginia Tech soil survey laboratories.

Thomas has also held positions in state offices in Virginia and South Carolina, serving as a soil scientist in those areas. Her research focuses on soil genesis and interpretation.

“This year being the International Year of Soils, and agriculture being such a vital part of our society, it makes sense to bring someone with a high level of expertise to discuss those issues,” said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of UT Martin honors programs.

Thomas holds three degrees from Virginia Tech: a Bachelor of Science in agronomy-soil science, a Master of Science in agronomy-soil mapping and interpretation, and a doctorate in soil genesis, mineralogy and interpretation.

Her lecture is sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs and is free and open to the public.
Beginner Excel class offered

A beginner training class for those interested in learning the basics of Excel, a Microsoft spreadsheet application, is being offered by The Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at UT Martin’s REED Center.

The beginner course will be held April 9 from 9 -11 a.m. at the REED Center at 406 S. Lindell St. in Martin.

Participants will learn the basics of Microsoft Excel 2010, including Ribbon interface, formula creation and chart and graph generation. Computers with Excel software will be provided.

The seminar is free and open to the public. To reserve your spot, contact Landy Fuqua at the REED Center at 587-7333 or by email at reed@utm.edu. The class is limited to the first 10 participants.

McClure to serve internship with USDA

Maryanna McClure, a University of Tennessee at Martin junior from Dyersburg, has been selected to complete one of six prestigious summer internships with the United States Meat Animal Research Center, run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. McClure, an animal science major, will be working on the facility’s 35,000-acre farm in Clay Center, Neb.

“This internship is a great opportunity for me to learn and prepare for a career in animal science,” said McClure. “I am very excited to see what will result from it.”
UT Martin's Women's Symposium Features Keynote on Breast Cancer Awareness

By KATE LOCHTE (VOX-UP/EDUCATION) & MATT RANKGRAF (NEWS/SPORTS)

"I think that as a society, we really do need to continue to encourage women to get that routine mammogram, those routine screenings," says Dr. Victoria Seng, University of Tennessee at Martin's Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, citing frightening statistics about breast cancer: every three minutes, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, the leading cause of cancer among white and black women. 85% of women with breast cancer have no known family history, as was the case with her experience, she says. Dr. Seng joins Kate Lochte on Sounds Good to share her story ahead of her keynote speech at UT Martin's 4th Annual Women's Symposium Tuesday from noon to 4 p.m.

Dr. Victoria Seng's story begins with a routine mammogram in August 2006. She had one the previous year that came back with normal results, but this time they saw something that gave them concern. She went in for a second one and after that, contacted a surgeon and set up a biopsy. When you hear the word 'cancer,' she says, you can get tunnel vision - a very true thing that happens. Later, she had a surgery for a simple mastectomy. After this, chemo therapy for the next five years. "When he gave me the diagnosis, the first word he said was 'infiltrating.' I am a nursing professor also, so I knew immediately that meant not only did I have cancer, it was spreading. So I'm very fortunate that I did have that routine mammogram and that we did pick it up that quickly. And I'm now an eight year survivor."

Despite self-examination, neither her nor the surgeon could feel the lump, she says. It was small, but spreading. In her teaching, she felt the need to change many of her notes for class, particularly related to cancer treatments and what the patients are experiencing. She says we don't think about a mastectomy being similar to the amputation of a leg. For years she taught about phantom pain to her students, but discovered that the same thing occurs when you remove a breast through mastectomy. She felt this was important for her to make sure students understood. She also felt that instances of men getting breast cancer is generally neglected. "It's important not only for women to do self-breast exam, but also for men, because we are seeing an increase in the cases of breast cancer among men. It is not strictly a female disease," she says.

Dr. Seng says resources in the geographical area for support regarding wig and prosthesis were adequately available. She says the person who fitted her wig did a great job finding one that matched her hair. For the prosthetic, she says the people trained to fit for this are "remarkable" and respectful of privacy and understanding of the change in body image. She says it was helpful to work with someone who has that understanding.
UT-Martin pitcher unfazed by disability

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Rick Robinson was settling into his new job as the baseball coach at Tennessee-Martin, moving some things around his office when he came across a few articles that had been written about the previous year’s team.

He made a somewhat startling discovery: His best returning pitcher had just one hand.

Now, Carter Smith is turning into one of the best pitchers in the Ohio Valley Conference. The 6-foot-2 left-handed senior has been solid as a weekend starter for the Skyhawks, leading the conference with a 2.03 ERA in 31 innings while striking out 29.

Most gratifying for Smith is he’s being looked at as a good college pitcher instead of a curiosity.

“It’s great that it’s a good story, but what I really wanted is to have success at this level,” Smith said. “It’s just working hard, staying persistent and being willing to put the time in to get better.”

The 22-year-old from Parkway West High School in St. Louis was born without a right hand, but that didn’t stop him from grabbing a ball and glove as a youngster to play catch with his five siblings. He learned how to throw and catch through trial and error, slowly perfecting the technique that would allow him to have success at the Division I level.

When he pitches, he throws with his left hand while balancing the glove on right forearm. After he lets go of a pitch he quickly slips his left hand into the glove so that he can field a potential line drive, bunt or hard grounder. If he catches the ball, he pulls the glove off with his right arm, lets the ball fall into his left hand and gets in position to throw again.

It sounds difficult, but Robinson said Smith does it so seamlessly that it’s barely noticeable.

“Honestly, I’d rather have him on the mound fielding a bunt in pressure situations than anyone else,” Robinson said. “He’s so smooth with it.”

Smith’s system is similar to that of former Major League Baseball pitcher Jim Abbott, who was also born without a right hand. He played 10 seasons in the big leagues, winning 87 games and even throwing a no-hitter.

Smith said his dad took him to Busch Stadium to watch Abbott pitch in the 1990s and it helped reinforce that having only one hand didn’t have to stop him from playing baseball.

Abbott, now 47 and living in California, said he was excited to learn about Smith’s success on the mound. He also can relate to one of Smith’s biggest goals: Wanting to be known as a good pitcher instead of the guy who plays with one hand.

“When you grow up missing a hand, you know what it’s like to want to fit in and want to be a part of something,” Abbott
said. "Being a good teammate means not always wanting to call attention to yourself, so I know the battle he's going through."

There have been a few adjustments in college — like learning to hide the ball a little better during his windup and delivery so batters can't pick up the pitch from his grip — but for the most part his system has stayed the same since he was 6 years old.

Robinson said Smith keeps opposing batters off-balance despite a fastball that tops out between 86 to 88 miles per hour. He relies on good command, a slider and a deceptive change-up.

"Not only is he a really good pitcher for us, but he brings the love of baseball to the field every day," Robinson said. "We have yet to find anything he can't do."

Like most playing Division I college baseball, Smith hopes his career can continue at the professional level next year. But if it doesn't, he's well prepared. He's majoring in sport management and has made the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll the past three seasons.

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The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, March 25, 2015

**UT Martin to host percussion class**

Dr. Chad Floyd, associate professor of percussion at Campbellsville University, will present a master class in drum set performance titled "Per-SEE-ve Your Music, Foreseeing Is Believing" at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Percussion Rehearsal Hall at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Floyd will lead a discussion on the importance of perception from the perspective of both a performer and an audience member. He will focus on the fundamental concepts of soloing devices, ideas and coordination.

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate various concepts learned during the presentation.

Floyd will also perform a full drum set solo to conclude the presentation.

Floyd is an artist and clinician for Grover Pro Percussion, Innovative Percussion Inc., Pearl/Adams Musical Instruments and Remo Inc. His work can be viewed at www.chadfloyd.com.

The master class is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, at (731) 881-7418 or by email jhill@utm.edu.

**Exhibit explores Freedom Summer**

A photographic exhibit titled "The Other Freedom Summer: An Exhibit of Nick Lawrence's Images of Fayette County, Tennessee, Voter Registration Drive, June-August 1964" is on display at the University of Tennessee at Martin's J. Houston Gordon Museum through May 31.

The museum is housed within the Paul Meek Library.

The 1964 Mississippi Summer Project, also known as the Freedom Summer, is well-known in historical contexts. However, another voter registration campaign was held that same year in Fayette County.

This photographic exhibit chronicles that event, when dozens of students from Cornell University traveled through Fayette County to encourage minority adults to register to vote in the upcoming election. That year, more than 68 percent of Fayette County's population was black, but the majority accounted for less than 7 percent of registered voters.

One of the participants was recent college graduate Nick Lawrence, a photographer from Cornell University.

Lawrence documented the lives and daily routines of the citizens he encountered. Thirty-five of his images are included in the exhibit, documenting the hard-working rural poor and their resolve to advance their right to vote.

For more information, contact Samuel Richardson, chief archivist and museum curator, or Karen Elmore, senior library assistant of special collections, at (731) 881-7094 or online at www.utm.edu/library.php.
UTM students volunteer with Good Samaritan Center

Posted on March 25, 2015 by Steve James in Local News

Joyce Washington, adjunct instructor, UT Martin Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems, speaks to a crowd of students interested in volunteer opportunities with the Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center in South Fulton. Students will be providing a variety of services for the center, including marketing, fundraising and public relations planning.

MARTIN, Tenn. – Twenty students from the University of Tennessee at Martin have partnered with the Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center in South Fulton to provide a variety of services not otherwise available to the all-volunteer establishment.

Students will be working with the center to develop fundraising strategy and create print materials and presentations to solicit financial donors and additional involvement from area medical providers. Students will also be providing the center with marketing and branding support, as well as public relations materials.

“I am excited to be working with a very capable team to get the word out about the Good Samaritan and to encourage people to get involved,” said Janie Peery, a freshman public relations student from Fayetteville. “It’s an awesome task but definitely worthwhile.” Peery is one of the project’s two student team leaders.

“The Good Samaritan is doing incredible work already and our goal is just to make sure they get the support they need, as well as bring awareness to this wonderful clinic,” said Sara Palmer, a senior international studies major from Brentwood. “The university has many talented and driven students who are really pushing this forward and I know we will bring great things to this clinic.” Palmer leads the second student volunteer team.

The Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center is a Christian-based ministry providing primary medical care to the working uninsured in Weakley and Obion counties in Tennessee and Fulton and Hickman counties in Kentucky. The center has no paid staff and all health-care providers offer their services free of charge.

“Health care is critical to the future of any community. It is at the core of success for the population of the community, from students to the workforce,” said Joyce Washington, adjunct instructor, UT Martin Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems. “Good Samaritan’s work is about providing access to wellness and health care for those who otherwise couldn’t afford it.” Washington is overseeing the student volunteer efforts.
One-handed UT Martin pitcher excels

David Brandt, Associated Press  5:20 p.m. CDT March 25, 2015

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“It’s great that it’s a good story, but what I really wanted is to have success at this level,” Smith said. “It’s just working hard, staying persistent and being willing to put the time in to get better.”

The 22-year-old from St. Louis was born without a right hand, but that didn’t stop him from grabbing a ball and glove as a youngster to play catch with his five siblings. He learned how to throw and catch through trial and error, slowly perfecting the technique that would allow him to have success at the Division I level.

When he pitches, he throws with his left hand while balancing the glove on his right forearm. After he lets go of a pitch, he quickly slips his left hand into the glove so that he can field a potential line drive, bunt or hard grounder. If he catches the ball, he pulls the glove off with his right arm, lets the ball fall into his left hand and gets in position to throw again.

It sounds difficult, but Robinson said Smith does it so seamlessly that it’s barely noticeable.

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Smith’s system is similar to that of former major league pitcher Jim Abbott, who also was born without a right hand. Abbott played 10 seasons in the big leagues, winning 87 games and even throwing a no-hitter.

Smith said his dad took him to Busch Stadium to watch Abbott pitch in the 1990s and it helped reinforce that having only one hand didn’t have to stop him from playing baseball.

Abbott, now 47 and living in California, said he was excited to learn about Smith’s success on the mound. He also can relate to one of Smith’s biggest goals: Wanting to be known as a good pitcher instead of the guy who plays with one hand.

“When you grow up missing a hand, you know what it’s like to want to fit in and want to be a part of something,” Abbott said. “Being a good teammate means not always wanting to call attention to yourself, so I know the battle he’s going through. I’m proud that he feels that way.”

Smith said he’s tried to never let one hand affect what he can or can’t do in athletics. He even played basketball as a freshman and sophomore in high school before deciding to concentrate on baseball.

There have been a few adjustments in college — like learning to hide the ball a little better during his windup and delivery so batters can’t pick up the pitch from his grip — but for the most part his system has stayed the same since he was 6 years old.

He said teams have tried to lay down a few early bunts to see if he can field his position, but after a couple outs, they try a different strategy.

“It’s never bothered me,” Smith said. “I just look at it as a free out.”

Smith was voted a team captain during the offseason and has validated his teammates’ decision with great performances.

Robinson said Smith keeps opposing batters off-balance despite a fastball that tops out from 86 to 88 mph. Instead of pure velocity, he relies on good command, a slider and a deceptive change-up.
Not only is he a really good pitcher for us, but he brings the love of baseball to the field every day," Robinson said. "We have yet to find anything he can't do. When you watch him handle himself on the mound, it's pretty incredible."

Like most playing Division I college baseball, Smith hopes his career can continue at the professional level next year. But if it doesn't, he's well prepared. He's majoring in sport management and has made the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll the past three seasons.

"I'd love to stay on the field playing, but maybe someday I'd like to get into the front office," Smith said. "I definitely want to stay around the game no matter what happens."

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Small Business Boot Camp offered

A four-week small business boot camp for aspiring entrepreneurs and new small business owners will be offered from 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday in April at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. Course participation is $25 per person.

Registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis up until the first session. For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin REED Center at 731-587-7333 or register online at www.tsbdc.org/training.

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Graves named to National Society of Leadership and Success

Randal Hugh Graves is the son of the late Rickie Hugh Graves and Anita Hooper Graves. Randal has been attending UT Martin and has received the JASSO Scholarship. He has been teaching English to students while attending classes in Hirosaki, Japan. Randal has completed one semester in Japan and will begin his second semester in April. His GPA is 3.90 and he has been selected to join the University of Tennessee at Martin's chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi. This is a nationally recognized achievement of honorable distinction based on academic accomplishment, leadership potential and nomination from the campus faculty.
McNairy County student receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

by Norma Coalter
UT-M University Relations

A McNairy County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement.

Megan E. Thomas, daughter of Kevin and Tammy Thomas, of Adamsville, will be a freshman. She received the Dean's Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

Dr. Pamela Thomas to speak on issues of soil and society

Pamela Thomas, associate director in the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Services soil science division, will speak as part of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Academic Speaker Series at 7:30 p.m. today at the Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Thomas will give a presentation titled International Year of Soils: Issues of Soil and Society. Before beginning her current position, Thomas was a soil scientist with the Virginia Tech Soil Survey Program in the tidewater area, and later served as coordinator of the Virginia Tech soil survey laboratories.

Thomas has also held positions in state offices in Virginia and South Carolina, serving as a soil scientist in those areas.

Her research focuses on soil genesis and interpretation.

"This year being the International Year of Soils, and agriculture being such a vital part of our society, it makes sense to bring someone with a high level of expertise to discuss those issues," said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of UT Martin Honors Programs.

Thomas holds three degrees from Virginia Tech: a Bachelor of Science in agronomy-soil science, a Master of Science in agronomy-soil mapping and interpretation, and a doctorate in soil genesis, mineralogy and interpretation.

Her lecture is free to attend, and is open to the public. For more information, contact Lionel Crews at (731) 881-7436 or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.
Charley Deal, executive director of WestStar Leadership program, opens the West Tennessee Small Business Conference on Tuesday morning at First United Methodist Church in Jackson.

Small-business conference attracts regional crowd

Randy McKinnon, president of TLM Associates Inc., saw value in attending the West Tennessee Small Business Conference seminar, Growing Your Small Business in Small Town America, at First United Methodist Church on Tuesday.

"The speakers were very talented," McKinnon said. "When they spoke about negotiating, marketing and sales, all of those things apply, regardless if you are selling books or engineering services."

Michael Angelo Caruso was the keynote speaker, and completed his day pinch hitting for scheduled luncheon speaker Ernest Gibson, a corporate executive with Chick-fil-A.

Gibson was originally scheduled to speak at the conference Feb. 19, but inclement weather canceled the event.

"I like it when people come together, and the session is interactive," Caruso said. "It's a better day when people are speaking."

A communication consultant from Detroit, Caruso began his day with his message titled, Effective Leadership — Getting People to do Stuff, and less than three hours later, it was Be a Win-

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Business
Continued from Page A1

Ron Acree, director of the Small Business Development Center, said the goal of the conference was to incorporate all of West Tennessee.

"That was our whole purpose," Acree said. "It's not just about Jackson and Madison County, it's about all of West Tennessee, and we're going to try to do this once a year."

Austin Baker, president and chairman of the board for Human Resource Consulting Partners in Memphis, spoke about Business Plans/Strategic Planning.

"I speak at a lot of events, and this was really great," Baker said. "You have really good camaraderie here that you do not always have in larger markets."

Baker joined Union City's Chuck Doss of INCO Irrigation Systems; Cheri Childress, an entrepreneur and business owner from Milan; Jackson's Mike Davis, president of Mid-South Business Construction; and Brad Davis, the project manager for MSB, during a question and answer session moderated by Cary Vaughn, CEO of Love Worth Finding Ministries.

Discussion centered around millennials (ages 18 to 34).

"How do we engage the millennials better?" Vaughn said. "How do we maximize technology with the millennials?" They are young, gifted and talented. They have fire in their belly, but how do we steer that in the right direction?"

Vaughn believes one solution is a happy medium, and mentioned a friend of his who, at age 21, is an alderman in Shelby County.

"He brings a lot of value to the table, but I think you have to earn your way," Vaughn said. "There has to be a lot of give and take. I look back, and I remember when (San Francisco 49ers quarterback) Steve Young stood on sidelines for years, waiting."

Vaughn said when starting quarterback Joe Montana was traded to Kansas City, Young took advantage of the opportunity he was looking for.

"(Young) was number one at being number two," Vaughn said. "Of course ... you take Mark Zuckerberg. He could say if he waited his time, there would be no Facebook. He would probably say, don't wait—seize the moment."

Joel Newman, director of the West Tennessee Resource Center, and small business specialist, said the conference accomplished two things.

"It certainly reinforces the very things I teach, and it introduced me to new aspects ... looking at new creative ways from a different angle. I've been in business for 56 years, and as long as I've been doing this, you're never too old to learn something new."

Newman said West-Star, a network of community leaders, acted as the administrative arm of the program.

"We all wanted this to happen, and the import thing is, we made it happen," Newman said. "With Michael (Angelo Caruso) coming in, it set a precedent for next year. If not done right the first time, you lose momentum and enthusiasm. We did it right, we did it well, and the future looks bright for making this an annual conference."

People listen and take notes on tips on workplace development Tuesday while guest speaker Michael Caruso shares his knowledge at the West Tennessee Small Business Conference at First United Methodist Church.

Reach David Thomas at (731) 425-9637. Follow him on Twitter @dgthomasbiz.

Michael Angelo Caruso, a professional consultant, speaks at the West Tennessee Small Business Conference.
Skyhawks pitching ace wins with just one hand

MARTIN (AP) — Rick Robinson was settling into his new job as the baseball coach at Tennessee-Martin, moving some things around his office when he came across a few articles that had been written about the previous year's team. He made a somewhat startling discovery: His best returning pitcher had just one hand.

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"It's great that it's a good story, but what I really wanted is to have success at this level," Smith said. "It's just working hard, staying persistent and being willing to put the time in to get better."

The 22-year-old from St. Louis was born without a right hand, but that didn't stop him from grabbing a ball and glove as a youngster to play catch with his five siblings. He learned how to throw and catch through trial and error, slowly perfecting the technique that would allow him to have success at the Division I level.

Tennessee-Martin pitcher Carter Smith throws a bullpen session before the team's game against Saint Louis March 18 in St. Louis.

When he pitches, he throws with his left hand while balancing the glove on right forearm. After he lets go of a pitch he quickly slips his left hand into the glove so that he can field a potential line drive, bunt or hard grounder. If he catches the ball, he pulls the glove off with his right arm, lets the ball fall into his left hand and gets in position to throw again.

It sounds difficult, but Robinson said Smith does it so seamlessly that it's barely noticeable.

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Smith's system is similar to that of former Major League Baseball pitcher Jim Abbott, who was also born without a right hand. He played 10 seasons in the big leagues, winning 87 games and even throwing a no-hitter.

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Coordinator Speaks To UT Martin Students

XAVIER LAWRENCE ANDREWS, left rear, coordinator of the Anti-Drug Coalition of Lauderdale County, gave a presentation March 23rd to the "Drugs And Behavior" class at the UT Martin Ripley Center on March 23, 2015. The presentation included new drug trends among the youth such as "Molly" a synthetic drug that has not been tested and is produced in widely varying strengths. A lab-created chemical mimics the effects of MDMA; most of them are central nervous system stimulants that causes euphoric highs. The drugs can also cause a rapid heartbeat, high blood pressure, blood vessel constriction and sweating, and can prevent the body from regulating temperature. Some of the chemicals have been reported to cause intense, prolonged panic attacks, psychosis and seizures after they wear off. The chemicals can also cause devastating depression. Several of these compounds have caused deaths. Mrs. Lisa Kent, in front, right, is the instructor of the class at the Ripley Center. The next coalition meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, March 26th at the UTM Ripley Center. The public is invited. For more information, contact Andrews, PAL Coordinator, at (731)-612-6337 or email xandrews@utm.edu.
Smith, UT Martin's 1-handed pitcher, not just a curiosity

22-year-old has perfected his technique to star for Skyhawks

David Brandt
Associated Press

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See SMITH, Page D4

Tennessee-Martin pitcher Carter Smith, born without a right hand, has 29 strikeouts in 31 innings and leads the conference with a 2.03 ERA.
Smith

Continued from Page D1

glove off with his right arm, lets the ball fall into his left hand and gets in position to throw again.

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Community Music Academy offers affordable private lesson

The Community Music Academy, sponsored by UT Martin’s Department of Music, offers affordable voice and instrumental music lessons for all ages.

Participants may choose to receive instruction from apprentice teachers (select, accomplished music students) or master teachers (UT Martin faculty members). Lessons with an apprentice teacher are $15 for a half-hour and $25 for a full hour. Lessons with a master teacher are $25 for a half-hour and $40 for a full hour.

Lessons are available in voice, guitar, upright or electric bass, percussion, woodwinds and brass instruments. The Community Music Academy provides an opportunity for private instruction as students prepare for All-West auditions, solo and ensemble contests, and college auditions. All participants are welcome, regardless of age or experience level. All lessons are taught in the Fine Arts Building, located at 16 Mt. Pelia Road on the northwest corner of the UT Martin campus.

Enrollment is ongoing. For more information or to enroll, visit www.utm.edu/communitymusic or email communitymusic@utm.edu. The academy can also be found on Facebook under “UTM community music academy.”

Cultural cuisine to be featured Monday

The 40th annual International Café will showcase authentic cuisine from around the world, prepared by international students at UT Martin. The café will take place from noon-1:30 p.m. Monday in the Duncan Ballroom.

“We expect to have booths set up featuring dishes courtesy of the German, Japanese and Spanish clubs, as well as from Korean, Saudi Arabian and Thai students,” said Brandy Hudson, an instructor with International Programs and International Admissions.

Many students choose to wear traditional clothing and bring traditional items to demonstrate the culture of their homelands. This event is used as a fundraiser for several organizations and prices are set by the individual clubs.

West Tennessee Writing Project now accepting applications

The West Tennessee Writing Project is accepting applications for the 22nd Invitational Summer Institute, to be held on the UT Martin campus from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 1-11. A mandatory orientation will be held on May 9.

The institute is designed to help current teachers find innovative ways to meet standards, learn to apply differentiated instruction, give both teacher-driven and student-driven assessments, and develop critical thinking in students. Chosen applicants will participate in teaching demonstrations, discussions and readings, as well as afternoon writing workshops.

Twelve participants will be selected through an application and interview process. Teachers from all subject areas, grades K-12, are invited to apply. Applications must be received before April 27. All teachers will participate in 52 hours of professional development and will receive $2,500. The project will provide full room and board, as well as all travel and lodging associated with the institute.

Applications are available for download from www.utm.edu/wtp. Interested parties may also contact Dr. David Carithers, WTWP director and associate professor of English, at 881-7290 or by email at dcariethers@utm.edu.

UT Martin online MBA receives national rankings

UT Martin’s Online Master of Business Administration degree program has received national rankings from several sources, including U.S. News & World Report.

The program, which is geared toward the financial services industry and taught entirely online, is nationally ranked No. 13 by collegechoice.net, No. 14 by bestcollegereviews.org and No. 21 by onlinemba.com. The program is also ranked No. 15 in the South, No. 33 among public schools and No. 39 overall by onlinembareport.com.

This follows recognition in January by U.S. News and World Report, where the UT Martin program was tied for No. 18 for the best online MBA programs of 2015 and was the highest-ranked program in Tennessee. The program received the same ranking in the 2016 report, released earlier this month.

Rankings are calculated differently depending on the source, but common areas of consideration include student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training and student services and technology. Other factors considered include graduation and retention rates, applicant test scores, number of terminal degree faculty and student indebtedness.

“UT Martin’s Online MBA program is highly regarded and surprisingly affordable,” said Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs. “It is an excellent combination of quality and value.”

The UT Martin program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).
Frye to present concert series trombone recital

Dr. Joseph Frye, assistant professor of music at UT Martin, will present a public trombone concert Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Blankenship Recital Hall of the Fine Arts Building.

Frye’s recital will include music by Baroque composer Alessandra Besozzi, a concerto by Italian film composer Nino Rota, a transcription of Maurice Ravel’s “Piece en forme de Habanera,” and a contemporary piece for trombone and percussion by Norman Bolter. The program’s central piece is “I Was Like Wow!” by Dutch composer Jacob ter Veldhuis, which brings to life the stories of two wounded Iraq War veterans. The piece combines trombone, electronic sounds and video to convey the shock and horror felt by veterans Tyson Johnson and Sam Ross in response to the violence witnessed in Iraq.

Before accepting a faculty position at UT Martin, Frye traveled with Princess Cruise Lines and served as a trombonist in several orchestras, performing alongside artists including Joshua Bell, Marcus Belgrave, and the Four Freshmen. Frye also served 10 years in the 572nd Air National Guard Band of the Smoky Mountains, holding the rank of staff sergeant and playing the euphonium and both tenor and bass trombones.

Frye holds a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from the University of Tennessee and both Master of Music and Doctor of Music degrees from Florida State University. He has held teaching positions at public schools and universities in Tennessee, Florida, West Virginia and Texas.

The recital is free and open to the public.

Maryanna McClure, a UT Martin student to serve summer internship with USDA

Maryanna McClure, a junior from Dyersburg, has been selected to complete one of six prestigious summer internships with the United States Meat Animal Research Center, run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. McClure, an animal science major, will be working on the facility’s 35,000-acre farm in Clay Center, Neb.

"This internship is a great opportunity for me to learn and prepare for a career in animal science," McClure said. "I am very excited to see what will result from it."

McClure will be assigned to work alongside existing USDA employees to conduct research in one of six key areas - genetics, breeding and animal health, meat safety and quality, nutrition and environmental management, or reproduction.

According to the USDA, interns will be working “to develop scientific information and new technology to solve high-priority problems for the U.S. beef, swine and sheep industries.”

The internship runs from May to August and provides selected students not only with research and professional experience, but also with invaluable networking opportunities and resume material. "I will have the opportunity to work with animal science professionals that are world-renowned," McClure said. "This will allow me to increase my knowledge on a specific topic and make connections with forerunners in the industry."

This is not the first McWherter Institute for Collaboration and Innovation, which seeks to "uncover, maximize and empower the potential of passionate and motivated students," according to its mission statement.

"During my time as an intern, I have been challenged to be a better version of myself and think in an entrepreneurial way," she said. McClure traveled to New York City with the innovators this spring to practice navigating unfamiliar places and adapting to new cultures. The group will also journey to Japan this summer to "continue their quest for innovation world-wide."

In addition to her studies and her work as an innovator, McClure is also an active member of the Future Farmers of America and served as the West Tennessee State Vice President from 2012-2013. She began her FFA involvement in high school showing livestock and participating in parliamentary procedure, public speaking and livestock evaluation events.

"I was given the opportunity to interview with the president of the United States at the second annual White House Science Fair in 2012 as a result of winning the National FFA Agriscience Fair," said McClure. "Through this organization, I have made friends that will last a lifetime and have been challenged to strive for success. Every time I see a member sporting the famous blue jacket, I remember the lessons and memories made as an FFA member."
UT Martin student radio station, newspaper staff win at Southeast Journalism Conference

Staff members from UT Martin’s student-run radio station, WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” and campus newspaper, “The Pacer,” attended the Southeast Journalism Conference, Feb. 26-28, in Atlanta. WUTM was named the best college radio station in the South for 2014. This is the fifth time the station has won this award since 2007.

Students participated in on-site competitions in a variety of categories, including television and radio reporting, hard news and feature writing, and layout design. Ashleigh Burton, a junior from South Fulton, won first place in the radio news reporting competition, and Blake Stevens, a senior from Brighton, brought home second place for television news anchoring. Burton is the production director and Stevens is the news director for WUTM.

Students also submitted entries to the “Best of the South” competition in November 2014, the winners of which were announced during the conference banquet. The awards are listed below.

WUTM staff members:
• Best radio hard news reporter, first place: Tori Seng, a junior from Union City.
• Best radio news feature reporter, fifth place: Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge.

AWARDS — Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin campus radio station - WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk” – and student newspaper, “The Pacer,” staffs are pictured with their awards from the Southeast Journalism Conference, held Feb. 26-28 in Atlanta, Ga. Pictured are (front row, from left) Blake Stevens, a senior from Brighton; Sheila Scott, a senior from Kenton; (middle row) Ashleigh Burton, a junior from South Fulton; Lyndsey Hayslett, a junior from Union City; (back row) Chance Farmer, a senior from Union City; Toshya Leonard, a senior from Cordova; and Justin Glover, a sophomore from Hermitage. All the students are communications majors.

The newspaper also placed second in the best college website competition and eighth in both the best college magazine and best college newspaper categories.

“I am, as always, incredibly proud of the achievements of our students,” said Tomi Parrish, instructor of communications and coordinator of student publications. “The Pacer staff members don’t work for awards — they work to cover this campus and provide information to their peers and the community. Thus, it is wonderfully rewarding for them to receive the type of high-profile recognition earned through their annual success in the Southeast Journalism Conference competitions.”

This year’s competition included 533 entries representing 33 schools in eight states.

“I’m extremely proud of WUTM and The Pacer for the group and individual SEJC awards,” said Dr. Robert Nannya, professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Communications. “I’m proud of all the students and their faculty advisers, Dr. Richard Robinson and Tomi Parrish. These awards don’t just happen. They reflect a daily commitment to excellence, and that’s what pleases me the most.”
Morgan Miles serves as Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence at UTM

Dr. Morgan Miles has been hired as the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise at UT Martin. Miles is completing his first full semester with the university.

"Working at UT Martin and with the College of Business and Global Affairs has already been very rewarding. It is truly fantastic to teach at such a fine school," said Miles.

The purpose of the Hendrix Chair of Excellence is to enhance research and instructional capabilities within the College of Business and Global Affairs and to promote entrepreneurship within the UT System and the West Tennessee region.

Miles has taken a collaborative approach to the position, and has reached out to other campus departments to give students a broad view of how entrepreneurship affects other disciplines.

To this end, students from Miles' marketing management class have spent the semester researching market feasibility and creating commercialization plans for three products developed by senior engineering students. He is also working with the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences to integrate entrepreneurship into agricultural programs.

Miles works with the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center to give direct management assistance to local small businesses in addition to his on-campus duties.

"We are glad to welcome Dr. Miles to the business school and I am pleased to see his involvement within the college, across the campus and expanding into the local community," said Dr. Ross Dickens, professor and dean, College of Business and Global Affairs.

Before joining the UT Martin faculty, Miles served as a professor of enterprise development at the University of Tasmania - Australia.
1-handed Tennessee-Martin pitcher Smith excels

By David Braud [AP]
March 29, 2016, 12:04 am EDT

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Rick Robinson was settling into his new job as the baseball coach at the University of Tennessee-Martin, moving some things around his office when he came across a few articles that had been written about the previous year’s team.

He made a somewhat startling discovery: His best returning pitcher had just one hand.

Now, Carter Smith is turning into one of the best pitchers in the Ohio Valley Conference. The 188 centimeters left-handed senior has been solid as a weekend starter for the Skyhawks, leading the conference with a 2.03 ERA in 31 innings while striking out 29.

Most gratifying for Smith is he’s being looked at as a good college pitcher instead of a curiosity.

“It’s great that it’s a good story, but what I really wanted is to have success at this level,” Smith said. “It’s just working hard, staying persistent and being willing to put the time in to get better.”

The 22-year-old from St. Louis was born without a right hand, but that didn’t stop him from grabbing a ball and glove as a youngster to play catch with his five siblings. He learned how to throw and catch through trial and error, slowly perfecting the technique that would allow him to have success at the Division I level.

When he pitches, he throws with his left hand while balancing the glove on his right forearm. After he lets go of a pitch he quickly slips his left hand into the glove so that he can field a potential line drive, bunt or hard grounder. If he catches the ball, he pulls the glove off with his right arm, lets the ball fall into his left hand and gets in position to throw again.

It sounds difficult, but Robinson said Smith does it so seamlessly that it’s barely noticeable.

“Honestly, I’d rather have him on the mound fielding a bunt in pressure situations than anyone else,” Robinson said. “He’s so smooth with it.”

Smith’s system is similar to that of former Major League Baseball pitcher Jim Abbott, who was also born without a right hand. He played 10 seasons in the big leagues, winning 87 games and even throwing a no-hitter.

UTM’s Schroyer finalist for Hugh Durham Coach of the Year

Posted on March 28, 2015 by Steve James in Local Sports

UTM men’s basketball coach Heath Schroyer has been named a finalist for the 2015 Hugh Durham National Coach of the Year Award.

The award is presented annually to the nation’s top mid-major coach.

In his first season coaching the Skyhawks, Schroyer has guided UTM into the semi-finals of the Collegelnsider.com Tournament.

The Hugh Durham Coach of the Year Award winner will be announced at the CIT awards banquet on Friday, April 3rd.

Murray State head coach Steve Prohm is also a candidate for the award.
UT Martin students show off Baja vehicle
http://www.wbbjtv.com

By news admin
Story Created: Mar 28, 2015 at 9:25 PM CDT
(Story Updated: Mar 28, 2015 at 10:59 PM CDT)

JACKSON, Tenn. -- A unique vehicle rolled up to Motor Mania in Jackson Saturday, built by engineering students at UT Martin.

The Society of Automotive Engineers competes each year against schools across the country to have the best Baja vehicle.

The gas powered engine weighs in at about 400 pounds, and clocks up to 31 mph.

“We started in August with nothing but a blank computer screen and we went from blank to computer screens to raw materials, to our version of the mini-baja,” engineering student Steve Breazeale said.

The team is set to compete in April against more than 100 colleges and universities across the United States.

The Milan Mirror-Exchange, Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Gibson County students receive scholarships to UTM

MARTIN, Tenn. -- Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement.

Catherine Ing, of Milan, daughter of Kim Lawrence and Rusty Ing, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.

Summer Lindsey, daughter of Brad and Carol Oliver, of Milan, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.

Kayley Nicole Tyner, daughter of Andy and Tammie Tyner, of Trenton, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance by calling (731) 881-7040.

The Weakley County Press
Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Advanced digital photography course offered

UT Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer an advanced digital photography course from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesdays, April 7-28, at the Robert E. Lee Academy for the Arts in Paris.

This course in advanced digital photography is designed to follow-up the basic digital photography course, but is open to anyone familiar with digital camera operations and basic photography skills. Students will learn the advanced camera skills of a double single-lens reflex camera (also called a digital DSLR) and other digital cameras. Students will be encouraged to capture creative imaging techniques in landscape, wildlife, portrait and close-up photography. Exercises in both low-light and nighttime photography will be held. Roger Hughes, course instructor, will critique the images and provide feedback for each student.

Hughes is a retired special agent of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, criminal and drug investigation divisions. He studied fine art imaging at the University of Tennessee, Rocky Mountain School of Photography. Limited samples of his work can be viewed at www.nwtpe.org.

Each participant should bring a digital camera, operations manual and tripod. The registration fee is $125 per person.

For more information, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/undergraduate.php or call the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 881-7082.
LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON — Eighth District U.S. Rep. Stephen Fincher, 76th District State Rep. Andy Holt and Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum offered updates and addressed current issues during the Weakley County Legislative Luncheon on Friday in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. Ronnie Price, president and CEO of the Weakley County Economic Development Board, also spoke, and Tommy Moore, Weakley County general sessions judge, emceed the event. The Weakley County Economic Development Board, Weakley County Chamber of Commerce, Tennessee Small Business Development Center and the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center hosted the event, which is in its eighth year. Pictured before the luncheon were (from left) Chuck Thomas III, AT&T, luncheon sponsor; Ronnie Price; Barbara Virgin, executive director, Weakley County Chamber of Commerce; Stephen Fincher; Jake Bynum; and Landy Fuqua, director, UT Martin REED Center and Tennessee Small Business Development Center.
Weakley County Legislative Luncheon

By CLAY SMITH
Special to The Press

The 8th annual Weakley County Legislative Luncheon was held Friday in the Duncan Ballroom at the University of Tennessee at Martin. More than 100 members of the business and political communities of Weakley County were present, including mayors and state and national representatives.

Weakley County General Sessions Judge Tommy Moore began the luncheon with the Pledge of Allegiance and a bit of comic relief.

Next, Congressman Stephen Fincher took the podium to address the current economic state of the county and country.

"The problem with Washington, is that many times, both sides are getting it wrong," said Fincher. "The answers to our problems are simple: that we get back to the basics, the documents that our country were founded on, which are the Constitution and the Bible. Those are two critical parts of who we are as a nation and the fabric that holds us together."

Fincher also mentioned a lesson learned from speech called "It’s Not Yours to Give" by Davy Crockett, who also held the same representative seat as Fincher. "Whether you’re a Republican or Democrat, when you have the idea that somehow bureaucracy and government are more apt to do a better job than the private sector, you’re on the wrong path," he said. "If you want to get the United States, Tennessee and Weakley County back on top, you do it by incentivizing growth in the private sector."

State Rep. Andy Holt then took the podium to address economic and political issues at the state level.

The budget of any government, whether county, state or national should be balanced the same way you manage the budget of your household," said Holt. "Thankfully, in Tennessee right now, we are managing our budget well; we have the lowest debt per capita of any U.S. state, which is a really big accomplishment."

"I appreciate everyone here who’s being involved in this community," said Holt. "I think that the most important way we can cure the problems we have in the United States is to either get people involved because they want to be involved, or unfortunately, if government gets to the point where we simply have to get involved, either way; we need people involved."

Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum was also called upon to give the State of the County speech.

"Things are good, but when things are good and better is an option, good is just not enough," said Bynum. "It is our responsibility to insure that we’re striving every day to make Weakley County the best place in northwest Tennessee."

"We must continue to encourage our innovators and entrepreneurs to recognize the need, develop a solution and employ a workforce to insure that we have community partners, and contributing citizens," said Bynum. "We also must not only recognize a great idea, but we must also be willing to make sacrifices to implement a plan to make that idea a reality."

Finally, a short question and answer session was held with all of the speakers of the luncheon. One of the issues to be raised was the progress of I-69. Fincher addressed this issue.

"Interstate 69 will be revolutionary for this part of the country, however it’s going to cost about $1.8 billion dollars," said Fincher. "Funding is the problem, and we have to come up with a solution to raise more money. I don’t think raising the gas tax is the answer to finding that funding. We’re still looking at several solutions, but one possibility is implementing a tariff on foreign countries like Russia and Venezuela that are not operating by fair standards. We project that we could raise billions of dollars with this tariff."

After being rescheduled to Friday due to previous snow, the event was hosted by the Weakley County Economic Development board, Chamber of Commerce, UT Martin Small Business Development Center, and UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center.
Historic Downtown Martin gets a lesson in Japanese culture

By CAMILLE HALL
Special to The Press

Japanese Culture Day blossomed into a wonderful and fun filled event earlier this month. The event was located at the C.E. Weldon Library in Historic Downtown Martin. The library opened its doors for the free event and hosted about 150 students, adults and children.

The purpose of the event was to educate others about Japanese culture and life. The community got to see and learn firsthand from Japanese students who had just arrived three days before the event. These students from Takasaki City University of Economics hosted the event along with UT Martin student members of the Japanese Language and Culture Club and the Office of International Programs and Admissions.

Kyoko Hammond, the advisor, worked one-on-one with the students beforehand to plan the day and its events and communicated ideas with the Japanese students before their arrival. The goal was to make the day as authentic as possible.

The event consisted of learning your name in Japanese, a chopstick challenge, face painting, yo-yo balloon challenge, Japanese children’s games, mini language lesson, origami, calligraphy, Japanese folk tales, a photo booth and other traditional Japanese games and events. The Japanese students were shocked and excited at the huge event turnout. The students would not have seen such a large crowd for the same event in Japan. The students were accepted and appreciated by all the community members and were eager to share their stories and knowledge with everyone. In the past, the Japanese students have visited Martin Elementary and hosted similar events on campus. The reaction to diverse cultural events has always been great from the students, teachers and community.

There were 23 Japanese students – 14 women and 12 men – ranging from age 18 to 22. They have been taking intensive English courses at UT Martin, along with classes in economics and business for their major for the past three weeks. They only stay in Martin for three-week periods but have a packed schedule while here. The students have visited downtown businesses and events and gotten a taste of Martin life before returning home to Japan today. The short-term international study program occurs every fall and spring and allows new students a chance to study and experience Martin.

Hammond, a Japanese professor at UT Martin, is from Japan and started teaching in Martin in 2005. She is the main liaison between the Japanese students and UT Martin. The Japanese program at UT Martin has continued to increase in size and popularity since her arrival and is projected to grow.

“My Japanese language students here at UTM are genuinely interested in learning and increasing their knowledge,” Hammond said.

The Japanese program at UT Martin has helped lead to overseas jobs and careers for many students. Hammond helps students and locals bridge the cultural gap through shared interests and community events like Japanese Culture Day. The long-term goal is to have regular culture day events and increase short and long-term travel study exchanges through all of UT Martin’s language fields like German, French and Spanish. UT Martin recently celebrated its 30-year professional partnership with Japanese universities and continues to be a doorway for all international students. A simple culture day can make a big impact on a community and can truly be the root for future friendship and partnership.
PERFORMANCE — Students from the University of Tennessee at Martin dance ensemble will present their spring performance, “Language of the Soul,” at 8 p.m. April 9-10 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the main UT Martin campus. Pictured are students performing in the spring 2014 exhibition.

‘Language of Soul’ spring dance performance set for April 9-10

Students in the UT Martin K-12 dance education licensure program will present their spring ensemble performance, “Language of the Soul,” at 8 p.m. April 9-10 in the Fine Arts Building’s Harriet Fulton Theatre. Admission is $10 for adults and $5 for students. Children 12 years and younger are free.

This performance will feature new student choreography. Student choreographers include Leslie Howard, a senior from Saulsbury; Corey Smith, a senior from Dyersburg; Bria Evans, a senior from Antioch; Jenna York, a junior from Dickson; Erin Windham, a sophomore from Nolensville; Emily Summerville, a sophomore from Wingo, Ky.; D’Angelous Stevenson, a senior from Memphis; Ciera Fielding, a junior from Jackson; and Jayla Brown, a sophomore from Memphis.

Reshonda Batts, a senior from Memphis, and Fielding will perform new solo choreography created by Sarah McCormick, assistant professor of dance.

All the students are dance education majors except for Howard, who is a dance minor, and Summerville, who is earning a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies. The K-12 dance education licensure program is part of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

Tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information, contact McCormick at 881-7335 or by email at smmcormick@utm.edu.

INNOVATION — Lisa Smartt, writer, speaker, columnist and humorist from Dresden, presented the keynote address for the Ned Ray McWherter Institute for Collaboration and Innovation’s “Igniting Innovation” event Thursday at UT Martin’s Student Life Center. The event is designed to inspire the creation of new ideas and collaborations between West Tennessee businesses and new entrepreneurs. The event also provides networking opportunities for both UT Martin students and businesspeople.
WESTSTAR — The 2015 WestStar Leadership Program class traveled March 10-11 to Nashville for a session titled “Public Policy Issues: What is Happening in Tennessee?” The program was held at the Nashville City Center and featured state lawmakers and other prominent speakers. WestStar, created in 1989 at UT Martin, is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program, boasting 710 graduates. Pictured are (from left) Jimmy Eldridge of Jackson, state representative, District 73; Jordan Jones of Martin, WestStar administrative specialist; and Jim Luvene of Dyersburg, pastor of Hughlett, Lighthouse and Ross United Methodist Church in Dyersburg.

WESTSTAR — The 2015 WestStar Leadership Program class traveled March 10-11 to Nashville for a session titled “Public Policy Issues: What is Happening in Tennessee?” The program was held at the Nashville City Center and featured state lawmakers and other prominent speakers. WestStar, created in 1989 at UT Martin, is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program, boasting 710 graduates. Pictured are (from left) Kyle Lusby of Martin, staff pharmacist at Evans Drug Company in Fulton, Ky.; Dr. Lisa Piercey of Jackson, vice president of physician services for West Tennessee Healthcare; Nathan Smothers of Huntingdon, partner at Huntingdon Insurance Agency and S&S Insurance; and Blake Reynolds of Savannah, general manager for F&M Consulting, Inc.
WESTSTAR — The 2015 WestStar Leadership Program class traveled March 10-11 to Nashville for a session titled “Public Policy Issues: What is Happening in Tennessee?” The program was held at the Nashville City Center and featured state lawmakers and other prominent speakers. WestStar, created in 1989 at UT Martin, is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program, boasting 710 graduates. Pictured are (from left) Weakley County residents Andy Holt, state representative, District 76; Jason Sullivan, assistant athletic director for development at UT Martin; and Jake Bynum, mayor of Weakley County.

NEWEST MEMBER — Dr. Robert Smith, co-founder of the WestStar Leadership Program and president emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, was honored as the newest member of the Ned Ray McWherter Institute for Collaboration and Innovation board of directors at a meeting and banquet March 13. The institute is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin and seeks to foster a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship among UT Martin students and residents of Northwest Tennessee. Pictured are (from left) Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; Smith; and Andrea Loughry, board chair. Loughry is the president emeritus of Miller and Loughry Insurance and Services, Inc., and is a former UT Board of Trustees member and former chair of the UT Foundation board.
Gorman to give academic presentation at UT Martin

Dr. Hugh Gorman, professor of environmental history and policy at Michigan Technological University, will present a lecture titled “Welcome to the Anthropocene: A Social History of the Nitrogen Cycle and the Challenge of Sustainability” on April 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium.

Gorman is a historian and published author on historical interactions involving technological innovations, use of the environment and system of governance. He plans to use history to inform policy discussions triggered by technological change, especially change that alters human relationships with the environment. “Dr. Gorman has extensive experience studying and writing about the historical implications of technological innovations in our society,” said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of UT Martin honors programs. “These topics have of course played a vital role in our development as a world superpower and in the massive population growth of the last century.”

Weakley County students receive scholarships

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, interim executive director, student engagement.

- Alexis Cashion, daughter of Chris and Janice Cashion, of Dresden, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.
- Rachel Graves, daughter of Billy and Lavonda Graves, of Greenfield, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.
- Catherine Mathews, daughter of Jeff and Beth Mathews, of Sharon, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.
- Brianna Maya, daughter of Danny and Alicia Donaldson, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner Scholarship.
- James Rance Morris, son of Rusty and Angie Morris, of Gleason, will be a freshman. He received the Freshman Scholarship.
- Katelyn M. Sweatt, of Dresden, daughter of Bobby and Sarah King, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.
- Hilary Whitten, daughter of Todd and Tina Whitten, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Freshman Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling 881-7040.

Former Microsoft employee to speak at Phi Kappa Phi initiation April 7

The UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society will induct new members during a ceremony April 7 at 6 p.m. in the Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. Both junior and senior students, as well as graduate students and faculty, will be included.

The ceremony will be followed by a banquet at 6:30 p.m. in the Duncan Ballroom. Harold Duane Campbell, former Microsoft employee and UT Martin graduate, will speak on “My Life at UTM and Microsoft” during the banquet. He will also perform “Deuz Arabesques-l” by Claude Debussy.

Campbell is originally from Saulsbury. He graduated from UT Martin with a Bachelor of Arts in music in 1981 and later received a Master of Arts in mathematics, with a concentration in computer science, from Memphis State University in 1983.

Campbell worked for Microsoft from 1985-2013, where he held a variety of positions and spent most of his time working with Microsoft Word and Excel programs. He and his wife currently live in the Seattle, Wash. Area.

Both the induction ceremony and the banquet are open to the public. Tickets are $20 and may be purchased at the UT Martin information desk on the second floor of the Boling University Center through Thursday.

The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi is American’s oldest all-discipline collegiate honor society and awards its members more than $700,000 annually to finance further academic study.

For more information, contact Dr. Becky Cox, associate professor of education, by email at beckyc@utm.edu.