Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant rescheduled

November 2, 2016

by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

MARTIN, Tenn. — The combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant has been rescheduled. Previously scheduled for Nov. 5, the pageant now will be held Nov. 13, according to a release from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom.

You can read more about the pageant at the UT Martin website.

Pre-sale tickets will be available in the UT Martin Student Life Office on the second floor of the Boling University Center until the week of the show, according to the release. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door prior to the competition, but advance purchase is recommended.

The admission charge is $15 for the general public and $10 for UT Martin students with their university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID.

ACT prep course offered at UT Martin Ripley Center

High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Nov. 12, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center. Alex Beeke, course instructor, will prepare students for the test by working through each section and teaching time management. He will also address the most commonly missed questions and give advice on how to answer them correctly.

Beeke has mentored more than 1,000 students since 2013 who have been awarded a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships. Those who participate in his courses increase their test scores by an average of 3.4 points.

The registration fee for this course is $45 per person.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
UT-Martin Ripley Center sets ACT preparation course

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MCHS compete in West Tenn. Championship

The McNairy Central High School Marching Band received fifth place overall during the West Tennessee Marching Championships at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Oct. 22. UT Martin has hosted the contest, formerly known as the Skyhawk Marching Band Invitational, for the past 15 years. Drs. Jerald Ogg (left), UT Martin provost, and John Oelrich (right), UT Martin director of bands, presented McNairy Central High School's Claire Foret with the award. McNairy Central High School also received second place among double-A percussion sections and first place among double-A bands. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu/advantage.
History Channel Highlights Martin Veteran

Marine Capt. Brent L. Morel, 27, of Martin, Tenn., who was assigned to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif., was killed April 7, 2004, after being ambushed by hostile fire in Anbar Province near Fallujah, Iraq.

This Veteran’s Day, the History Channel will launch a series called “The Warfighters,” an episode of which will feature the insurgent attack in which Morel died defending his fellow Marines.

“He’s the toughest guy I ever knew,” said College friend Eric Wells.

Morel, an avid hunter, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1999 with a degree in history. He became a commissioned officer in the Marines the next week. Morel married Amy Mullins a week after that. “He became a different person when he married Amy,” Wells said. “He was totally dedicated to her. He knew a week after he met her that she was the one.”

Four episodes of the series will premier back-to-back beginning at 7 p.m. Central Time, Nov. 11, on the History Channel. Morel’s actions will be included in episode 112: “The Ambush of April 7th.” The series is composed of first-person accounts combined with cinematic sequences and real images and footage from actual Middle Eastern operations.

Morel, a Martin native and graduate of Bartlett High School, was part of a convoy on patrol near Fallujah when it drove into a trap. After the lead Humvee was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, Morel positioned his vehicle to protect his comrades. An RPG hit his Humvee as well, injuring no one but leaving his men in a dangerous position.

As company commander, Morel had to make a difficult decision in a matter of moments. In the end, he and several of his men ran across open terrain to confront the insurgents and, in the words of his men, “changed the momentum of the battle.” Morel was the only American killed in the assault.

For his actions, Morel posthumously received the Purple Heart and the Navy Cross, the second-highest military recognition after the Medal of Honor.

“The Warfighters,” directed by Peter Berg, aims to give viewers an inside look at the global war on terror by chronicling recent U.S. Special Operations Forces missions. Each hour-long episode highlights the courage, dedication and sacrifice of the Army Rangers, Green Berets, Marines and Navy SEALs in what is now the longest ongoing conflict in American history.

A commemorative bust of Morel was presented to UT Martin during the Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony in 2005, a year after his death, and stands guard in the Paul Meek Library to remind UT Martin students of the sacrifice made by one of their own. A plaque made in his honor also hangs in the meeting room of the Skyhawk Veteran’s Association.

Young Writers Conference Returns To UTM

The annual Young Writers Conference returns to the University of Tennessee at Martin on Nov. 18. The conference will be held from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Boling University Center and is open to students in grades 9-12. Registration materials and fees must be received by Nov. 11.

Participants can choose from workshops on a variety of topics including poetry, resume writing, songwriting, journaling, young adult novels and allegory. Each student will attend two workshops during the 9-10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. sessions with a luncheon following at 12:30 p.m. Students will also have an opportunity to share their work during an open-mic reading from 2-3 p.m.

Students must be recommended by a teacher on the basis of academic achievement and artistic promise in order to attend. Registration is limited to 200 participants on a first-come, first-served basis and costs $12 per student. The fee includes all workshops, readings and lunch. Teachers are encouraged, but not required, to attend with their students. The registration fee is $25 for teachers. Attending faculty can choose workshop sessions on classroom writing strategies, writing assessment and designing effective student writing workshops. Teachers recommending students are asked to follow their school’s policies in arranging for parent/guardian permissions.

Tiana Clark, winner of the 2016 Academy of American Poets Prize and author of the poetry chapbook “Equilibrium,” will serve as the 2016 conference keynote speaker.

Students and teachers can register online at utm.edu/departments/ecos/conference.php or by mailing registration materials to Young Writers Conference, Office of Educational Outreach, 110 Gooch Hall, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN, 38238. All checks should be made payable to UT Martin.

For more information or to receive registration materials, contact Dr. John Glass, UT Martin associate professor of English, at 731-881-7288 or by email at jglass@utm.edu.
Summitt Includes UTM In Estate Plans

The late Pat Head Summitt ('74) included the University of Tennessee at Martin in her estate plans with a $200,000 bequest to the women's basketball program. The gift, announced during the Chancellor's Brunch and Awards Program on Oct. 8, will establish the Pat Summitt Women's Basketball Endowment at UT Martin. Summitt played basketball under coach Nadine Gearin from 1970-74 before receiving her degree and accepting a coaching position with the Lady Volunteers at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She passed away June 16 at the age of 64. Pictured after the announcement are Bettye Giles, former UT Martin women's athletics director, and Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor.

University of Tennessee at Martin Locals Awarded Scholarships

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

Julie Marie Durham, of Dresden, daughter of Buford and Debbie Groth, is a sophomore. She received the David & Lisha Tuck Non-Traditional Scholarship.

Amanda Sue Mansfield, of Gleason, is a senior. She received the Center for Global Studies Scholarship. Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Miss UTM and Miss Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageants To Be Held

Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant officials announced today the 2017 Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant — one pageant, two crowns — will be held on Saturday, November 5 at 7 p.m. in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin Campus.

Executive Director Katrina Cobb said she is impressed with the caliber of this year’s contestants. “We are very pleased with the number of intelligent, ambitious and talented young women who have entered the competition to date,” Cobb said. “We encourage other qualified contestants — students and residents of West Tennessee — to register to participate before the October 24th deadline.”

Contestants will compete in five phases of competition, including personal interview, lifestyle and fitness, evening gown, talent and on-stage question. During the competition, each contestant will also discuss her chosen platform, a social or community issue of concern to herself and our society at large.

The winners of the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowns will receive up to $1500 in scholarship funds for her college or graduate school education. The winners will also receive a gift bag from local businesses valued at over $1000. Additional scholarship funds will be awarded along with Miss Congeniality and People’s Choice awards.

More information about participating in the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant is available at www.utm.edu/pageants or by contacting Cobb at pageants@utm.edu.

Youmans awarded UT Martin scholarship

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

Among the scholarship recipients is Logan Youmans, son of Michael and Ty Youmans of Humboldt. He is a junior and received the Alumni Transfer Scholarship. Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

Methodist in Negotiations to Partner with UT Martin Somerville

On October 26, 2016, Methodist Le Bonheur CEO William Kenley met with representatives from UT Martin and the Town of Somerville to discuss partnering with UT Martin Somerville to create redesigned nursing programs specifically designed to meet the needs of Methodist Hospital.

These programs will include one and two year Operating Room Technician and Nursing Assistant Certificates and a four year special Operating Room Nursing Degree. UT Martin will supply the educational portion of these programs and Methodist Hospital will provide the clinical portion.

Methodist would like to see more clinical experience as part of the curriculum for all of these expanded programs. There is an increasing need for trained medical technicians and nurses in the State of Tennessee, especially individuals capable of working in the operating rooms.

All of these programs would require students to have a high school diploma to be eligible. The one and two year programs would be perfect for individuals who want advanced education without having to go through the process of obtaining a four year degree and would enable them to get into the workforce sooner.

One representative of Methodist said in her opening remarks, "Methodist Hospital wants to do everything we can to support the UT Martin Somerville Center Project". Both UT Martin and Methodist would like to have an agreement in place by January 1, 2017.
Series begins Veterans Day
UT Martin alum memorialized in 'Warfighters'

U.S. Marines Capt. Brent Morel, a 1999 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, was killed in combat near Fallujah, Iraq, on April 7, 2004.

This Veterans Day, the History Channel will launch a series called "The Warfighters," an episode of which will feature the insurgent attack in which Morel died defending his fellow Marines.

Four episodes of the series will premier back-to-back beginning at 7 p.m. (CST) Nov. 11 on the History Channel. Morel's actions will be included in episode 112: "The Ambush of April 7th." The series is composed of first-person accounts combined with cinematic sequences and real images and footage from actual Middle Eastern operations.

Morel, a Martin native and a graduate of Bartlett High School, was part of a convoy on patrol near Fallujah when it drove into a trap. After the lead Humvee was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, Morel positioned his vehicle to protect his comrades. An RPG hit his Humvee, as well, injuring no one but leaving his men in a dangerous position.

As company commander, Morel had to make a difficult decision in a matter of moments. In the end, he and several of his men ran across open terrain to confront the insurgents and, in the words of his men, "changed the momentum of the battle."

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"The Warfighters," directed by Peter Berg, seeks to give viewers an inside look at the global war on terror by chronicling recent U.S. Special Operations Forces missions. Each hour-long episode highlights the courage, dedication and sacrifice of the Army Rangers, Green Berets, Marines and Navy SEALs in what is now the longest ongoing conflict in American history.

"We can never do enough to pay tribute to our vets and military servicemen. I'm incredibly happy that (the History Channel) continues honoring these great men and women with 'The Warfighters.' This series is special to me because we get to make it with veterans," Berg said in an interview with Hollywood Reporter.

More than 90 veterans participated in the series' production.

A trailer can be viewed on youtube.com by searching "The Warfighters series." Additional episodes are scheduled to air in 2017.

A commemorative bust of Morel was presented to UT Martin during the Memorial Day commemoration ceremony in 2005, a year after his death, and it stands guard in the Paul Meek Library to remind UT Martin students of the sacrifice made by one of their own.

A plaque made in his honor also hangs in the meeting room of the Skyhawk Veterans Association.

Morel's parents, Mike and Molly Morel, still live in Martin and his niece is currently a freshman at UT Martin.
Great War symposium set for this weekend

The 2016 Tennessee Great War Commission Symposium will be held at various West Tennessee locations Friday through Sunday. The symposium, hosted by the Tennessee Great War Commission, seeks to tell the story of the Volunteer State and its citizens during World War I. All events are free and open to the public.

An opening commemoration ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. Friday at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson. The event will honor the men and women of Madison County who served in the Great War and will include proclamations from Madison County Mayor Jimmy Harris and city of Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist, as well as a carillon concert performance of patriotic songs.

The World War I Symposium will officially begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the Casey Jones Railroad Museum in Jackson. Attendees will hear keynote speaker Dr. George Nash present “Herbert Hoover, the U.S. Food Administration and Dr. J.A.H. Morgan” at 9:10. Nash is a widely recognized authority on the life of President Herbert Hoover and is the author of several books and journal articles on the subject.

The symposium will continue with a presentation by Dr. Tara Mitchell Miernik, historian and preservation planner with the Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission, at 10:15. Miernik will give a lecture titled “Building Powder City: Old Hickory Village, Tennessee.”

Linda Wynn, a faculty member in the Department of History and Political Science at Fisk University, will conclude the morning program with a presentation titled “Black Communities in Tennessee.”

After lunch, attendees can tour an exhibit featuring trains from the World War I period at 12:15 p.m. and view a military exhibit and reenactment beginning at 1:30. The symposium will reconvene at 3 p.m. in Jackson’s Bemis Museum for a final presentation titled “The Bemis Mill in the Great War” by Dr. Nancy Parrish, adjunct professor at the University of Northern Ohio.

Events will end with a living history performance at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Weakley County Courthouse in Dresden. This is the second year of the Tennessee Great War Commission’s celebration of the Great War’s 100th anniversary. The symposium is sponsored in part by the University of Tennessee at Martin, the City of Jackson and the Madison County Commission, as well as many other organizations and individuals statewide.

For more information, visit tnsos.net/TSLA/GWC/index.htm or contact Dr. Alicc-Catherine Carls, Tom Elam distinguished professor of history at UT Martin and a member of the TGWC, at (731) 881-7472 or by email at accarls@utm.edu.

Local Students Attend West Tennessee Marching Band Championship

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Drs. Jerald Ogg (left), UT Martin provost, and John Oelrich (right), UT Martin director of bands, presented a representative from McNairy Central High School with the award. McNairy Central High School also received second place among double-A percussion sections and first place among double-A bands.

For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu/
The University of Tennessee at Martin has officially removed the 'interim' tag and tabbed Anthony Stewart its head men's basketball coach.

Stewart, 46, had been serving on an interim basis since being promoted from associate head coach on April 21. Stewart is the 10th head men's basketball coach in program history.

"I am proud to announce that Coach Stewart as the long-term leader of our Skyhawk men's basketball program," said interim Athletic Director Kevin McMillan. "Not only has he done an unbelievable job as interim head coach but he has been a vital key to our program's success since he arrived in 2014. I am confident in Coach Stewart's abilities and look forward to watching him develop into a successful head coach and leader of men."

From UTM Sports: A native of Akron, Ohio, Stewart graduated from the University of Mount Union with a bachelor's degree in business management in 1993. He completed his Master's degree in business administration from Chancellor University in 2006.

As UT Martin's associate head coach under Heath Schroyer from 2014-16, Stewart helped lead the Skyhawks to two of the best seasons in the program's Division-I history. UT Martin has pieced together back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time since 1981-83, as the Skyhawks' 41 victories are tied for the most in a two-year span in school history.

"I am honored to be the head men's basketball coach at UT Martin," said Stewart. "I'd like to thank the administration – especially our Chancellor Bob Smith and my athletics director Kevin McMillan – for all of the support I have received. I am thankful for my staff and my players for standing by me – without them, this wouldn't be possible. The West Tennessee community is a special place – myself and my family are proud to call UT Martin our home. Our staff will continue to work hard to put an entertaining product on the floor while also molding our student-athletes into valuable members of society."

UT Martin is the only Ohio Valley Conference team to win a postseason game in each of the last two seasons. The Skyhawks' four CollegeInsider Postseason Tournament victories in Stewart's tenure as associate head coach are the second-highest amount of postseason wins for any OVC program in a two-year stretch.

The Skyhawks play the Racers Jan. 28 at Murray State.
UPCOMING CONCERTS — Members of the UT Martin Woodwind Ensemble perform during their spring concert in April 2016.

Concerts planned at UTM this week

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a variety of musical events in the month of November, including vocal performances and wind, percussion and piano ensembles. All performances are open to the public, and there is no admission charge unless otherwise noted. All performance locations are inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

UT Martin students studying brass, woodwind and percussion instruments will perform in a student chamber music recital at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 8, in the Blankenship Recital Hall. Students will perform in like-instrument and mixed-instrument ensembles featuring music spanning the classical to modern eras. The UT Martin Contemporary Music Group will also perform a piece composed specifically for them.

The University Singers and New Pacer Singers will present their fall choral concert at 2 p.m., Nov. 13, also in the Blankenship Recital Hall. The ensembles, conducted by Dr. Mark Simmons, associate professor of music, have both performed with the Jackson Symphony, and the New Pacer Singers have presented two different concert tours in New Zealand. Students will perform a variety of musical selections, including a classic from the movie “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory” in honor of the late comic actor Gene Wilder.

The UT Martin Wind Ensemble will follow with a concert at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre. This concert will pay homage to veterans of the United States Armed Forces and feature both classic and modern patriotic musical selections. Admission for this concert is $5 for adults and $1 for UT Martin and local students over 12 years of age. Children under 12 are admitted free of charge.

Visiting musician Sergio Soares will meet with the UT Martin Percussion Studio and members of the local community at 5:30 p.m., Nov. 15, to demonstrate Northeastern Brazilian rhythms called xote, frevo and maracatu. Soares will also perform a concert with students from the percussion ensemble. Both events will take place in the UT Martin Percussion Studio.

The UT Martin Piano Ensemble will follow Soares’ presentation with “Music of the Russians” at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 15, in the Blankenship Recital Hall. The recital, directed by Dr. Elaine Harris, UT Martin professor of music, will feature piano students from UT Martin and the local community performing music from composers with strong Russian heritages. Selections include music by Sergei Rachmaninoff and Igor Stravinsky, among others.

For more information on these and other events hosted through the UT Martin Department of Music, contact the department at 731-881-7402.
Morel to be featured in documentary

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Young writers’ conference set for Nov. 18

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Tiana Clark, winner of the 2016 Academy of American Poets Prize and author of the poetry chapbook “Equilibrium,” will serve as the 2016 conference keynote speaker. Clark is currently a Master of Fine Arts candidate at Vanderbilt University, where she serves as poetry editor for the “Nashville Review.” She has recently received funding from the Nashville Metropolitan Arts Commission to support her community project, “Writing as Resistance,” which provides creative writing workshops for trans youth. More information regarding Clark’s work is available at tianaclark.com.

Students and teachers can register online at utm.edu/departments/eco/confERENCE.php or by mailing registration materials to Young Writers Conference, Office of Educational Outreach, 110 Gooch Hall, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN, 38238. All checks should be made payable to UT Martin.

For more information or to receive registration materials, contact Dr. John Glass, UT Martin associate professor of English, at 731-881-7288 or by email at jglass@utm.edu.

SUCCESSFUL CLASS – Matthew Chesnut, a spring 2016 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program, is shown preparing Woodrow, a miniature Australian shepherd, for examination.

UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology program achieves 100 percent pass rate

Students from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Veterinary Health Technology Program achieved a 100 percent pass rate during the 2016 summer session of the Veterinary Technician National Examination. This is the first time a cohort from the program has reached this goal.

Students who received their UT Martin degrees in the spring and summer 2016 semesters were eligible to sit for the national examination, which is required to receive a professional license to practice in the state of Tennessee. All students who took the exam during the summer testing session passed as first-time test takers. Three testing sessions are offered each year.

“I feel like the vet tech program does a good job of emphasizing the importance of licensure, and they devote a lot of time and effort to reviewing VTNE-related topics. (Our professors) provided us with the resources we needed to help us pass the exam,” said Matthew Chesnut, a spring 2016 program graduate. Chesnut began working as a veterinary health technician at Hooks Pet Clinic in Martin shortly after completing his degree requirements.

“They were dedicated in and out of the classroom. They made the commitment to study and prepare for this important exam, which led to great results. Passing the exam allows these graduates to become licensed veterinary technologists and begin their careers in the veterinary field.”

According to Roberts, the national pass rate for the VTNE is around 70 percent, with the UT Martin pass rate averaging around 90 percent. UT Martin’s Veterinary Health Technology Program has continued to grow since its official accreditation in spring 2014.

“The time and dedication it takes (to study) while working a full-time job is daunting, but they did it,” said Amanda Waldon, a licensed veterinary medical technologist and UT Martin instructor.

“These students participate in hands-on labs, classroom activities and community service through the program, and they have an opportunity to pursue careers in one of the fastest-growing and most sought-after fields in the U.S.”

For more information on UT Martin’s Veterinary Health Technology Program, which is housed within the College of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, contact Roberts at 731-881-1071 or jroberts@utm.edu.
Engineering Major

CODY KING, a Gates native, is no stranger to heavy machinery. Growing up in his family’s excavation business, King has seen many engineering designs put into practice. Now, as an engineering major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, he is getting a look at the behind-the-scenes details that go into planning those projects.

“My family owns a construction business, an excavation business, where they do utility work. Civil engineers are the ones who draw all the plans for that,” he said. King is a senior at UT Martin concentrating in civil engineering. “It was something I had a background in, and things made sense because I had used them all my life. I could picture things. Seeing the design process that goes into these projects is really awesome.”

The UT Martin Department of Engineering requires all engineering students to complete an internship or co-op program before earning their degrees. King took advantage of family connections to land an internship position with Forcum Lannom Contractors in Dyersburg this past summer.

He didn’t spend his time grabbing coffee and running errands, however. The crew at Forcum Lannom put him to work, and King was able to see the fruits of his labors in a very real way.

“Forcum is a design-build firm. So any jobs they design, they build or plan to build. So there were a few plans that I drew over the summer that I actually went and saw where they had started doing work on them,” he said. “I drew plans. I did a lot of that. I helped design some concrete footings for steel buildings. I went and did some surveying out in the field. The biggest benefit was getting to see how I was actually going to use my degree, seeing what was going to come after I graduate.”

King, who plans to graduate in May 2017, is sure he will finish strong with the extra experience gained from Forcum Lannom and encourages other students to take advantage of similar learning experiences.

“You’re going to school for four years of your life ... and you have no idea what you’re going to be doing in the field if you haven’t worked out there before,” he said. “I would highly recommend, no matter what career you’re going into, if you have the opportunity to do an internship, take it. It gives you that extra look into the future to see what you’re actually going to be doing once you graduate from college.”
Young Writers Conference Set

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For more information or to receive registration materials, contact Dr. John Glass, UT Martin associate professor of English, at 731-881-7288 or by email at jglass@utm.edu.

ACT Prep Course Offered At UTM

High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m. through noon, November 12th, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center.

Alex Beene, course instructor, will prepare students for the test by working through each section and teaching time management. He will also address the most commonly missed questions and give advice on how to answer them correctly.

Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students since 2013 who have been awarded a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships. Those who participate in his courses increase their test scores by an average of 3.4 points.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
Young writers conference to be held at UTM on Nov. 18

The annual Young Writers Conference returns to UTM’s Boling University Center on Nov. 18. The conference will be held from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., and is open to students in grades 9-12. Registration materials and fees must be received by Nov. 11.

Participants can choose from workshops on a variety of topics including poetry, resume-writing, songwriting, journaling, young adult novels, and allegory. Each student will attend two 1 ½-hour workshops, with lunch to follow at 12:30 p.m. Students will have an opportunity to share their work during an open-mic reading from 2-3 p.m.

In order to attend, students must be recommended by a teacher on the basis of academic achievement and artistic promise. Registration is limited to 200 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is $12 per student, and includes all workshops, readings, and lunch.

Teachers are encouraged, but not required, to attend with their students. The registration fee is $25 for teachers. Attending faculty can choose workshop sessions on classroom writing strategies, writing assessment, and designing effective student writing workshops. Teachers recommending students are asked to follow their school’s policies regarding arranging for guardian permission.

Tiana Clark, winner of the 2016 Academy of American Poets Prize and author of the poetry book Equilibrium, will serve as keynote speaker. Clark is currently a Master of Fine Arts candidate at Vanderbilt University, where she serves as poetry editor for the Nashville Review. More information regarding Clark’s work is available at tianaclark.com.

Students and teachers can register online at utm.edu/departments/ecos/conference.php or by mailing registration materials to Young Writers Conference, Office of Educational Outreach, 110 Gooch Hall, UTM, Martin, TN, 38238. All checks should be made payable to UTM. For more information, contact Dr. John Glass at 731-881-7288 or by email at jglass@utm.edu.

Martin native to be honored on History Channel

Marine Capt. Brent Morel, a 1999 UTM graduate, was killed in combat near Fallujah, Iraq, on April 7, 2004. This Veteran’s Day, the History Channel will launch a series called The Warfighters, an episode of which will feature the insurgent attack in which Morel died defending his fellow Marines.

Four episodes of the series will premier back-to-back beginning at 7 p.m., Nov. 11, on the History Channel. Morel’s actions will be included in episode 112: “The Ambush of April 7th”. The series is composed of first-person accounts combined with cinematic sequences and real images and footage from actual Middle Eastern operations.

Morel, a Martin native, was part of a convoy on patrol near Fallujah when it drove into a trap. After the lead Humvee was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, Morel positioned his vehicle to protect his comrades. An RPG hit his Humvee as well, injuring no one but leaving his men in a dangerous position.

As company commander, Morel had to make a difficult decision in a matter of moments. In the end, he and several of his men ran across open terrain to confront the insurgents and changed the momentum of the battle. Morel was the only American killed in the assault.

For his actions, Morel posthumously received the Purple Heart and the Navy Cross, the second-highest military recognition after the Medal of Honor.

The Warfighters aims to give viewers an inside look at the global war on terror by chronicling recent U.S. Special Operations Forces missions. Each hour-long episode highlights the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of the Army Rangers, Green Berets, Marines, and Navy SEALS in what is now the longest conflict in American history. More than 90 veterans participated in the series’ production.

A trailer of the series can be viewed on youtube.com by searching “The Warfighters series”. Additional episodes are scheduled to air in 2017.

TENNESSEE HERO - Marine Capt. Brent Morel, a Martin native and 1999 UTM graduate, is pictured on the Euphrates River while serving in the Middle East before his heroic death in April 2004.
The University of Tennessee at Martin’s online programs have been recognized for great value at both the undergraduate and graduate levels by OnlineCollegePlan.com and GradSchoolHub.com.

OnlineCollegePlan.com collectively ranked UTM’s five online bachelor’s programs 39th on its list of the “Top 50 Most Affordable Online Bachelor’s Degrees”. This ranking is based on the net yearly average price of obtaining a degree online from each included institution. UTM offers online degrees in interdisciplinary studies, business administration, management, agribusiness, and farm and ranch management, as well as the RN to BSN nursing bridge option.

GradSchoolHub.com recently released its list of the most affordable top-ranked online MBA programs for 2016 and cited UTM as number 15. The ranking focuses on institutions that have already been recognized by major publications such as Forbes, the Princeton Review, and U.S. News and World Report and ranks them according to degree cost. UTM’s online MBA program is designed for financial services professionals and was most recently ranked 22nd in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

For more information on UTM’s online degrees, contact UTM Online at 731-881-7080.
UT Martin, Soybean pageants rescheduled

The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant has been rescheduled. The event will now begin at 7 p.m. Nov. 13 in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom. Pre-sale tickets will be available in the UT Martin Student Life Office on the second floor of the Boling University Center until the week of the pageant. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door prior to the competition, but advance purchase is recommended. The admission charge is $15 for the general public and $10 for UT Martin students with their university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 54th year, and this is the 18th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titles will be chosen in the same night. Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2017 semester are eligible for either crown. Women participating as a resident or full-time student in West Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

The pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions. Each contestant is scored individually from one to 10 in each category. Interviews will take place on the morning of the pageant and mandatory practice will occur in the afternoon.

The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not. The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500 and the second runner-up will receive $200. There is no runner-up for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titleholders will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer, and the winner of that crown will then compete for the title of Miss America in Atlantic City, N.J.

For more information, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kobbb@wljtv.org or (731) 881-7561.
History Channel special to honor UT Martin alum

Marine captain was killed near Fallujah, Iraq in 2004

THE JACKSON SUN

MARTIN — Marine Capt. Brent Morel, a 1999 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, was killed in combat near Fallujah, Iraq, on April 7, 2004. This Veteran’s Day, the History Channel will launch a series called “The Warfighters,” an episode of which will feature the insurgent attack in which Morel died defending his fellow Marines. Four episodes of the series will premiere back-to-back beginning at 7 p.m. Friday on the History Channel. Morel’s actions will be included in episode 112: “The Ambush of April 7th.” The series is composed of first-person accounts combined with cinematic sequences and real images and footage from actual Middle Eastern operations.

Morel, a Martin native and graduate of Bartlett High School, was part of a convoy on patrol near Fallujah when it drove into a trap. After the lead Humvee was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, Morel positioned his vehicle to protect his comrades. An RPG hit his Humvee as well, injuring no one but leaving his men in a dangerous position.

As company commander, Morel had to make a difficult decision in a matter of moments. In the end, he and several of his men ran across open terrain to confront the insurgents and, in the words of his men, “changed the momentum of the battle.” Morel was the only American killed in the assault.

For his actions, Morel posthumously received the Purple Heart and the Navy Cross, the second-highest military recognition after the Medal of Honor.

“The Warfighters,” directed by Peter Berg, aims to give viewers an inside look at the global war on terror by chronicling recent U.S. Special Operations Forces missions. Each hour-long episode highlights the courage, dedication and sacrifice of the Army Rangers, Green Berets, Marines and Navy SEALs in what is now the longest ongoing conflict in American history.

“We can never do enough to pay tribute to our vets and military servicemen. I’m incredibly happy that History continues honoring these great men and women with ‘The Warfighters.’ This series is special to me because we get to make it with veterans” said Berg in an interview with Hollywood Reporter. More than 90 veterans participated in the series’ production.

A commemorative bust of Morel was presented to UT Martin during the Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony in 2005, a year after his death, and stands guard in the Paul Meek Library to remind UT Martin students of the sacrifice made by one of their own. A plaque made in his honor also hangs in the meeting room of the Skyhawk Veteran’s Association.

Morel’s parents, Mike and Molly, still live in Martin, and his niece is currently a freshman at UT Martin.

A trailer can be viewed on youtube.com by searching “The Warfighters series.” Additional episodes are scheduled to air in 2017.

Veteran

Continued from Page 3A

Marine Capt. Brent Morel was a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin.
UTM grad, now an MSU professor, discusses Tanner’s legacy

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

A Congressman from Northwest Tennessee is the subject of a study concerning his influence on foreign relations.

Dr. Brian Clardy, an assistant professor at Murray State University, addressed the Jackson Purchase Historical Society on Saturday morning as the Veterans’ Day Parade proceeded down Lindell Street just outside the plate glass window where he stood to speak.

He told the group he is authoring a professional paper on John Tanner, a former U.S. Representative from Halls who now lives in Union City.

Clardy asked the group, which also included members of the West Tennessee Historical Society, for opinions and sources to help with his article.

Tanner served in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1977 to 1989, and in the U.S. Congress from 1989 to 2011 before retiring from public service.

Clardy said one of the most remarkable parts of Tanner’s career was his successful reelection in 1994, when Newt Gingrich and his Republican “Contract with America” coalition helped drive out Democratic House and Senate members across the country.

Clardy credits Tanner’s survival to his instrumental role in forming a “Blue Dog” coalition of conservative Democratic candidates.

Tanner’s temperament was the main reason he ended up on so many influential committees so early in his career, Clardy said. Tanner served on the Foreign Affairs, Ways & Means and Armed Services committees.

He also chaired the U.S. House delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and was eventually elected president of that group.

Clardy called Tanner one of the most influential Tennesseans in the post-Cold War years, and theorizes two reasons for his influence:

• “We have a proud military tradition in this state,” Clardy said, a tradition that dates back to the state’s birth and is the source of its nickname of the Volunteer State.

• “There exists a great intellectual curiosity in this area about the world beyond us and how that world works.”

Former Appellate Judge David G. Hayes provided some insight at the conclusion of Clardy’s presentation.

Tanner, Hayes said, “Had a huge impact. Huge.”

“John learned that a lot gets done behind closed doors,” Hayes said. “That’s how he attained his power.”

Clardy is a native of South Fulton. He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and history from the University of Tennessee at Martin, a master’s degree in public administration from Murray State, and a doctorate in history from the University of Southern Illinois-Carbontale. He also studied theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn.

The Jackson Purchase Historical Society was founded in 1958 to promote interest, study and preservation of the regional history of the territory encompassed by the Chickasaw Purchase of 1818. It publishes the award-winning Jackson Purchase Historical Society Journal annually.
UT MARTIN CELEBRATES WORLD COLLEGE RADIO DAY – Nov. 4 is celebrated annually as World College Radio Day and features contributions from college radio stations around the world. WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the University of Tennessee at Martin’s award-winning college station, served as the state of Tennessee’s collegiate headquarters for event programming. Pictured are WUTM staff members (back row from left) Shane Wofford, production director; Jared Peckenaugh, sports director; Ashley Shores, digital media director; Kayla Harmon, assistant sports director; Natalie King, news director; and Dr. Richard Robinson, assistant professor of communications and station faculty adviser; (front row) Holly Seng, business and traffic director; Tori Seng, program director; and Kait Scott, support and development director.

MCCUTCHEN HONORED – Tom McCutchen (center), professor emeritus of geology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was honored Nov. 4 with the unveiling of the Tom McCutchen Scholarship Endowment, initially funded by former student Walter Parrish (’71, right) and his wife, Judy Colonese. Parrish began his collegiate career with one of McCutchen’s courses in 1969 and was one of the first students to graduate from UT Martin with a degree in geology. McCutchen, who began teaching at UT Martin in 1964, is considered a founding father of the university’s geosciences program. The award will be used to cover travel, conference, internship and similar expenses for students in the geosciences program. Other contributors to the endowment include Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, and his wife, Ramona, as well as Dr. Harry Houff, professor emeritus of physics, and his wife, Alice. McCutchen and Parrish are pictured with Dr. Todd Winters (left), dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. McCutchen is a longtime resident of Martin. For information on how to contribute to this endowment, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.
A group of students from the University of Tennessee at Martin traveled to Europe in May to see first-hand the lasting effects of World War I, now in its centennial. The trip, which included stops in Ireland, England, Belgium and France, was part of a class focused on the history and literature of the Great War era.

"Getting to experience everything and seeing where the explosions happened during the war and the craters that were all over the countries we visited, that was incredible. It really stuck with me that the war was real," said Taylor Connett, a junior from Erlanger, Ky. "When you read about it, you don't get the same experience of actually being there and seeing it."

The trip included visits to battlefields in France and Belgium, as well as a tour of the Imperial War Museum in London, which features material from both world wars and the Holocaust. Participating students came home with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the sacrifices made on all sides.

"Even if you read about it, you don't get the full impact of how those countries and those citizens' lives were affected because it wasn't like that here (in the United States). When you go and you actually get to see all these cemeteries ... there are thousands of people from countries everywhere buried in every single one of the countries we went to," said Emily Lacy, a junior from Dyersburg.

One of her favorite stops was a visit to the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium, where local citizens have observed the Last Post Ceremony each night since the 1920s. "The citizens come out every night at 8 p.m. in that little city, and they have a moment of silence. Sometimes they have a band play or a church choir sing in respect to the lives lost in the war. It's an incredible experience," she said. (The ceremony was observed at a military cemetery in England during the Nazi occupation of Ypres in World War II until the city was liberated by Allied forces.)

"I'm not much of a history person, but being in the places where other Americans have been and have fought for our freedom really hit home with me," said Bailee Barrett, a junior from Smyrna. "I think it just helped me have a better perspective on my freedom and what that means."

Many of the students enrolled in this course were not history majors, but they were all able to gain a better understanding of America's role in the war and the era's lasting effects on the countries involved. They urge their fellow classmates and citizens to participate in travel-study opportunities when they are available.

"It's a great cultural experience. ... You really get to see how different the cultures (are), and you get to compare it to other countries, to see first-hand ... how they are similar and different at the same time," said Andre Delcalzo, a sophomore from Bemus Point, N.Y.

"It's not always just about traveling; it's about how (travel) can benefit you in abstract ways. It's the experience you get that helps you be a more diversified person."

"It's worth it. It's worth every penny; it's worth every minute," said Lacy. "If you're even slightly considering going on a travel-study, it's all planned out for you; it's all there. You just have to pack a bag and go. There will be more than likely not be another experience just handed to you for you to take. So take it, and run with it."

UT Martin offers a variety of travel-study opportunities each year in a wide range of topics, including history, foreign language, agriculture, textiles, music and political science.

Financial assistance is available through UT Martin colleges and departments for students wishing to travel.

For more information on university travel-study or study abroad opportunities, contact the UT Martin Center for International Education at 731-881-1023.
STUDYING HISTORY ABROAD — From left, travel-study advisers Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, associate professor of English, and Dr. Richard Garlitz, associate professor of history; and students Elizabeth Packard, a 2016 UT Martin alum from Lakeland; Madilyn Peay, a 2016 alum from Readyville; and Andre Delcalzo, a sophomore from Bemus, N.Y., are pictured in front of a statue commemorating the Battle of Cantigny in Cantigny, France. This was the first battle on the Western Front of World War I in which American troops played a major part.
HISTORY COMES ALIVE — UTM students tour historic sites in France and Belgium as part of a travel-study program. Clockwise from top: From left, travel-study advisers Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, associate professor of English, and Dr. Richard Garlick, associate professor of history; and students Elizabeth Packard, a 2016 UT Martin alum from Lakeland; Madilyn Peay, a 2016 alum from Readyville; and Andre Delcalzo, a sophomore from Bemus, N.Y., are pictured in front of a statue commemorating the Battle of Cantigny in France. This was the first battle on the Western Front of World War I in which American troops played a major part. The group is pictured (clockwise, from above) outside the cathedral in Amiens, France; Dr. Longacre is shown in a restored trench and touring the cathedral's majestic interior.
UT Martin will observe Veterans Day with a program presented by the UTM Student Veterans Association at 3 Friday afternoon in the Boling University Center.

The program begins with the posting of colors and the national anthem, which will be sung by senior music education major Darius Taylor. University provost Dr. Jerald Ogg will commence with opening remarks while recognizing the veterans in attendance.

History professor Dr. Dan McDonough will honor Martin veteran Captain Brent Morel, who was killed in battle near Fallujah in April 2004.

Meanwhile, Weakley County commissioner Roger VanCleave and UTM veteran Robert Gertsch will talk about their military experiences.

Skyhawk Veterans Association member Tim McClain will close the program with discussion on assisting veterans in the community.

A reception will follow the program at 4 in the University Center.
WEST TENNESSEE MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIP – The Peabody High School Marching Band received sixth place overall during the West Tennessee Marching Championships at the University of Tennessee at Martin, October 22. UT Martin has hosted the contest, formerly known as the Skyhawk Marching Band Invitational, for the past 15 years. Drs. Bill Waterman (left), UT Martin director of athletic bands, and Robert Smith (right), UT Martin interim chancellor, presented representatives from Peabody High School with the award. Peabody High School also received first place among double-A color guards.

County students receive scholarships to UTM

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

• Hannah Nichole Moore, daughter of Eddie and Kimberly Moore, of Bradford, is a freshman. She received the Jerry M. and Clara Jo Arnold Scholarship and the Deans Scholarship.

• Chelsea K. Joyce, daughter of Kenny and Phyllis Joyce, of Dyer, is a senior. She received the E. C. Crafton Memorial Scholarship.

• Erin Chandler, daughter of Rhonda Chandler and Jeff Chandler, is a freshman. She received the Volunteer State Student Assistance Scholarship.

• Logan Youmans, son of Michael and Ty Youmans, of Humboldt, is a junior. He received the Alumni Transfer Scholarship.

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

Trenton Gazette

Final UTM Fall Preview Day is November 12

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a final Fall Preview Day on November 12 for high school students wishing to learn more about UT Martin and the admissions process. Students will be able to speak with academic advisers, financial counselors and other campus resources in a low-stress environment.

The morning will begin with check-in at 9 a.m., followed by an official welcome at 9:30. A panel of current UT Martin students will answer questions and discuss the expectations of college life at 10, and participants will be able to visit academic departments starting at 10:45. The day will end with a full campus tour at 11:30.

There is no charge to attend, and parents, siblings and other visitors are welcome.

Register online at utm.edu/preview. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
Young Writers Conference returning to UT Martin

The annual Young Writers Conference returns to the University of Tennessee at Martin on Nov. 18.

The conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Boling University Center and is open to students in grades 9-12.

Registration materials and fees must be received by Friday.

Participants can choose from workshops on a variety of topics, including poetry, résumé writing, songwriting, journaling, young adult novels and allegory. Each student will attend two workshops during the 9-10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. sessions, with a luncheon following at 12:30.

Students will also have an opportunity to share their work during an open mic reading from 2-3 p.m.

Students must be recommended by a teacher on the basis of academic achievement and artistic promise in order to attend. Registration is limited to 200 participants on a first-come, first-served basis and costs $12 per student. The fee includes all workshops, readings and lunch.

Teachers are encouraged, but not required, to attend with their students. The registration fee is $25 for teachers. Attending faculty can choose workshop sessions on classroom writing strategies, writing assessment and designing effective student writing workshops. Teachers recommending students are asked to follow their school’s policies in arranging for parent/guardian permissions.

Tiana Clark, winner of the 2016 Academy of American Poets Prize and author of the poetry chapbook “Equilibrium,” will serve as the 2016 conference keynote speaker. She is currently a master of fine arts candidate at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, where she serves as poetry editor for The Nashville Review. She recently received funding from the Nashville Metropolitan Arts Commission to support her community project, “Writing as Resistance,” which provides creative writing workshops for trans youth.

Students and teachers may register online at utm.edu/departments/ecs/conference.php or by mailing registration materials to Young Writers Conference, Office of Educational Outreach, 110 Gooch Hall, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN 38238. All checks should be made payable to UT Martin.

For more information or to register, contact Dr. John Glass, associate professor of English, at (731) 881-7288 or by email at jglass@utm.edu.

Mental health focus of event at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Student Health and Counseling Services will host its third annual Stigma Cutting Ceremony at 5 p.m. Nov. 16.

A brief walk will begin on the back patio of the Boling University Center and end on the steps of the Student Health and Counseling Services building to symbolize the journey taken by those who struggle with mental health issues.

Joanne Perley, West Tennessee regional coordinator for the Tennessee State Prevention Network, will be the keynote speaker. Yvannah Garcia, president of the UT Martin National Alliance on Mental Illness, will provide a testimonial on her experience with mental illness. The ceremony highlights key reasons stigma is attached to mental health services and encourages those who need help to seek it.

The event is free and open to the public.
Retired teachers tour UTM center

Members of the Lauderdale County Retired Teachers Association including Diane Beard, guide Ashley Vance, Juanita Halfacre, Jean Jackson, Joy Deming, Dorothy Ellwood, Don Ellwood and Iva Jarrett met Nov. 2 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center for their regular meeting. Vance, who is employed by the UTM Ripley Center, took everyone on a tour through the modern classrooms, labs and the new addition. After a brief business meeting, Vance presented each member with a gift bag from the center.

MISS UTM/MISS TN
SOYBEAN FESTIVAL
PAGEANTS
RESCHEDULED

The 2017 Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant has been rescheduled for Sunday, November 13 at 7 p.m. in the Boling University Center Ballroom on the UT Martin Campus.
LAMB ATTENDS UT MARTIN FALL PREVIEW DAY: Zack Lamb (right), a student at Dyer County High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Fall Preview Day on Oct. 29. This event is held to inform prospective students about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life at UT Martin. Lamb is pictured with Dr. Jamie Mantooth (left), executive director, UT Martin Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement, and his mother, Kasey Earp. A final Fall Preview Day will be held Nov. 12. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/previewday <http://utm.edu/previewday>.

LOCAL STUDENTS ATTEND WEST TENNESSEE MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIP:
The Dyer County High School Marching Band received third place overall during the West Tennessee Marching Championships at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Oct. 22. UT Martin has hosted the contest, formerly known as the Skyhawk Marching Band Invitational, for the past 15 years. Drs. Jerald Ogg (left), UT Martin provost, and John Oelrich (right), UT Martin director of bands, presented representatives from Dyer County High School with the award. Dyer County High School also received second place among double-A color guards and first place among double-A percussion sections. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu/advantage <http://utm.edu/advantage>.
By JAHAA N JONES
Special to the Press
UTM’s Multicultural Affairs, a part of the Student Government Association, hosted its 16th annual Diversity week recently. John Abel, assistant vice chancellor of Student Affairs and Student Government Advisor, has been with the University for 18 years, advising the SGA for the last three years and serving as assistant vice chancellor for the last two years.

“It started with a diversity wall, made of real concrete bricks, that students would write culturally diverse words on, from racial slurs that needed to be destroyed to just about anything you could think of,” Abel says about Diversity Week. “Every four years the wall would be built up and over the course of the week, students would write on it. At the end of the week, the campus would tear the wall down, a way of bringing unity to the campus and tearing down the walls that divide us all.”

Students would often take pieces of the wall home, as a way to remember the week. Eventually Diversity Week went from being every four years to being held once a year on the campus of UTM.

“Diversity week is sponsored by multicultural affairs of SGA and our goal is to help bring unity among all of the cultural groups on campus,” Nathan Daniels, chair of multicultural affairs for the Student Government Association, said.

“Around the World on One Plate” took place last week in the Boling University Center and featured food from culturally diverse groups represented on the campus. Among the groups in attendance and serving foods were the Black Student Association, the UTM Japanese Language and Culture Club, Korean Student Culture Club, and the French Club.

Dr. Annie Jones has helped the chair put Diversity Week together for the last three years.

“It is excellent, the amount of people that showed up and participated in this event as well as the appreciation of the cultural groups from the students,” Jones said.

Voices of Harmony, a gospel choir, also attended and performed two songs for the audience led by Director Jaylen Taylor, who is a senior finance major.

“The Voices of Harmony appreciates the support of UTM and all of the students that showed up and listened to us sing,” Taylor said.

The audience loved what they heard and many calls of “encore” could be heard from the tables of students and participants.

The idea for “Around the World on One Plate” was pitched to Nathan Daniels from 19-year-old junior Holly Seng of Union City. Seng serves as a senator in the SGA for the college of Humanities and Fine Arts. Seng says that she researched other schools and found the idea of serving food to bring people closer together.

“People love food, especially in college, and I think it is a great opportunity to learn about other cultures.” Seng said.

Diversity Week at UTM continued from until Sunday.

WORLD TOUR — Around the World on One Plate, a dinner featuring foods from culturally diverse groups, was held last Tuesday as part of Diversity Week.

HARMONY AND DIVERSITY — Jaylen Taylor, a senior finance major at UTM, directs the Voices of Harmony choir at the Diversity Week dinner.
A tale of two veterans

By BUD GRIMES
Reprinted with permission

Harold Smith’s World War II dive-bomber pilot earned the highest commendations and the country’s gratitude as he and others risked everything to preserve freedom and end the war in the Pacific. Only in recent years

has Smith, longtime dean for the UT Martin School of Agriculture and Home Economics, talked in detail about his World War II experiences. He agreed to tell his story in December See SMITH, PAGE 18

SMITH, FROM PAGE 1

2011 shortly after Dottie, his wife of 64 years, passed away. Known affectionately as “Dean Smith,” his remarkable memory recalls a transformation from Oklahoma farm boy to decorated Navy pilot.

He lives in a quiet Martin neighborhood where the Smiths raised two daughters, Claudia and Cindy. A flagpole next to the driveway displays an American flag, honoring the country he served. A short walk inside through the living room leads to the den where a wall displays photos of his airplanes, his carrier (the Fightin’ Hanna), his flight group and other war memories. A wooden display case hangs in the hallway off the den that contains his Navy Crosses, air medals, his wings of gold and a sheathed knife that flew with him on strikes.

Life began simply enough for Smith as his parents’ families homesteaded in 1907 about 40 miles from Oklahoma City. Born in 1919 at the close of World War I, his granddad and dad hauled cypress lumber from southern Illinois to build a house and farmed about 240 acres, work that made horses and mules extremely valuable. The family kept mares and cows around to produce mules, and he recalled when his dad once swapped a good matched team of mules for a car.

The Navy couldn’t have picked a more unlikely pilot in Smith. He had flown previously only once at a county fair when his dad let him fly with the old barnstormers. “And so I thought about becoming a Navy pilot.” Well, it might be alright,” but it was sure a rough road from the time... because we had a long series of training, and I tell you, you either made it or you didn’t. I tried every way in the world I could to make it and finally made it, he said.

While most wanted to be fighter pilots, he chose to fly dive-bombers. “I didn’t care anything about being a hotshot. All I wanted to do was do a duty and get out,” he said as he laughed. He graduated from the dive-bomber training program at Pensacola, but the rigorous training continued. Across state in Jacksonville, trainees practiced takeoffs and landings on marked-off fields and then went to Chicago, where the pilots checked out in carrier landings on what he called “baby flattops,” two passenger ships and a coal ship on which carrier tops were constructed.

The pilots were sent from carrier training to Air Group 6 in California, squadrons reformed in San Francisco, and they trained on the new SB2C Helldiver carrier-based, dive-bomber aircraft produced for the U.S. Navy. They then traveled by ship to the South Pacific, where the carrier USS Hancock (the Fightin’ Hanna) was waiting to take them aboard. “And from then on, for a little better than a year and a half, it was go, go, go,” he remembered as he laughed. “We didn’t waste much time.”

Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman of Civil War fame is credited with saying, “War is hell,” and there’s no better witness to Sherman’s war description than Harold Smith, who flew roughly 50 strikes, sometimes two per day, in support of Pacific theatre combat efforts. Strikes began at daybreak, with time to get rest between strikes. Okinawa was an exception where operations were flown daily. “We operated down around the Philippines for a while when (Gen. Douglas) McArthur was getting his walk to the beach,” he said of seeing the legendary general in one of this famous walks through the water along war zone beaches.

In describing how strikes were executed, he said that fighters and fighter-bombers provided air cover for the bombers and torpedo planes. He recalled that pilots were not as concerned about Japanese fighter planes as they were about anti-aircraft fire in strike areas, noting: “Of course, when we went in, we were sitting ducks for a while.”

Planes climbed to 12,000 feet and higher to avoid anti-aircraft fire as they approached targets, “and then we had to make a straight run in, and then you started picking up anti-aircraft fire.” The Japanese tracked them on radar and used 4- and 5-inch guns to thwart attacks as planes stayed in formation as much as possible, lacking the technical support for protection.

During strikes, dive bomber pilots threw bags of tinfoil from their planes to attract radar attention and draw away anti-aircraft fire. The pilots flew in four-plane formations, peeled off and dove straight down from about 10,000 feet, he said, using dive brakes to slow down to about 400 miles per hour. Precision pullouts were critical as dives sometimes created up to 9Gs of gravity. During one practice dive, he’d seen a large screwdriver floating around that had been inadvertently left aboard by a mechanic.

Planes not executing a straight pullout could lose a wing. Japanese battleships and cruisers were solidly built, and carrier decks had up to three inches of armor, so the bombers carried 2,000-pound, armor-piercing bombs. Smith credited extensive, continuous training for preparing the pilots to do their jobs.

Strikes presented one set of dangers, but returning to the carriers offered no guarantees: “Coming back, we always had to worry about getting back to the ship,” he said of the return trip. “We knew where the location of the ship was going to be, and so we could chart our own course. But if we got lost or something like that and ran into problems, why, they didn’t break radio silence to get you back.’’ At the tops of ships, a radar sent signals as it spun 360 degrees, and these signals could guide pilots back, if planes were high enough to pick up the signals.

As war operations moved to mainland Japan, pilots were allowed to fly around Hiroshima and Nagasaki where the atomic bombs were eventually dropped, but they weren’t allowed to
drop bombs. Once the atomic bombs were dropped, this restriction was lifted. "They (the Japanese) were getting ready to try to repel an invasion," he said, an invasion that he estimated would have cost countless American lives. "They (the Japanese) would have fought to the last man and woman I guess...."

Smith said that few Japanese aircraft remained toward the end of the war because of U.S. airfield attacks. Several weeks after the atomic bombs were dropped, the Japanese fleet pulled into Tokyo and Kure harbors, and U.S. Naval forces carried out two large strikes over several days. His and other air groups sank several battleships and cruisers, causing severe damage to the Japanese Navy.

The August day when the Japanese emperor announced the country's intentions to surrender, his air group was sent on a strike near Tokyo to target electronics factories not destroyed by the B-17 missions. They were flying toward Mt. Fuji when they were told to drop their bombs in the ocean and abandon the mission because the war had ended. They never carried bombs from that day forward, "I really enjoyed flying over the USS Missouri battleship at the time they were signing the surrender," he said of the official surrender signing on Sept. 2, 1945.

After Japan's surrender, he assisted in dropping food, medicine and supplies to prisoner of war camps where Americans were held. Later, as they headed home from Japan to Long Beach, Calif., with about 4,000 Marines aboard ship, he recalls seeing "the sickest bunch of Marines I've ever seen" as they experienced travel on the high seas.

Smith's service earned him the Navy Air Medal with two Gold Stars in lieu of second and third Air Medals for meritorious achievement. He also received the Navy Cross, a combat-only designation and the Navy's highest award, and one gold star in lieu of a second Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism.

His Navy Crosses were awarded for successful 1945 attacks on Japanese battleships. Dive-bombing planes had a rear-gunner who manned machine guns to protect the plane and also serve as the radio person, photographer and performed other duties during missions. His gunner, on two different strikes, photographed two direct bomb hits by Smith's plane to two Japanese battleships, one of which was the Japanese battleship Ise, where he scored a direct hit as it went down the ship's smokestack.

"We had a good squadron of men (Bombing Six)" he said, giving credit to others involved in the strike.

After the war, Smith entered the active reserves and returned to the University of Illinois to complete his doctorate. He then taught at Auburn University from 1947-48, after which he accepted a position at UT Knoxville. In 1967, he came to UT Martin Branch as Department of Agriculture head and superintendent of the Martin Experiment Station. He was then named School of Agriculture dean and later dean of the School and Agriculture and Home Economics before retiring in 1987. On Dec. 13, 2011, the Harold J. Smith Conference Room in UT Martin's Brehm Hall was dedicated in his honor and features photos from his World War II experience.

Smith hasn't stayed in contact with fellow pilots, but he does appreciate the freedom they fought so valiantly to preserve. "When I see a flag, it means something to me," he said. "I know every time I'd break through the hatch to man my plane, I always looked up and first of all (said), 'Thank you, Lord,' you know, to be alive," he laughed.

A framed tribute to the Fightin' Hanna displayed in the family den notes "destroyed 732 planes, 32 merchant ships and 9 warships." Harold Smith wasn't seeking honor when he performed his incredible World War II service. The saying that "heroes are made and not born" fits this humble man who joined others in putting everything on the line in the world's greatest conflict.

Editor's Note: This article first ran in the Summer/Fall 2012 issue of Campus Scene, a publication of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and is used by permission from the university.
DISTANT MEMORIES — In a recent photo, Dr. Harold Smith, wearing his World War II flight jacket, recalls a time when the world was at war and he was in the thick of it.

DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN — Smith served as a dean at the University of Tennessee at Martin for nearly 20 years.
The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Student Health and Counseling Services will host its third annual Stigma Cutting Ceremony at 5 p.m., Nov. 16. A brief walk will begin on the back patio of the Boling University Center and end on the steps of the Student Health and Counseling Services building to symbolize the journey taken by those who struggle with mental health.

Joanne Perley, West Tennessee regional coordinator for the Tennessee State Prevention Network, will be the keynote speaker, and Yvannah Garcia, president of the UT Martin National Alliance on Mental Illness, will provide a testimonial on her experience with mental illness. The ceremony highlights key reasons stigma is attached to mental health services and encourages those who need help to seek it.

The Tennessee State Prevention Network has also provided two displays to show the impact suicide has on people's lives. The displays will be located on the back patio of the Boling University Center from noon to 6 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

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CLUB TAKES TOUR – Members of the Kiwanis Club of Martin toured the new academic space and press box at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Hardy M. Graham Stadium during a lunch and learn activity, Nov. 2, facilitated by Danelle Fabianich, assistant athletics director for academics and student-athlete services. Many Kiwanis members are associated with the university in various capacities. Pictured are Martin residents (back row, from left) Orrin Cowley, Jayne Parrish, Keith Pettit, David Sudberry, Lana Westbrook, Annie Jones, David Brodrick, David Spencer, Vicke Hazlewood, Clinton Smith, Jim Clark and Steve Lemond; (second row) Linda Ramsey, Evelyn Blythe, Bettye Giles, Frank Black, Anna Clark, Sara Sieber and Harry Henderson; (front row) Fabianich, Anita Bell and DeAnna Chappell.
The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageants are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., Nov. 13, in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom. The Miss UTM Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 54th year, and this is the 18th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titleholders will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer, and the winner of that crown will then compete for the title of Miss America in Atlantic City, N.J.

Pre-sale tickets are available in the UTM Student Life Office on the second floor of the Boling University Center. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door, but advance purchase is recommended. The admission charge is $15 for the general public and $10 for UTM students with their university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID.

For more information, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wltj.org or 731-881-7651.

November is a time for music at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a variety of musical events in the month of November, including vocal performances and wind, percussion, and piano ensembles. All performances are open to the public, and there is no admission charge unless otherwise noted. All performance locations are inside the UTM Fine Arts Building.

The University Singers and New Pacer Singers will present their fall choral concert at 2 p.m., Nov. 13, in the Blankenship Recital Hall. The ensembles, conducted by Dr. Mark Simmons, associate professor of music, have both performed with the Jackson Symphony, and the New Pacer Singers have presented two different concert tours in New Zealand. Students will perform a variety of musical selections, including a classic from the movie "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" in honor of the late comic actor Gene Wilder.

The UTM Wind Ensemble will follow with a concert at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre. This concert will pay homage to veterans of the United States Armed Forces and feature both classic and modern patriotic musical selections. Admission for this concert is $5 for adults and $1 for UTM and local students over 12 years of age. Children under 12 are admitted free of charge.

Visiting musician Sergio Soares will meet in the UTM Percussion Studio with music students and members of the local community at 5:30 p.m., Nov. 15, to demonstrate Northeastern Brazilian rhythms and perform a concert with students from the percussion ensemble.

The UTM Piano Ensemble will present "Music of the Russians" at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 15, in the Blankenship Recital Hall. Directed by Dr. Elaine Harris, UTM professor of music, the recital will feature piano students from UTM and the local community performing music from composers with strong Russian heritages, such as Sergei Rachmaninoff and Igor Stravinsky.

For more information on these and other events hosted through the UTM Department of Music, contact the department at 731-881-7402.
From left: Morgan Martin, of Union City (second maid, Miss UT Martin); Amanda Mayo, of Lawrenceville, Ga. (first maid, Miss UT Martin); Brenna Wilkins, of Union City (Miss UT Martin); Laura Ann Higgs, of Toone (Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival); Hannah Minear, of Atoka (first maid, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival); and Mallory Tidwell, of Bradford (second maid, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival).

PAGEANT WINNERS

Brenna Wilkins of Union City and Laura Ann Higgs of Toone win crowns

THE JACKSON SUN

MARTIN, Tenn. — Brenna Wilkins of Union City, and Laura Ann Higgs of Toone, claimed the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowns, respectively, during the combined scholarship pageant Sunday in the UT Martin Boling University Center.

Wilkins, a sophomore social work major at UT Martin, performed the vocal selection "Unlove You," by Jennifer Nettles, as her onstage talent. She will use her reign as Miss UT Martin to support a platform on depression and suicide awareness on college campuses. Wilkins plans to finish her bachelor's degree at UT Martin before earning a master's degree and working in the social work field promoting children's welfare.

Higgs is a junior at Middle Tennessee State University where she is studying child development and family studies. She plans to become a certified child life specialist after graduation and obtain a master's degree in child life studies. During her year as Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Higgins will promote a platform called "Team Mica: Suicide Awareness and Prevention." Her jazz dance was unique among the evening's talent performances.

Only current full-time UT Martin students could compete for the Miss UT Martin crown. Those competing for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title must be West Tennessee residents or enrolled as students in West Tennessee, but did not have to be UT Martin students. Both young women will advance to the statewide Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, held at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson each June.

Both Wilkins and Higgs have competed in pageants before, although this is Wilkins' first experience with a Miss Tennessee preliminary pageant. "My first plan is to hit the gym quite a few times and work on better stage presence," she said, of preparing for the state competition. Higgins competed for the Miss Tennessee crown last year as Miss Queen City. "I'm super excited to represent Martin and the soybean festival and go back again this year," she said. She plans to take a holistic approach to her pageant preparations in hopes of taking home the crown.

The title of Miss Tennessee is a full-time, yearlong position as Gov. Bill Haslam's official spokesperson for character education and as an ambassador for Tennessee's Children's Miracle Network hospitals. The winner of the Miss Tennessee title will advance to the Miss America Scholarship Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., for a chance to serve as Miss America 2018.

Miss UT Martin's court included UT Martin students Amanda Mayo of Lawrenceville, Ga., as first maid, and Morgan Martin of Union City, as second maid. Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival's court included Hannah Minear of Atoka, as first maid, and Mallory Tidwell of Bradford, as second maid.

For more information on the Miss UT Martin or Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival scholarship pageants, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wljt.org.
Empty Bowls event to raise funds to feed hungry

A local event that was conceived as a small operation has now raised almost $50,000 for charity.

The Empty Bowls event, the brainchild of David McBeth now in its thirteenth year, began as a way to raise funds for We Care Ministries, a Martin charity that offers donated goods at a significantly reduced cost to those who need furniture, clothing, linens, electronics and more, and operates a food bank as well.

McBeth, a professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, first planned a luncheon as a fundraiser for the UTM Fine and Graphic Arts Department. Students and faculty design original ceramic bowls, then fill them with hot soup and offer both soup and bowl for a $10 donation. Churches, the Wesley Foundation and Sodexo will be providing the soup.

The event will be held Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Little Theater in the Fine Arts Building on campus.

Weather permitting, attendees will be able to see potters throwing clay and crafting items outside during the event.

Because this has been such a popular event, organizers decided to add larger bowls to the selection available by donation, for those who already have enough soup bowls.

The bowls are also ideal gift items for Christmas or any other occasion.

"This is something really great to be a part of," said Victoria Falcon, an art student and one of the organizers of the event.

Photos of the bowls to be offered are being posted on Facebook at Empty Bowls Martin Tennessee as they are finished.

All items are safe for oven, microwave and dishwasher. Falcon said.

"We want people to be able to use our bowls and be able to enjoy them," she said.

"In Tennessee, one in six Tennesseans has hunger issues," McBeth said. "They don't know where their next meal's coming from or if there'll be a next meal.

"We're blessed in West Tennessee to have We Care, who provide a wonderful food relief program for that. But they need help."

All proceeds from the event go to We Care Ministries.
Students hold special celebration for special people

The dance floor in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Student Life Building was buzzing during a special prom event Nov. 12. High school students from special needs classes in Weakley, Obion, Henry and Carroll counties attended the event and mingled with UT Martin students from hosting organizations as Cooper the Band entertained the crowd.

Approximately 30 students, siblings and family members attended the event, which was spearheaded by the UT Martin Non-Traditional Student Organization and supported by the UT Martin offices of housing and student life, the Black Student Association, the Student Government Association and many others.

Many members of the Non-Traditional Student Organization have children themselves and wanted to create an event where special needs students and their families could have an experience that might not otherwise be possible.

"We knew this would be a special situation for [the students] to participate in something that maybe they have not participated in [before]," said Julie Durham, NTSA president.

"For me, what's cool about this is it's not just the Greek [organizations], it's everybody coming together," said Rachel Stephens, UT Martin student life coordinator.

"You have service organizations, Greek organizations, leadership organizations - just so many people who fell in love with the idea of us doing something that's bigger than ourselves."

Debbie Carden, a special education teacher at Westview High School, as well as several other teachers and teacher's aides were also present at the event to support their students outside the classroom.

"I think (a prom) in a regular setting at a regular time, like at school, not all of them would go because they're scared. Here, they're just out there having fun, throwing the balloons around, dancing - they're just having a big time," said Carden.

"One of my girls, she was out there crying and says she's just so happy to be here. It's exciting.... I wanted to come see them get dressed up and have a fun time and just do their thing."

The community got involved in the event as well, and several businesses donated time and services to support the effort. Cooper the Band donated their performance for the evening, and Christie's Photography, located in downtown Martin, donated photographic services during the event.

Stylist on Broadway, located on Broadway Street in Martin, also donated hair and makeup services before the event for attending students.

"We are big on being involved in the community, and obviously we're in the service industry, so any way that we're able to help out, that's what we want to do," said Marci Laird, a stylist with the salon. "We just want everyone to know that we're here, we're able to help anybody and everybody that we can."

Durham hopes this prom will be the first of many annual events where special needs students can feel comfortable with new friends and familiar faces.

For more information on the event or how you or your business can be involved in the future, contact Durham at juladurh@ut.utm.edu.

SPECIAL, From Page 1

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A SPECIAL MOMENT — Several area students and community members break in the dance floor during a prom event for special needs students in the local area, held Nov. 12 in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Student Life Building. This was the first time this event has been held.
VETERANS' DAY AT UTM — The University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Veterans Association hosted a ceremony in honor of Veterans Day Friday in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. Roger VanCleave, a community veteran and current Weakley County Commissioner for District 7, served as one of several speakers during the event.

PAYING TRIBUTE — Michael Kirk of Newbern, an ROTC student from the Dyer County High School, was among those who offered tributes to area veterans before Saturday's Skyhawk football game. A veteran presided over the coin toss before the game. Rolling Thunder was also present at the game. Michael is a senior and has enlisted in the U.S. Army; he will go to basic training after he graduates.
UT Martin's Simpson named finalist for coach of the year

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Written by Derek Dickerson, Director

http://www.kfvs12.com/

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - UT Martin head coach Jason Simpson is one of 15 finalists for the Eddie Robinson FCS National Coach of the Year Award presented by STATS.

The list includes at least one representative from all 13 FCS conferences.

STATS will present the esteemed Robinson Award, which is being presented for the 30th time this year, at the national awards banquet on the eve of the NCAA Division I FCS Championship Game on Jan. 6 in Frisco, Texas.

The award is named for the legendary former Grambling head coach.

A national panel of over 150 sports information and media relations directors, broadcasters, writers and other dignitaries will select the STATS FCS Eddie Robinson Award following the regular season.

After losing 13 starters, Simpson has the Skyhawks at 7-4 overall (with three losses against FBS opponents) with have an opportunity to claim a share of the Ohio Valley Conference title with a win at No. 2 ranked Jacksonville State on Saturday.

If UT Martin wins that game they will earn the automatic bid to the 24-team FCS Playoffs, which would mark the team's first OVC Championship and playoff appearance since 2006.

UT Martin is currently one of just 13 teams nationally with one or fewer losses to an FCS opponent in 2016.

The Skyhawks defense is currently ranked third nationally in turnovers gained (26), eighth in passes intercepted (16) and 21st in total defense (323.9 yards/game) while the team's offense is first in the OVC and 17th nationally in scoring (34.5 points/game).

Two prior OVC coaches have won the Eddie Robinson Award, Houston Nutt with Murray State in 1995 and Tony Samuel with Southeast Missouri in 2010. A season ago JSU's John Grass was the runner-up for the prestigious honor.

2016 STATS Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Finalists
Brian Bohannon, Kennesaw State
Rod Broadway, North Carolina A&T
Steve Campbell, Central Arkansas
Andy Coen, Lehigh
Broderick Fobbs, Grambling State
Mike Houston, James Madison
K.C. Keeler, Sam Houston State
Chris Klieman, North Dakota State
Dale Lindsey, San Diego
Jerry Mack, North Carolina Central
Bubba Schwiegert, North Dakota
Jason Simpson, UT Martin
Bob Surace, Princeton
Brent Thompson, The Citadel
Chris Villarrial, Saint Francis

TRENTON GAZETTE

UTM included in ‘Best Business Schools’ for 2017

The Princeton Review has included the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Master of Business Administration program in its annual list of the “Best 294 Business Schools,” 2017 edition.

Approximately 25,000 students from business programs across the country responded to The Princeton Review’s survey to rate their institutions and report on their experiences as students. The survey included topics such as school administration and professor quality, academic programs, opportunities for women and minorities, student body composition, campus life and personal career prospects.

The publication does not rank schools numerically but instead lists those chosen in alphabetical order. UT Martin’s published profile calls the university “a friendly, flexible, low-key place to get a quality business education.”

The UT Martin MBA program is offered in a hybrid format, which allows students to complete a combination of online and on-campus courses. A fully online option is also available.

The complete list is available at princetonreview.com/business-school-rankings/best-business-schools.
Special prom gives students time to let loose

The dance floor in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Student Life Building was buzzing during a special prom event last weekend.

High school students from special needs classes in Weakly, Obion, Henry and Carroll counties attended the event and mingled with UT Martin students from hosting organizations as Cooper the Band entertained the crowd.

About 30 students, siblings and family members attended the event, which was spearheaded by the UT Martin Non-Traditional Student Organization and supported by the UT Martin offices of housing and student life, the Black Student Association, the Student Government Association and other organizations.

Many members of the Non-Traditional Student Organization have children themselves and wanted to create an event where special needs students and their families could have an experience that might not otherwise be possible.

"We knew this would be a special situation for the students to participate in, something that maybe they have not participated in (before)," said Julie Durham, NTSA president.

"For me, what's cool about this is that it's not just the Greek (organizations), it's everybody coming together," said Rachel Stephens, UT Martin student life coordinator. "You have service organizations, Greek organizations, leadership organizations — just so many people who fell in love with the idea of us doing something that's bigger than ourselves."

Debbie Carden, a special education teacher at Westview High School in Martin, as well as several other teachers and teacher's aides, were also present at the event to support their students outside the classroom.

"I think (a prom) in a regular setting at a regular time, like at school, not all of them would go because they're scared. Here, they're just out there having fun, throwing the balloons around, dancing — they're just having a big time," Ms. Carden said. "One of my girls, she was out there crying and says she's just so happy to be here. It's exciting. I wanted to come see them get dressed up and have a fun time and just do their thing."

The community got involved in the event, as well, and several businesses donated time and services to support the effort. Cooper the Band donated its performance for the evening and Christie's Photography in Martin donated photographic services during the event. Styles on Broadway in Martin also donated hair and makeup services before the event for attending students.

"We are big on being involved in the community, and obviously we're in the service industry, so any way that we're able to help out, that's what we want to do," said Marci Laird, a stylist with the salon. "We just want everyone to know that we're here, we're able and we're willing to help anybody and everybody that we can."

Ms. Durham hopes this prom will be the first of many annual events where special needs students can feel comfortable with new friends and familiar faces.

For more information on the event or how to be involved in the future, contact Ms. Durham at julardurh@ut.martin.edu.

Empty Bowls benefit slated for Saturday

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 13th annual Empty Bowls Soup Supper fundraiser from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday in the Fine Arts Building's Little Theatre.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the We Care food pantry in Martin and help feed the hungry in Weakley County.

David McBeth, UT Martin professor of art, donates his time and the cost of materials to make bowls for the supper each year.

UT Martin students also help with meal preparations, serving and clean-up, as well as making some of the bowls.

For a $10 donation, visitors can enjoy an all-you-can-eat soup supper and take home one of McBeth's handcrafted standard-sized bowls.

Larger bowls will have suggested donation values. A $5 donation is requested for those who only wish to eat, but UT Martin students can eat for free.

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

The Princeton Review includes UT Martin

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The UT Martin MBA program is offered in a hybrid format, which allows students to complete a combination of online and on-campus courses.

A fully online option is also available.

The complete list is available at princetonreview.com/business-school-rankings/best-business-schools. For more information about the program, contact Dr. Ashley Kilburn, graduate coordinator with the College of Business and Global Affairs, at (731) 881-7245 or email akilburn@utm.edu.
UC BAND HONOURED — Union City High School's marching band was named grand champion during the West Tennessee Marching Championships recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Drs. Bill Waterman (left), UT Martin director of athletic bands, and John Oelrich, UT Martin director of bands, presented the award to UCHS band drum major Sarah Schlager. UCHS also received both the outstanding finals musical and visual performance awards and first place for its color guard, percussion section and band in the quadruple-A category. UT Martin has hosted the contest, formerly known as the Skyhawk Marching Band Invitational, for the past 15 years.

OCCHS BAND WINS — Obion County Central High School's marching band was named reserve grand champion during the West Tennessee Marching Championships at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently. Drs. Robert Smith (left), UT Martin interim chancellor, and Jerald Ogg (right), UT Martin provost, presented the award to OCCHS band field commanders Cole Guess and Sara Jane Kendall, who also plays the flute in the marching band. OCCHS also received the Large Division Outstanding Performer or Performers Award and first place for its color guard, percussion section and band in the triple-A category. UT Martin has hosted the contest, formerly known as the Skyhawk Marching Band Invitational, for the past 15 years.
Veterinary students perfect on pass rate

Students from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Veterinary Health Technology Program achieved a 100 percent pass rate during the 2016 summer session of the Veterinary Technician National Examination.

This is the first time a cohort from the program has reached this goal.

Students who received their UT Martin degrees in the spring and summer 2016 semesters were eligible to sit for the national examination, which is required to receive a professional license to practice in the state of Tennessee.

All students who took the exam during the summer testing session passed as first-time test takers. Three testing sessions are offered each year.

"I feel like the vet tech program does a good job of emphasizing the importance of licensure, and they devote a lot of time and effort to reviewing VTNE-related topics. (Our professors) provided us with the resources we needed to help us pass the exam," said Matthew Chesnut, a spring 2016 program graduate.

Chesnut began working as a veterinary health technologist at Hooks Pet Clinic in Martin shortly after completing his degree requirements.

"This was a great group of students to work with," said Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science and program director. "They were dedicated in and out of the classroom. They made the commitment to study and prepare for this important exam, which led to great results. Passing the exam allows these graduates to become licensed veterinary technologists and begin their careers in the veterinary field."

According to Roberts, the national pass rate for the VTNE is around 70 percent, with the UT Martin pass rate averaging around 90 percent. UT Martin’s Veterinary Health Technology Program has continued to grow since its official accreditation in spring 2014.

"The time and dedication it takes (to study) while working a full-time job is daunting, but they did it," said Amanda Waldon, a licensed veterinary medical technologist and UT Martin instructor. "These students participate in hands-on labs, classroom activities and community service through the program, and they have an opportunity to pursue careers in one of the fastest-growing and most sought-after fields in the U.S."

For more information on UT Martin’s Veterinary Health Technology Program, which is housed within the College of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, contact Roberts at (731) 881-1071 or jroberts@utm.edu.

UTM Basketball Coaching Staff Attends Kiwanis Club Meeting

UTM Head Men’s Basketball Coach Anthony Stewart (center, white shirt) introduced his coaching staff to members of the Kiwanis Club of Martin at a meeting held on November 9. Coach Stewart shared excitement about the players on the 2016-17 team and said that these players were recruited not only for their talent but also for their potential to be good role models for children and all in the community. Pictured with Coach Stewart are (from left) Greg Majchzak, graduate assistant; Jermaine Johnson, assistant coach; Alex Ireland, assistant coach; DeAndre Walker, assistant coach; and Ali Parvaz, director of basketball operations. Coach Stewart is beginning his first season as head coach after serving two years as associate head coach.
Weakley County Receives 3-Star Award

Governor Bill Haslam and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development presented ThreeStar awards at the 2016 Governor’s Conference on Economic and Community Development in Nashville in October.

Locally, Weakley, Obion, Carroll, Henry, Gibson, Lake and Dyer achieved the ThreeStar status.

The award was presented to Weakley County officials, including: Barbara Virgin, Weakley County Chamber Executive Director & ThreeStar Coordinator; Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum; Virginia Grimes, UTM, WestStar Leadership; and Ronnie Price, Weakley County Economic Development Board President/CEO.

Mayor Bynum said, “Weakley County is excited, once again, to be participating in the Governor’s ThreeStar program, and be awarded as a ThreeStar Community. Not only does that designation allow us to participate in several programs across the state, it gives us the advantage of receiving additional points toward grants, which reduces the cost to our citizens.”

Mayor Bynum stated the program has saved Weakley County upwards of $4 million dollars over the past several years.

Chamber Director Virgin said, “We have been qualified and certifying in the ThreeStar program since 1989. This helps our communities and Weakley County to be more progressive for grants and loans.”

She stated that the Community Development Program added in the past few years has helped improve communities through the implementation of various projects. Ms. Virgin stated the level of funding has increased over the years. One of the improvements made possible by these programs is the development of the downtown areas.

Because of the ThreeStar program, three separate downtown development projects have been approved in Weakley County, including those in Martin, Greenfield and Dresden.

Ms. Virgin explained, “The towns and county qualify for the Community Development Block Grant points, which saves millions of dollars that Weakley Countians do not have to pay out-of-pocket and helps prevent tax increases.”

According to state officials, the ThreeStar program is a vital component to Tennessee’s overall level of success, providing counties with a framework for continued economic and community strength. Annual participation in the ThreeStar program helps communities develop a strategy and a plan to address Governor Haslam’s five priorities for public policy that include: jobs and economic development; fiscal strength and efficient government; public safety; health and welfare; and education and workforce development. The program encourages local community leaders, representing the five program areas, the Joint Economic and Community Development Board, and other key community stakeholders to implement activities that will impact the quality of life issues and therefore, their global competitiveness.

Weakley County was presented the Governor’s ThreeStar award for “performance, accountability, and efficiency” in these areas.

Benefits of certification include a four percent discount on the required match rate for select state and federal grants. Participation in certain state programs, such as the TN Downtown Revitalization Program, Select Tennessee Property Evaluation Program, and the Tourism Enhancement Grant Program require the county is ThreeStar certified. Additionally, certified counties designated as Tier 2 and Tier 3 are eligible for an annual grant to serve as seed money for activities focused on improving at least one of the measured areas of the program.
Those on hand for the presentation of the ThreeStar Award to Weakley County recently include (l to r): Janna Hellums, Northwest Regional Business Development Consultant, TNECD; Randy Boyd, TNECD Commissioner; Jody Sliger, ThreeStar Director, TNECD; Barbara Virgin, Weakley County Chamber Executive Director & ThreeStar Coordinator; Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum; Virginia Grimes, UTM, WestStar Leadership; Blake Swaggart, Northwest Regional Director, TNECD; Ronnie Price, Weakley County Economic Development Board President / CEO; Amy New, Assistant Commissioner Rural Development, TNECD; and Governor Bill Haslam.

LOCAL STUDENTS, from left, Edgar Servin, Kam-brielle Guzman and Abbie Sondergorth, attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s sixth annual FutureStar Summit, October 27th, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit is designed for West Tennessee’s future leaders, and the costs were underwritten by WestStar alumni contributions. For more information about WestStar leadership programs, contact Virginia Grimes at 731-881-7298.
Wilkins, Higgs named scholarship winners

Brenna Wilkins of Union City and Laura Ann Higgs of Toone claimed the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowns, respectively, during the combined scholarship pageant Nov. 13 in the UT Martin Boling University Center.

Wilkins, a sophomore social work major at UT Martin, performed the vocal selection “Unlove You,” by Jennifer Nettles, as her onstage talent. She will use her reign as Miss UT Martin to support a platform on depression and suicide awareness on college campuses. Wilkins plans to finish her bachelor’s degree at UT Martin before earning a master’s degree and working in the social work field promoting children’s welfare.

Higgs is a junior at Middle Tennessee State University where she is studying child development and family studies. She plans to become a certified child life specialist after graduation and obtain a master’s degree in child life studies. During her year as Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Higgs will promote a platform called “Team Mica: Suicide Awareness and Prevention.” Her jazz dance was unique among the evening’s talent performances.

Only current full-time UT Martin students could compete for the Miss UT Martin crown. Those competing for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title must be West Tennessee residents or enrolled as students in West Tennessee, but did not have to be UT Martin students.

Both young women will advance to the statewide Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, held at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson each June.

Both Wilkins and Higgs have competed in pageants before, although this is Wilkins’ first experience with a Miss Tennessee preliminary pageant.

“My first plan is to hit the gym quite a few times and work on better stage presence,” she said, of preparing for the state competition.

Higgs competed for the Miss Tennessee crown last year as Miss Queen City. “I’m super excited to represent Martin and the soybean festival and go back again this year,” she said.

She plans to take a holistic approach to her pageant preparations in hopes of taking home the crown.

The title of Miss Tennessee is a full-time, year-long position as Gov. Bill Haslam’s official spokes-

person for character education and as an ambassador for Tennessee’s Children’s Miracle Network hospitals.

The winner of the Miss Tennessee title will advance to the Miss America Scholarship Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., for a chance to serve as Miss America 2018.

Miss UT Martin’s court included UT Martin students Amanda Mayo, of Lawrenceville, Ga., as first maid, and Morgan Martin, of Union City, as second maid. Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival’s court included Hannah Minear, of Atoka, as first maid, and Mallory Tidwell, of Bradford, as second maid.

For more information on the Miss UT Martin or Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival scholarship pageants, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wltj.org.
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – Six students from Weakley County attended the West-Star Leadership Program’s sixth annual FutureStar Summit Oct. 27 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit is designed for West Tennessee’s future leaders, and the costs were underwritten by WestStar alumni contributions. Pictured are (back row, from left) Drake McAllister, Bradason Lawson and Dearcia Nicholson; (front row) Hailey Crowe, Dylan Jenkins and Tyler Ricketts. For more information about WestStar leadership programs, contact Virginia Grimes at 731-881-7298. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu/advantage.

STUDENTS DONATE PUMPKINS — University of Tennessee at Martin freshman studies class members recently painted and donated pumpkins to the residents of Diversicare of Martin. On hand for the donation were (from left) Dalis Lampkins, Paige Huggins, Evelyn Estrada, Hannah Houck, Director of Nursing Michael Hobrock and resident Leola Copeland.
PUMPKINS DONATED — Chi Omega and Sigma Chi students recently painted and donated 47 pumpkins to the residents of Diversicare of Martin. Those involved were (from left) Bethany Cobb, Libby Lowery, assistant director of nursing Susan Rogers, Michael Birmingham, Grant Iverson and Jacob Hershberger. Each resident was able to choose a pumpkin to display in their room.

Educational Outreach Students Take Home Awards at ACJA Region 5 Conference

Members of the Zeta Epsilon Nu (ZEN) local chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association (ACJA) participated in the Region 5 conference in Chattanooga from October 20-22. The theme of the conference was human trafficking, and students had the opportunity to participate in a physical agility course, shooting competitions, and academic testing.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation ASAC Brian Johnston presented the workshop on human trafficking. ZEN president Logan Farley of the Jackson Center, placed third on the Criminal Law test. Kaley Blankenship (Jackson, Selmer, main campus) took home awards in Police Management and Operations (3rd place), Juvenile Justice (3rd place), Corrections (2nd place), and Physical Agility (3rd place). The highlight of the night was when ZEN was awarded 2nd place in the Crime Scene Investigation competition.

ZEN's lead investigator was Nikki Maness (Selmer Center). We knew going into the competition that we had a strong team – this past summer Nikki attended the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program and Logan completed an internship with the Jackson Police Department, and two summers ago Kaley attended the TBI summer academy.

ACJA is a professional organization for criminal justice students and professionals. Logan and Kaley are graduating this semester, but they are planning to continue their membership in ACJA in the professional category. Each year ACJA holds a national conference and regional conferences. The next national conference will be in Austin, Texas in March 2017 followed by Cleveland in 2018. A site for the 2017 Region 5 conference will be determined early next year.

ZEN, UTM’s local chapter of ACJA, became an official chapter in December 2016 and is currently involved in the process to become a university-recognized student organization. Criminal Justice students can get more details and join ZEN by contacting Logan, Nikki, or Dr. Boyles. Elections for officers will be in the spring. Then we will be making plans to be even more competitive in the 2017 conferences. Membership is open to UTM Criminal Justice students at the Educational Outreach Centers and the main campus...
UC, Toone residents claim Miss UT Martin, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival titles

MARTIN — Brenna Wilkins of Union City and Laura Ann Higgs of Toone claimed the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowns, respectively, during the combined scholarship pageant Sunday in the UT Martin Boling University Center.

Miss Wilkins, a sophomore social work major at UT Martin, performed the vocal selection “Unlove You,” by Jennifer Nettles, as her onstage talent. She will use her reign as Miss UT Martin to support a platform on depression and suicide awareness on college campuses. Miss Wilkins plans to finish her bachelor’s degree at UT Martin before earning a master’s degree and working in the social work field promoting children’s welfare.

Miss Higgs is a junior at Middle Tennessee State University, where she is studying child development and family studies. She plans to become a certified child life specialist after graduation and obtain a master’s degree in child life studies. During her year as Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Miss Higgs will promote a platform called “Team Mica: Suicide Awareness and Prevention.” Her jazz dance was unique among the evening’s talent performances.

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Both Miss Wilkins and Miss Higgs have competed in pageants before, although this is Miss Wilkins’ first experience with a Miss Tennessee preliminary pageant. “My first plan is to hit the gym quite a few times and work on better stage presence,” she said of preparing for the state competition.

Miss Higgs competed for the Miss Tennessee crown last year as Miss Queen City. “I’m super excited to represent Martin and the Soybean Festival and go back again this year,” she said. She plans to take a holistic approach to her pageant preparations in hopes of taking home the crown.

The job of Miss Tennessee is a full-time, yearlong position as Gov. Bill Haslam’s official spokesman for character education and as an ambassador for Tennessee’s Children’s Miracle Network hospitals. The winner of the Miss Tennessee title will advance to the Miss America Scholarship Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., for a chance to serve as Miss America 2018.

Miss UT Martin’s court included UT Martin students Amanda Mayo of Lawrenceville, Ga., as first maid and Morgan Martin of Union City as second maid. Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival’s court included Hannah Minear of Atoka as first maid and Mallory Tidwell of Bradford as second maid.

For more information on the Miss UT Martin or Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival scholarship pageants, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wljt.org.
How Van Jones Became a Star of the 2016 Campaign

By JACOB BERNSTEIN NOV. 18, 2016

WASHINGTON — Last Thursday, Van Jones couldn’t even buy a tuna wrap here without a woman in her late 20s walking up to him to ask for a selfie. Two minutes later, the Argentine woman behind the counter gave him a thumbs up.

“It’s like this everywhere,” said Mr. Jones, 48. “I haven’t paid for a cab since the election.”

That is when this CNN commentator, whose fiery political exchanges with supporters of President-elect Donald J. Trump over the last nine months have often gone viral, declared that the Republican nominee’s victory represented a “whitelash” against a black president and a changing electorate, as well as a deeply painful moment for minorities in America.

“You tell your kids, ‘Don’t be a bigot,’” he said on camera. “You tell your kids, ‘Do your homework and be prepared.’ And then you have this outcome, and you have people putting children to bed tonight. And they’re afraid of, how do I explain this to my children?”

Perhaps predictably, these comments garnered swift outrage from some on the right, such as Rush Limbaugh, who said the election had “nothing to do with white people wanting their country back on racial concerns.” But in the liberal enclaves Mr. Jones inhabits, they were treated as something like gospel: a moment of naked honesty in a campaign season filled with distortions.

“I’ve heard people say it was a star-making moment,” said Mr. Jones’s friend Ava DuVernay, the Oscar-nominated filmmaker. She quickly added that she had held him in that regard for quite some time, given his three-decade career in civil rights activism, his bestselling books on progressive issues and the considerable time he has spent on the lecture circuit.

Growing up in Jackson, Tenn., Mr. Jones knew from an early age he would wind up doing a version of what he is doing now. His parents were educators who taught him about the importance of hard work and social justice.

“In their view, excellence was a weapon against bigotry,” said Mr. Jones, who worked on a student newspaper at the University of Tennessee at Martin before going to Yale Law School.

Upon getting his law degree, Mr. Jones said, he moved to the Bay Area, was dumped after “like two weeks” by the woman he had relocated for and began working in criminal justice reform, starting the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, an organization he named after the pioneering activist who mentored Stokely Carmichael and Representative John Lewis of Georgia.

There, said Bryan Stevenson, who as the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative is one of the nation’s most prominent voices on issues of mass incarceration and race, Mr. Jones emerged as an “early architect” of the movement, who got “people all over the country to care about” criminal justice reform.

Right after Mr. Jones won a Reebok Human Rights Award in 1998, he spoke at the University of California, Berkeley, and met a law school student named Jana Carter, who ultimately became his wife. (They have two sons, 12 and 8, and live in Los Angeles. Mr. Jones asked that his children’s names not be published.)

But suing the police and staging protests took their toll. So did defending those who were released from prison but had no real opportunities for rehabilitation or employment. By 2002, Mr. Jones was seriously burned out.
"I went to counseling, meditation groups, did every kind of self-improvement course you could imagine," Mr. Jones said. "Tony Robbins, Landmark Forum, Hoffman Institute. I was like Frankenstein, experimenting on myself."

With former Vice President Al Gore’s green movement picking up steam, Mr. Jones soon had an epiphany: Why not try to bring together the fights against pollution and poverty, training nonviolent offenders to work in eco-friendly construction, doing things like installing solar panels. He saw it as an ideal form of manual labor, since it couldn’t be outsourced to other countries.

This became the subject of a best-selling book called “The Green Collar Economy” and led to a post in the Obama administration as an adviser to the president.

The honeymoon was short-lived.

Just six months after Mr. Jones arrived in Washington, the conservative talk-show host Glenn Beck started an investigation into his past and found evidence showing Mr. Jones had flirted with communism in college and had made impolitic comments about Republicans in a videotaped address.

Mr. Beck also charged that Mr. Jones had signed a 2004 petition from 911truth.org, a group that believes the United States government was involved with the attacks on the World Trade Center.

As the Drudge Report began linking to the stories and right-wing radio had a field day, it became clear that he had become a liability to the White House and he resigned.

Another dark period followed ("an emotional black hole," as Mr. Jones described it), but he was able to rebuild his reputation.

In July 2010, 911truth.org removed his name from a list of those who support its mission, after reviewing its records and failing to find evidence that Mr. Jones had signed the original petition. Then came a visiting professorship at Princeton University and a friendship with Prince, with whom he played table tennis, discussed black history (and was admonished by to stop swearing). And in 2012, CNN hired Mr. Jones to appear on a new iteration of “Crossfire” with Newt Gingrich, Stephanie Cutter and S. E. Cupp.

“The show did not last, but we loved Van’s voice,” said Jeff Zucker, the network’s president, who kept him on afterward as a commentator.

In March 2015, Mr. Jones went on the air to talk about the 50th anniversary of the march on Selma, Ala., and received a message on Twitter from Ms. DuVernay, the director of the Academy Award-winning film “Selma,” about the civil rights struggle that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1964.

They struck up a correspondence and went to breakfast in downtown Los Angeles, where Ms. DuVernay explained that she was working on a documentary about the criminal justice system for Netflix and wanted him to be a part of it.

He said yes and referred Ms. DuVernay to Mr. Gingrich, who despite being on the opposite side of the aisle, is now his good friend, and talks in the film about the disparity in sentencing guidelines for white users of powder cocaine and black users of crack cocaine.

Today, the movie, “13th,” is a front-runner for the Academy Award for Best Documentary, and Mr. Jones has set up a production company to identify multimedia projects.

Central to his progressive mission is finding common ground with right wingers, even as he disagrees with them on matters big and small.

“He makes the conversation better every time he’s a part of it,” said Anderson Cooper, the CNN anchor. “He’s not an ideologue who’s regurgitating talking points. He’s incredibly thoughtful.”

“There’s a ritual Rock ’em Sock ’em Robots quality to TV news, where everyone is supposed to come bludgeon the other person with their talking points,” Mr. Jones said. “And over the course of the last 18 months, I’ve fallen out of love with that. I think the truth is messy.”


It debuted in late October, and the first episodes featured Mr. Jones going to Gettysburg, Pa., where he spoke with empathy and open-mindedness to Trump supporters, who discuss their economic concerns and heartbreak over being branded as racists simply because they support Mr. Trump.
Several thanked Mr. Jones at the end for really listening to them and asked him to pose for pictures. The symbolism of this black man surrounded by a phalanx of star-struck white Trump supporters was hard to miss. (A televised special of “The Messy Truth” will air on CNN Dec. 6)

Consequently, Mr. Jones didn’t want people to infer from his election-night comments that he thinks all of President-elect Trump’s supporters are bigots. At the same time, he thought it was essential not to brush aside the role of racism in Mr. Trump’s ascent.

“If you only focus on the toxic crap, you’re not being fair to the Trump voters,” Mr. Jones said. “But if you deny all the toxic crap, you’re not being fair to the rest of Americans.”

There is little denying that Mr. Jones is popular among his colleagues at CNN, particularly after watching him last Thursday evening on a rooftop set overlooking the Capitol for a special taping of “Anderson Cooper 360.”

A cameraman approached during one of the breaks and implored him to run for office. “Please!” Mr. Jones said, “I’m running from office.”

Then, Khizr Khan, the Muslim Gold Star father who spoke out against Mr. Trump at the Democratic National Convention, approached to praise Mr. Jones.

“We need more voices like his,” Mr. Khan said.

Mr. Jones had gotten into a testy interchange the night before with his Evangelical co-panelist Kayleigh McEnany as she all but accused him of race-baiting and he admonished her to stop interrupting him. Yet as they sat side by side near Mr. Cooper, shooting the breeze during commercials, it was clear no harm had been done.

“I think she’s amazing,” Mr. Jones said.

If there was anything disappointing about the evening, it was that Mr. Jones’s other on-camera nemesis — Jeffrey Lord, a staunch Trump defender and former aide to Ronald Reagan and Jack Kemp — wasn’t there for one of their ferocious but friendly altercations.

“How can you not like Jeffrey?” Mr. Jones said. “He’s adorable. He’s like a Fraggle.”

Then he paused. “If a Fraggle had a tendency towards terrible revisionist history.”

“Which is exactly how I feel about him,” said Mr. Lord, speaking later by phone. “I think Van’s a terrific person and a great friend. We just disagree on everything, and God bless America.”
Several area students and community members break in the dance floor during a prom event for special needs students in the local area Nov. 12 in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Student Life Building. High school students from special needs classes in Henry, Weakley, Obion and Carroll counties attended the event and mingled with UT Martin students.
Matthew Chesnut, a spring 2016 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program, is pictured working with Dr. Hailey Collins, DVM, at Hooks Pet Clinic in Martin.

Pets are their passion

UTM Vet techs get 100 percent pass rate

THE JACKSON SUN

Students from the University of Tennessee at Martin's Veterinary Health Technology Program achieved a 100 percent pass rate during the 2016 summer session of the Veterinary Technician National Examination. This is the first time a cohort from the program has reached this goal.

Students who received their UT Martin degrees in the spring and summer semesters were eligible to sit for the national examination, which is required to receive a professional license to practice in the state of Tennessee. All students who took the exam during the summer testing session passed as first-time test takers. Three testing sessions are offered each year.

"I feel like the vet tech program does a good job of emphasizing the importance of licensure, and they devote a lot of time and effort to reviewing VTNE-related topics. (Our professors) provided us with the resources we needed to help us pass the exam," said Matthew Chesnut, a spring 2016 program graduate. Chesnut began working as a veterinary health technologist at Hooks Pet Clinic in Martin shortly after completing his degree requirements.

"This was a great group of students to work with," said Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science and program director. "They were dedicated in and out of the classroom. They made the commitment to study and prepare for this important exam, which led to great results. Passing the exam allows these graduates to become licensed veterinary technologists and begin their careers in the veterinary field."

According to Roberts, the national pass rate for the VTNE is around 70 percent, with the UT Martin pass rate averaging around 90 percent. UT Martin's Veterinary Health Technology Program has continued to grow since its official accreditation in spring 2014.

"The time and dedication it takes (to study) while working a full-time job is daunting, but they did it," said Amanda Waldon, a licensed veterinary medical technologist and UT Martin instructor. "These students participate in hands-on labs, classroom activities and community service through the program, and they have an opportunity to pursue careers in one of the fastest-growing and most sought-after fields in the U.S."

For more information on UT Martin's Veterinary Health Technology Program, which is housed within the College of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, contact Roberts at (731) 881-1071 or jroberts@utm.edu.

Pets

Continued from Page 5A

Clinic in Martin shortly after completing his degree requirements.

"This was a great group of students to work with," said Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science and program director. "They were dedicated in and out of the classroom. They made the commitment to study and prepare for this
Brady Austin Allen, a student at Munford High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's Young Writers' Conference on Nov. 18, hosted by the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

Students from across the state attended workshops on poetry-writing, songwriting, creative fiction, nonfiction and a variety of other genres throughout the day.

Tiana Clark, winner of the 2016 Academy of American Poets Prize and author of the poetry chapbook “Equilibrium,” served as conference keynote speaker.

For more information on the annual conference, contact Dr. John Glass, associate professor of English, at 731-881-7288 or jglass@utm.edu.

Santa's Village in Martin Starts December 8

Christmas is coming soon and that means Santa's Village is too. The 32nd annual event is December 8 & 9 from 6-9 p.m.; December 10 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and December 11 from 1-5 p.m. at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The purpose of the event is to provide an inside winter wonderland, which will also help meet the needs of the less fortunate in the area.

Admission to the event is free and donations for $5 worth of nonperishable food and/or toys will be greatly appreciated.

Some features of the event are visits with Santa, petting farm, amusement rides, arts & crafts, enchanted forest with thousands of lights and live WLJ'T's Jet of Ready, Jet, Go will also be on hand Saturday from 1 - 4 p.m.

For more information contact Martin Parks & Recreation at 537-6764.
Salute to Small Business awards given

UT MARTIN REED CENTER HONORS FACULTY SUPPORTER — Darlene Adkins (left), a lecturer in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science, was recognized for her support of the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center during a "Salute to Small Business" awards reception Nov. 15. Adkins received the Faculty Star Award, which honors a UT Martin faculty member who shares his or her time and expertise with aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners through the UT Martin REED Center. She is pictured with Landy Fuqua, director of the UT Martin REED Center.

BELL HONORED WITH COMMUNITY STAR AWARD — Anita Allen Bell (left), owner of Monograms & More in Martin, received a Community Star Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center during a "Salute to Small Business" awards reception Nov. 15. The Community Star Award honors community leaders who share their time and expertise with aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners through the UT Martin REED Center. Bell is pictured with Landy Fuqua, director of the UT Martin REED Center.
LOCAL ATTORNEY RECEIVES COMMUNITY STAR AWARD — Beau Pemberton (right), an attorney in Dresden, received a Community Star Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center during a "Salute to Small Business" awards reception Nov. 15. The Community Star Award honors community leaders who share their time and expertise with aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners through the UT Martin REED Center. Pemberton is pictured with Landy Fuqua, director of the UT Martin REED Center.

MOBILE VET RECEIVES RISING STAR AWARD — Dr. Debbie Reynolds (left), owner of Veterinary Home Health Care, received a Rising Star Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center during a "Salute to Small Business" awards reception Nov. 15. The Rising Star Award recognizes entrepreneurs who have demonstrated growth potential, job creation and a strong entrepreneurial mindset. Reynolds is pictured with Landy Fuqua, director of the UT Martin REED Center.
Santa’s Village in Martin, Dec. 8-11

Christmas is coming soon and that means Santa's Village is too. The 32nd annual event is scheduled for December 8 & 9 from 6-9 p.m.; December 10 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and December 11 from 1-5 p.m. at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

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Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors to date include: Casey’s General Store, Simmons Bank, MTD Products and Savant Learning Systems.

For more information contact Martin Parks & Recreation at 587-6784.
Tales from the Vienna Woods

UTM professor visits territory of Haydn, Liszt, Mozart and others

A UTM professor recently got to experience music with a decidedly Austrian twist.

At a recent meeting of the Philharmonic Music Guild, Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music at UT Martin, presented a program entitled “A Trip to Eisenstadt, Austria.”

Dr. Harriss is a pianist, flutist, and early childhood music specialist. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and her PhD from the University of Michigan. Dr. Harriss has been at UTM since 2001 and served for six years as chair of the department of music.

In her presentation for the Guild, Dr. Harriss described her participation in 2016 Classical Music Festival held in August in Eisenstadt, Austria, the winter home of the wealthy Esterházy family for whom the composer Joseph Haydn worked for 30 years.

The two-week music festival had 160 participants involved in the orchestra, the chorus, and piano workshops. Dr. Harriss talked about the music, the events, the side tours, Haydn, and the Esterházy family. She showed slides of the area, the palaces and the people.

Dr. Harriss called this experience a musical vacation and described the seven piano master classes. She said that for this event she went as an observer.

She described the Esterházy Palace and explained how very rich this family was and how highly valued music was by them and other rich families at that time.

She also described a trip to the Bösendorfer Piano Factory in Vienna and noted that the grand and upright pianos of this famous Viennese piano manufacturer are unique musical instruments of the highest demand. She mentioned going to the showroom and also to St. Stephens Cathedral in Vienna where the Festival Choir and Orchestra performed.

Harriss said she delighted in going to the Opera House in Vienna and also to places associated with well-known musicians, including Franz Liszt’s birthplace in Raiding.

Of course, Dr. Harriss said, at the center of this marvelous trip was music, and she highlighted some of the pieces performed. She closed with mention of her return to Paducah, the place from which she started, and how even a flat tire did not diminish the joy of this musical vacation.

This October meeting of the Philharmonic Music Guild was held in the community room of the E. C. Weldon Public Library.

At the business meeting, members voted to increase donations to selected schools/programs to $150 and to contribute $250 toward travel expenses of UT Martin’s internationally-recognized percussion group.

Hostesses for the evening were Denise and Elwood Doss, Emily Akin, and Melanie Young.

Those interested in joining the Philharmonic Music Guild are asked to contact any of the following persons: Elaine Harriss, president; Karleen Sternisha, vice president; Anna Clark, secretary; Harriette Spiegel, treasurer; or any of the 47 members of this area group, whose motto is “We learn to do by doing.”
Empty Bowls make great holiday gifts

Is there someone on your list who you find hard to buy for? For a gift that shows a sense of caring and compassion and also gives back, give the gift of an Empty Bowl, a gift that shows a sense of caring and compassion for others.

Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger and was created by The Imagine Render Group. The basic premise is simple: Potters and other craftspeople, educators and others work with the community to create handcrafted bowls.

The Martin and University of Tennessee at Martin communities have been involved in the Empty Bowls Project for the last 13 years, with 100 percent of the money from the sale of the bowls going to the WeCare Food Bank.

WeCare Ministries, a benevolent organization who helps those in need with rent/utility assistance and food, has a walk in freezer and cooler as a result of this project as well as funds over the years that have assisted to fund their food bank.

To purchase a bowl throughout the year for any special occasion, call or visit WeCare on North Lindell in Martin.

Give a gift that is handcrafted with love by potter and other craftspeople. Give a gift that shows a sense of caring and compassion for others. Give a gift that will benefit WeCare Ministries. Give an Empty Bowl.

League of Striving Artists announces Holiday Art Bazaar

The League of Striving Artists, the student art organization at The University of Tennessee at Martin, in cooperation with the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, will be hosting the Third Annual Holiday Art Bazaar from Dec. 1 to Dec 3, 2016. This event will be held in the Fine Arts Building Gallery.

The LSA Holiday Art Bazaar gives members of the community the opportunity to view and purchase a large selection of handmade items created by UTM art students, faculty and alumni. Items include holiday cards, paintings, drawings, handmade scarves and wraps, ceramics, glass ornaments and many other handmade works. Admission is free and the event is open to the public!

Many of the artists will be in attendance at the bazaar. Purchase gifts for your family and friends in time for the holidays and support your local artists by coming to view their work!

About The League of Striving Artists

The League of Striving Artists is the student art organization at The University of Tennessee at Martin. LSA has a member base of studio artists, graphic designers, art education students, and non-art majors that enjoy creating work. The organization actively works both on campus and in the community to promote the development of artists through academics, community, service learning and leadership.
Local resident receives award from UT Martin

By Special to The Daily Herald

MARTIN — Miranda Rutan, of Spring Hill, received the fall 2016 Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during an awards presentation Nov. 18.

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

Rutan has served as UT Martin’s student voice on the University of Tennessee System’s Board of Trustees and also recently served as a member of the UT Martin chancellor search committee.

Rutan is employed by the UT Martin Office of Student Life, where she has helped coordinate the activities of multiple student organizations, managed and rebranded The Hub student communication network, and communicated with various campus stakeholders to maintain a professional appearance among student organizations.

Gordon to Speak at UTM Commencement

The University of Tennessee-Martin has announced that Covington attorney J. Houston Gordon will serve as keynote speaker at the Fall commencement in December.

Gordon graduated from UT-Martin with a Bachelor of Science in 1968, and later received a juris doctorate degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1970 and master of law degree in taxation from the George Washington University National Law Center.

He served on the Tennessee System of Board of Trustees from 1989 to 1995, and was presented UTM’s “Outstanding Alumni Award” in 1997.

Gordon has been named one of the “Best Lawyers in America” since 1984, and is listed as one of the Top-100 trial lawyers in the nation.

Commencement exercises will take place at the Elam Center on December 10th, with UT President Dr. Joe DiPietro conferring degrees.
Smith, Chandler bid farewell to commission

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

Two citizens bade farewell to the Weakley County Commission on Monday night, while another was recognized for her life-saving skills.

Robert Smith, interim chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, thanked members of the community and county commissioners who “welcomed me back” when he took the position in May 2015 upon the resignation of Dr. Tom Rakes, who was chancellor since 2007. Keith Carver, chosen as the new chancellor, will take office Jan. 3.

Smith said the most important advances during his tenure were the announcement of funding for a new engineering building and substantial progress on a planned convention center.

A visibly moved Carmen Chandler, fourth district commissioner, announced that her family was moving to Madison County and she would be vacating her seat. The only woman on the board, she reminded commissioners that Weakley County government needed more diversity in its demographics.

Kim Healy, a dispatcher with Weakley County 911, was given a life-saving medal for her successful efforts in October to help a Martin woman escape her burning home. Jamie Peevyhouse, who presented the award, said Healy only had 30-40 seconds of conversation with the woman before the victim passed out from smoke inhalation, but Healy was able to direct Martin firefighters to the closest door to rescue the victim.

In recess, commissioners also heard from two residents from the north-east part of the county who were complaining about a junkyard which had been created next door to their homes and which is allegedly using hazardous materials for landfill.

In other business the commission:

• Appointed David Hawks and Kerry Cooper to the solid waste committee.
• Appointed James Westbrook, Jack Vincent, Donald Doster and Larry Taylor to the financial management committee.

See COMMISSION, Page 12

COMMISSION, From Page 1

• Passed seven resolutions, including four budget amendments, based on the recommendations of various committees.

The next regular meeting of the county commission will be Tuesday, Jan. 17, but the group recessed until another meeting expected in December to pay in advance for energy-efficient improvements because early payment will save over $100,000.

MOVING ON — Robert M. Smith, interim chancellor at UTM, had final thoughts for the county commission.

Photo by Linda Thurston
ACT prep course to be offered

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students looking to improve their scores can register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Dec. 3, on University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years. This one-day workshop will include tips on how students can improve their performance and boost their scores to increase their chances of top-college acceptance.

The registration fee for this course is $45 per person.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

SAI fall musicale scheduled Nov. 29

Sigma Alpha Iota will host its fall musicale at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 29, in the Blakenship Recital Hall, inside the Fine Arts Building on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The performance will feature popular, classical and jazz works from American composers while showcasing various voices and instruments. Sigma Alpha Iota is a national music fraternity for college women and alumni.

The event is free and open to the public.

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

UT MARTIN STUDENTS PERFORM — The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Ensemble performed during the Percussive Arts Society International Convention on Nov. 10 in Indianapolis. The ensemble won the society's International World Percussion Competition in the university showcase category for the first time in school history earlier this year. Students from the UT Martin Dance Ensemble, directed by Sarah McCormick, associate professor of dance, accompanied the percussionists, and background artwork was created by Lane Last, UT Martin professor of art, and his students.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, professor of music and director of percussion studies, at 731-881-7402 or email jhill@utm.edu.
Local Beauties Crowned

Brenna Wilkins, left, of Martin was named Miss University of Tennessee at Martin 2017 and Laura Ann Higgs, right, of Toone was named Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival 2017 in pageants held on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin on Sunday, November 13.

Special recognition was received by Ms. Wilkins as People's Choice and by contestant Amanda Mayo as Miss Congeniality. Those serving in Ms. Wilkins court include first runner-up Amanda Mayo and second runner-up Morgan Martin. Ms. Higgs court consists of first runner-up Hannah Minear and second runner-up Mallory Tidwell.

Ms. Wilkins and Ms. Higgs will compete for the title of Miss Tennessee at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in June 2017.

BOUTIQUE OWNER RECEIVES RISING STAR AWARD – Teresa Wright, left, owner of Two Doors Down Boutique, received a Rising Star Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center during a “Salute to Small Business” awards reception Nov. 15. The Rising Star Award recognizes entrepreneurs who have demonstrated growth potential, job creation and a strong entrepreneurial mindset. Wright is pictured with Landy Fuqua, director of the UT Martin REED Center. (Photo submitted)
Holiday Bazaar Features Handmade Items

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s League of Striving Artists will host the third annual holiday art bazaar Dec. 1-3 in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Fine Arts Gallery.

The bazaar will feature handmade holiday cards, scarves and wraps, ceramics and glass ornaments, original paintings and more, all created by UT Martin art students, faculty and alumni. The gallery will be open to the public from 6-8 p.m., Dec. 1; 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Dec. 2; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 3.

A special preview for Support the Arts contributors will be held from 5-7 p.m., Dec. 1. STARTS members will be able to view available inventory and have first selection of the items for sale. Prices are determined by individual sellers, and many artists will be in attendance to discuss their work. Cash, check and charge will be accepted.

The UT Martin League of Striving Artists includes students with backgrounds in studio art, graphic design and art education, as well as non-art majors who enjoy creating work. The organization is active to promote the development of artists through academics, community-service learning and leadership, both on campus and in the surrounding community.

One Day ACT Workshop Offered

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students looking to improve their scores can register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Dec. 3, on University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years. This one-day workshop will include tips on how students can improve their performance and boost their scores to increase their chances of top-college acceptance.

The registration fee for this course is $45 per person.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.

Trenton Gazette

Wednesday, November 23, 2016

BEAUTIES – Brenna Wilkins, of Union City, and Laura Ann Higgs, of Toone, claimed the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowns, respectively, during the combined scholarship pageant in the UT Martin Boling University Center. Pictured are (from left) Morgan Martin, of Union City, second maid, Miss UT Martin; Amanda Mayo, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, first maid, Miss UT Martin; Brenna Wilkins, of Union City, Miss UT Martin; Laura Ann Higgs, of Toone, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival; Hannah Minear, of Atoka, first maid, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival; and Mallory Tidwell, of Bradford, second maid, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.
RMS students attend writers' conference
A group of students from Ripley Middle School attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's Young Writers' Conference Nov. 18, hosted by the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. Tiana Clark, winner of the 2016 Academy of American Poets Prize and author of the poetry chapbook "Equilibrium," served as conference keynote speaker. Pictured are, from left, Mason Kelley, Kiya Stewart, Alex Padezhki, Zach Ogden, Phoenix Bhati, teacher Shelley Ogden, Rachel Daniels, Katlynn Moore, Destiny Cobb and teacher Dr. Jenny Brandon.

Local students attend UTM leadership program
Four students from Lauderdale County attended the WestStar Leadership Program's RisingStar Leadership Summit on Nov. 18 on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The two-day summit is designed for high school students who demonstrate leadership potential. Pictured are, from left, front row, Ray Washington, Alese Adams; back row, Tyler Frazier and Jessica Reaves.
PAL speaks to class at UTM

Xavier Lawrence Andrews, pictured in back, gave a presentation to the drugs and behavior class at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center on Nov. 16. The coalition discussed the growing use of hashish, also known as hash or “grass” use among youth. The class was informed that marijuana is the most common and least powerful form of cannabis. It is made from dried plant leaves and flowers. Most of American cannabis is strictly the flower or bud of the plant and does not contain whole plants. THC is the main active ingredient in marijuana that acts upon the nervous system. Marijuana usually contains a maximum of 25-30 percent THC. Hashish, also known as hash, is made by eliminating plant material and collecting the trichomes from the flower tops of female cannabis plants. These flowers, or heads, are the most potent parts of the plant. As a result, the THC content of hashish typically varies from 20-60 percent. The coalition also provided information to the class about the effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. The next coalition meeting will be held at the UTM Ripley Center on Dec. 22 at 6 p.m. The anti-drug coalition encourages all concerned citizens to get involved in the fight for children. For more information, contact Xavier Lawrence Andrews, PAL Coordinator, at 612-6337 or email xandrews@utm.edu.

Three locals attend UTM event

Three students from Lauderdale County attended the WestStar Leadership program’s sixth annual FutureStar Summit on Oct. 27 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit is designed for West Tennessee’s future leaders, and the costs were underwritten by WestStar alumni contributions. Pictured are, from left, Edgar Servin, Kambrielle Guzman and Abbie Sondergoth.
Study abroad opportunities promote cultural exposure and language immersion

All students at the University of Tennessee at Martin are required to complete two undergraduate courses in a foreign language.

However, those who choose to major or minor in a foreign language or international studies are also required to participate in a travel-study or study abroad program before graduation.

Travel-study trips are typically a week or two in length and primarily expose students to historical sites and cultural opportunities. Study abroad programs, however, can range from one month to one year and include academic language courses at a foreign university. These trips force participating students to immerse themselves in their chosen language, observe the customs of their host country and come home with a complete foreign experience.

A group of UT Martin students spent the month of July in Toledo, Spain, and enrolled in language courses through the University of Castilla-La Mancha, where they took classes for four hours a day and spoke nothing but Spanish for four weeks.

McKell Wilbanks, a junior Spanish education major, said there is no other way to immerse yourself in a language.

"I believe that since I actually went to Spain and got out there and spoke nothing but Spanish ... that helped me learn Spanish so much more and helped me get into it," she said. "I'm at a whole lot higher (level) than where I was before I left and where I would be if I just took two classes here (at UT Martin)."

The students plan to use their Spanish skills in different ways. Ms. Wilbanks hopes to become a high school Spanish teacher and pass her love for the language on to another generation. Chelsea Thomson, a senior agricultural business major, and Patricia Ramos, a junior with double majors in Spanish and management, plan to use their skills to work in the human resources industry.

"Going to Spain has helped me toward my career not only by providing an international experience, but by reinforcing a language that is very important in my career field," Ms. Thomson said. "Many (agricultural) companies have test crop fields in Mexico, and many agricultural workers are Hispanic. By learning Spanish, I have made myself more marketable as an employee because I am able to reach a wider client base."

The University of Castilla-La Mancha also enrolls study abroad students from a variety of other countries, which gave the UT Martin cohort the opportunity to interact with classmates from around the world.

"I think the greatest part about the trip was not only hanging out with the people in my group — I did get really close to them — but we also got really close to other people from other countries. Our favorite group of friends were some people from Lebanon," Ms. Wilbanks said. "I really liked getting to know people from other cultures and getting to experience their culture, too. They taught us a lot of Arabic words and we taught them a lot of English."

Participating UT Martin students were able to see the world through the eyes of their counterparts from countries such as Egypt, Romania, Lebanon and Mexico. Ms. Ramos admitted this was an eye-opening experience.

"(Traveling) helps you think differently. When people stay in their own towns or their own states and they don't travel, they don’t get to see what other countries experience," she said. "It really opens up your mind to think in a bigger way."

"You think you know how people live, based on what you see in the media and what you read, but when you actually see it for yourself, it's a whole different ballgame," said Kayla Tunstall, a senior international studies major. "This is something every student should do, whether it's a requirement or not."

The students each encouraged their UT Martin classmates to take advantage of the university's many travel opportunities and assured them that financial aid is available, if they ask.

"I didn’t realize the university offered so many scholarships," Ms. Ramos said. "There are so many opportunities that people don't know about."

"I wish I had chosen to study abroad before my senior year," Ms. Thomson said. "If you travel early, you might have the opportunity to participate in more than one travel-study. ... Don’t let money hold you back from doing a travel-study. ... The biggest thing is to ask."

Ms. Thomson is making up for lost time by traveling to Guatemala with other agriculture students this December, where she will also be able to apply her Spanish skills.

"I believe that we are making a significant impact on our students' academic and personal development (through study abroad experiences). In only four weeks during the summer, study abroad dramatically improves the language proficiency of our students and gets them fired up about further language study," said Dr. Daniel Nappo, professor of Spanish at UT Martin.

"Study abroad is very beneficial because it gives our students first-hand experience in a culture quite different than that of West Tennessee, where the vast majority of our students are from. Apart from the improvement in their Spanish and increased cultural awareness, they also learn how to navigate unfamiliar situations and solve problems on their own."
One-day ACT prep course offered at UTM-P

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for an ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Dec. 3, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center.

Rosemary Livingston, ACT prep facilitator at Riverside High School in Decaturville, will give participants insight into improving performance and boosting scores. Students will learn about test structure, time management and other test-taking tips. Students are highly encouraged to purchase “The Real ACT (CD) 3rd Edition” and bring the book to class.

The registration fee for this course is $45 per person plus the cost of the optional textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

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International student gets American experience this Thanksgiving

http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/

Posted Nov 24, 2016 6:30 PM CST
Updated Nov 24, 2016 8:00 PM CST
By Blake Stevens
By Michael Bradford

MARTIN, TN — For some college students in our area, going home for the holidays isn’t an option.

Two colleges in our area — the University of Tennessee at Martin and Murray State University — have systems in place to help pair up international students with American families for times like this.

This Thanksgiving, I got a chance to meet Jared and Elizabeth Teague. Every year, they enjoy a feast together, like many of you. Today, they invited two special guests: One guest, Ayaka Kojima, is from Japan. She’s at UTM to learn the language and culture there. When I asked her what she has heard about Thanksgiving, she replied “It’s big food, and different from Japanese food.” She really didn’t know what to expect.

The Teagues hope preparing the meal will give Kojima a good impression of an American family. “Very friendly, welcoming. We’re not pushy. I hope that she also learns. As an educator myself, that’s just kind of always in the back of my mind,” Jared Teague said.

Kojima is the third student they’ve hosted for a holiday. Teague says it’s all about being the hands and feet of Jesus to him. “If I was alone, I would hope someone would invite me. Especially with a student from Japan, if I was in a foreign country, I would hope people would be nice to me.”

Meghan Lupole was their second. She teaches English as a second language at UTM. She’s no stranger to turkey day. However, she couldn’t find the time to make it her family in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Lupole tells me many of her students are here for maybe a year. She finds it “amazing” of the Teagues to let an international student experience the holiday. “The international students get the feel for a warm family. They get the experience of knowing what it’s like to be all together and to share in some warm memories,” she says.
Class Presentation

XAVIER LAWRENCE ANDREWS, in rear, PAL coordinator, spoke to students November 16th of the Drug's and Behavior Class at UTM Ripley Center. The coalition discussed the growing use of Hashish, also known as hash or "grass" use among youth. The class was informed that marijuana is the most common and least powerful form of cannabis. It is made from dried plant leaves and flowers. Most of American cannabis is strictly the flower or bud of the plant and does not contain whole plants. THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the main active ingredient in marijuana that acts upon the nervous system. Marijuana usually contains a maximum of 25% to 30% THC. Hashish, also known as hash, is made by eliminating plant material and collecting the trichomes from the flower tops of female cannabis plants. These flowers, or 'heads', are the most potent parts of the plant. As a result, the THC content of hashish typically varies from 20% to 60%. Hashish can be consumed in many ways, smoked in a water pipe, as a joint, in a pipe, cooked into food, or inhaling the vapors hash oil. Some of the side effects of hash are unexplainable laughter and excitement, an enlarged appetite or sudden hunger, panic attacks and paranoia, impaired coordination speech and thought, dry mouth and throat, short-term memory impairment. The coalition also provided information to the class about the effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Mrs. Lisa Kent, not pictured, is the instructor of the class. The next coalition meeting will be held at 6 p.m. December 22nd at the UTM Ripley Center. The public is invited. For more information, contact Xavier Lawrence Andrews, PAL Coordinator, at (731)-612-6337 or email xandrews@utm.edu.

STUDENTS from Ripley Middle School attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Young Writers’ Conference, November 18th, hosted by the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. Tiana Clark, winner of the 2016 Academy of American Poets Prize and author of the poetry chapbook “Equilibrium,” served as conference keynote speaker. Attending were Mason Kelley, Kiya Stewart, Alex Padzehki, Zach Ogden, Phoenix Bhatti, Shelley Ogden, teacher; Rachel Daniels, Katlynn Moore, Destiny Cobb and Dr. Jenny Brandon, teacher. For more information on the annual conference, contact Dr. John Glass, associate professor of English, at 731-881-7288 or jglass@utm.edu.
STUDENTS from Lauderdale County attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s RisingStar Leadership Summit, November 18th, on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The two-day summit is designed for high school students who demonstrate leadership potential. Attending were Ray Washington, Alese Adams, Tyler Frazier and Jessica Reaves. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or its youth events, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or email vgrimes@utm.edu.

http://www.wrcbtv.com/

Regents vice chancellor elected chair of national council

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - James King, the vice chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, has been elected chairman of the national Council on Occupational Education.

King won the one-year term as chairman at the group’s annual meeting in San Antonio this month after previous serving as vice chairman.

The Atlanta-based Council on Occupational Education accredits 600 schools in 39 states, including technical training schools run by the U.S. Department of Defense and Jobs Corps schools.

There are 27 colleges of applied technology in the Board of Regents system. King called it an honor to become the chairman of the national group with which the Tennessee schools have had a 45-year relationship.

King earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master’s degree from the University of Memphis.

http://www.wrcbtv.com/

Those who were unable to view the episode as it aired can download a copy of the footage for a limited time. All eight episodes of “The Warfighters” shown to date are available for viewing online at http://bit.ly/2gyC5bM for a few more weeks.

Those interested are encouraged to save a copy before the website becomes inactive.

Morel’s story is featured in episode 112: “The Ambush of April 7th.”

The series is composed of first-person accounts combined with cinematic sequences and real images and footage from actual Middle Eastern operations.

“The Warfighters,” directed by Peter Berg, aims to give viewers an inside look at the global war on terror by chronicling recent U.S. Special Operations Forces missions.

Each hour-long episode highlights the courage, dedication and sacrifice of the Army Rangers, Green Berets, Marines and Navy SEALS in what is now the longest-ongoing conflict in American history.

Four additional episodes are scheduled to air on The History Channel in January 2017.
Two women speak from their balconies in an old building in Havana, Cuba.

GOING TO CUBA

University of Tennessee at Martin students plan visit to island country in May for study-abroad trip focusing on agriculture

KATHERINE BURGESS
KBURGESS@JACKSONSUN.COM

A tour of Havana, visits to small urban farms and a train ride through the valley of sugar mills are on the agenda for an agricultural trip to Cuba this spring.

"Instead of big equipment, we'll see horses and oxen used," said Jessica Crews Garcia, lecturer in agricultural economics at the University of Tennessee at Martin. "I think students are hearing more about Cuba in the news. It used to be you didn't hear much about it, so now you're hearing more."

Changing times have opened the door for University of Tennessee at Martin students to visit Cuba on a study-abroad trip. The university is also welcoming members of the community on the trip, which is scheduled for May 7-17.

The trip will focus on agriculture in Cuba, such as organic farming and sustainable agriculture, while also studying the country's changing economy, culture, history, music and art.

At least 10 people need to sign up in order for the trip to happen, Garcia said. While it comes with a $4,255 price tag, Garcia said scholarships are available for students.

Students studying agriculture may take a class in travel studies in agriculture and natural resources for three credit hours, studying about Cuba and preparing for the trip in the spring. When they return, they will turn in a written report to complete the three credit hours.

"I think it will just pique students' interest to see the drastic difference in ag-

See Cuba, Page 6A
Cuba
Continued from Page 5A

griculture between the United States and Cuba and to be immersed in the culture," Garcia said.

The contrasts between West Tennessee agricultural practices and those in Cuba will be stark, Garcia said. While people in West Tennessee are likely to see larger farms, students visiting Cuba are likely to see smaller urban farms using organic and sustainable agricultural practices.

According to the New York Times, oxen replaced tractors and smaller, cooperative farms and new markets emerged after the fall of the Soviet bloc cut off the supply of farm chemicals and agricultural equipment to Cuba.

Garcia said she has always been interested in Cuba's agriculture.

On Dec. 17, 2014, Presidents Barack Obama and Raúl Castro announced that the United States and Cuba would restore full diplomatic ties for the first time in more than 50 years. When relations between the countries began to change, Garcia thought a trip to Cuba would be a great opportunity for her students and others in the community.

Cuba's revolutionary leader, Fidel Castro, died Friday, about a decade after illness forced him to transfer power to his brother Raúl.

While in Cuba, travelers with the UT Martin group will visit Organo Vivero Alamar, Cuba's most successful urban cooperative agricultural project. The group will also tour the Museum of the Revolution and the Partagas Tobacco Factory in Old Havana and spend time at the Fabrca del Arte Cubano for live music, art and dancing.

Travelers will also stay overnight in both Playa Giron and Trinidad. During their time in Playa Giron, participants will have an opportunity to snorkel in the Cueva de los Peces and visit the Bay of Pigs Museum. While in Trinidad, the group will take a guided walking tour of the Plaza Mayor and Romantic Museum before spending the evening listening to live music at Casa de la Musica.

"I think it's just going to be an amazing opportunity," Garcia said. "We're going to focus primarily on agriculture and natural resources, but we're going to do so much more."

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748. Follow her on Twitter @kathsburgess.

MHS Senior Natalie McCaleb (center) with parents Stacey and Brian McCaleb.

MHS Senior Attends UTM Fall Preview Day

MARTIN (November 22) McKenzie High School senior Natalie McCaleb attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's Fall Preview Day on November 12.

The event is held to inform prospective students about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, student housing, and student life at UT Martin.

For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.
MHS Students Attend UTM Young Writers Conference

MARTIN (Nov. 22) — A group of students from McKenzie High School attended the UT Martin’s Young Writers’ Conference on November 18 hosted by the UTM Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

Tiana Clark, winner of the 2016 Academy of American Poets Prize and author of the poetry chapbook “Equilibrium,” served as conference keynote speaker.

For more information on the annual conference, contact Dr. John Glass, associate professor of English, at 731-881-7288 or jglass@utm.edu.

Visit Havana, Trinidad with UT Martin travel study to Cuba

Community members interested in visiting Cuba can reserve spaces in an upcoming University of Tennessee at Martin travel study. The trip is planned for May 7-17, 2017, and will cost approximately $4,255 plus a $40 fee for trip insurance. The cost includes a round-trip flight, hotel stay, excursion fees and some meals. Participants will need current passports. A $500 non-refundable deposit is due to the UT Martin Center for International Education by Dec. 2, 2016.

The trip will focus on agriculture in Cuba, such as organic farming and sustainable agriculture, while also studying the country’s changing economy, culture, history, music and art.

While in Havana, participants will visit Organoponico Vivero Alamar, Cuba’s most successful urban cooperative agricultural project. The group will also tour the Museum of the Revolution and the Partagas Tobacco Factory in Old Havana and spend time at the Fabrica del Arte Cubano for live music, art and dancing.

Travelers will also stay overnight in both Playa Giron and Trinidad. During their time in Playa Giron, participants will have an opportunity to snorkel in the Cueva de los Peces and visit the Bay of Pigs Museum. While in Trinidad, the group will take a guided walking tour of the Plaza Mayor and Romantic Museum before spending the evening listening to live music at Casa de la Musica.

Participation in the academic course is not required for non-students; however community members wishing to learn more about the areas featured may enroll in agriculture 230.

For more information or a complete itinerary, contact Jessica Crews Garcia, UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, at jcgarcia@utm.edu, or call the UT Martin Center for International Education at 731-881-1023.

LOCAL STUDENT ATTENDS WESTSTAR RISINGSTAR SUMMIT — Jada Roberson (right), a senior at Milan High School where she is student council President, attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s RisingStar Leadership Summit, Nov. 18, on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The two-day summit is designed for high school students who demonstrate leadership potential. Roberson is pictured with Charley Deal, director, WestStar Leadership Program. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or its youth events, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or email vgrimes@utm.edu.

From left, MHS students Tyler Spivey, Lilly Daffron and Taylor Hathway.
Gordon to be commencement speaker at UTM

J. Houston Gordon, of Covington, will serve as keynote speaker at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s fall commencement, slated to begin at 11 a.m., Dec. 10, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, University of Tennessee System President Joe DiPietro will confer degrees.

Gordon graduated from UT Martin with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1968 and later received a juris doctorate degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1970 and an L.L.M. master of law degree in taxation from the George Washington University National Law Center in 1973.

He served the University of Tennessee System on the Board of Trustees from 1989-95 and was vice-chair of the board from 1994-95. He has also served as an instructor at the College of Trial Advocacy for the University of Tennessee College of Law.

A UT Martin supporter, Gordon received UT Martin’s Outstanding Alumni Award in 1997 and the Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Service in 2008. The J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in the special collections area of UT Martin’s Paul Meek Library, is named in his honor.

Gordon spent four years representing soldiers charged with crimes as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps before returning home to Covington in 1974. He has been named one of the “Best Lawyers in America” by his peers every year since 1984 and is listed as one of the top-100 trial lawyers in America.

Gordon is licensed to practice law in Tennessee and the District of Columbia and has appeared as lead counsel before federal and state appellate courts in multiple jurisdictions. He has also been admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Tennessee Supreme Court and all lesser state courts, and multiple United States District Courts in seven additional states.

He and his wife, Debbie, have three grown sons and nine grandchildren.

Those who are unable to attend UT Martin’s fall commencement ceremony can tune into its live webcast available at ovcdigitalnetwork.com/watch/?live=4952.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

Tuba ensemble to perform on Saturday

The University of Tennessee at Martin Tubas/Euphonium Ensemble will present its third-annual Martin Tuba Christmas Concert at 5 p.m. on Saturday as part of the city of Martin’s Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Lindell Street.

Members of the community who wish to play in the concert should register and plan to rehearse in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building starting that Saturday at noon. The cost to perform with the group is $10, and the music the group is performing will also be available for purchase.

The concert is open to the public and free to attend.

The UT Martin Department of Music will also present its third-annual Holiday Benefit Concert at 3 p.m., Dec. 4, in the Harriet Fulton Theater, located in the university’s Fine Arts Building.

The concert will feature UT Martin’s New Pacer Singers, wind ensemble, university singers, jazz band, percussion ensemble and other student and faculty chamber ensembles performing holiday hits.

Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for children ages six to 11 and free for children five and under.

For more information, to register to play in the concert or to purchase advance tickets, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
SPIRIT OF GIVING — Santa’s Village will open next week on the UTM campus. The event, which benefits needy area families, includes an enchanted forest, amusement rides and vendor booths. Santa Claus will be there in person for visits with children. In the past 32 years of operation, the event has raised over $1 million in food and toy donations.

Santa’s Village to open next week

Twinkling lights and reindeer bells will soon return to Martin for the 32nd-annual Santa’s Village celebration Dec. 8-11 in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The doors will be open from 6 to 9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11.

Admission to the event is free, but attendees are asked to bring $5 worth of nonperishable food and/or toys to be distributed to needy area families.

The annual holiday event has drawn more than 323,728 visitors and collected more than $1,145,136 in food and toy donations over the past three decades.

This year’s event will feature the traditional “enchanted forest” display, as well as a petting farm, amusement rides, vendor booths and visits with Santa Claus himself.

“Jet” from WLJT’s “Ready, Jet, Go!” will be a special guest from 1-4 p.m., Dec. 10.

UT Martin and the City of Martin co-sponsor the event each year, along with many other community partners.

Additional sponsors to date include Zaxby’s, Casey’s General Store, Simmons Bank, MTD Products and Savant Learning Systems, among others.

For more information, contact the City of Martin Office of Parks and Recreation at 731-387-6784.
Holiday art bazaar to be held

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s League of Striving Artists will host the third annual holiday art bazaar Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Fine Arts Gallery.

The bazaar will feature handmade holiday cards, scarves and wraps, ceramics and glass ornaments, original paintings and more—all created by UT Martin art students, faculty and alumni.

The gallery will be open to the public from 6-8 p.m. Thursday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.

A special preview for Support the Arts contributors will be held from 5-7 p.m. Thursday.

STARTS members will be able to view available inventory and have first selection of the items for sale.

Prices are determined by individual sellers, and many artists will be in attendance to discuss their work.

Cash, check and charge cards will be accepted.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS — Colorful hand-woven scarves and blown-glass ornaments are displayed during the 2015 Holiday Art Bazaar hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin League of Striving Artists.

The UT Martin League of Striving Artists includes students with backgrounds in studio art, graphic design and art education, as well as non-art majors who enjoy creating work.

The organization is active to promote the development of artists through academic, community-service learning and leadership, both on campus and in the surrounding community.

For more information on how to become a STARTS contributor, visit utm.edu/starts or call the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7400.

Cuba trip available to public

Anyone interested in visiting Cuba can reserve spaces in an upcoming University of Tennessee at Martin travel study.

The trip is planned for May 7-17, 2017, and will cost about $4,255, plus a $40 fee for trip insurance. The cost includes a round-trip flight, hotel stay, excursion fees and some meals. Participants will need current passports.

A $500 non-refundable deposit is due to the UTM Center for International Education by Friday.

The trip will focus on agriculture in Cuba, such as organic farming and sustainable agriculture, while also studying the country’s changing economy, culture, history, music and art.

While in Havana, participants will visit Organoponico Vivero Alamar, Cuba’s most successful urban cooperative agricultural project. The group will also tour the Museum of the Revolution and the Partagas Tobacco Factory in Old Havana and spend time at the Fabrica del Arte Cubano for live music, art and dancing.

Travelers will also stay overnight in both Playa Giron and Trinidad. During their time in Playa Giron, participants will have an opportunity to snorkel in the Cueva de los Peces and visit the Bay of Pigs Museum. While in Trinidad, the group will take a guided walking tour of the Plaza Mayor and Romantic Museum before spending the evening listening to live music at Casa de la Musica.

Participation in the academic course is not required for non-students; however, community members wishing to learn more about the areas featured may enroll in Agriculture 230.

For more information, email Jessica Crews Garcia at jegarcia@utm.edu; or call the UT Martin Center for International Education at (731) 881-1023.
Students celebrate at Mexican culture event

The community came together on Wednesday to learn about Mexican culture at C. E. Weldon Public Library. Students visiting UTM from Universidad Tecnologica de la Costa Grande de Guerrero in Petatlán, Guerrero, Mexico, offered those in attendance a chance to experience their homeland. Ryan Diffie, interim assistant director of student services for the Office of International Programs and Admissions at UTM, noted the excitement of the visiting students and their hard work in preparing for the cultural day.

"They were at my house until around 11 cooking last night and then back at it after class this morning," she said in reference to the wonderful spread of authentic homemade Mexican foods, sweets, and drinks offered during the cultural day. "They have been looking forward to this day!"

Visitors to the Mexican Culture Day festivities were able to enjoy many activities held in and outside the library. Music, face painting, Spanish lessons, photo booth, storytelling, and Spanish bingo were all set up in the conference room. In the middle of the program, everyone stopped and enjoyed three Mexican dances performed by several of the visiting students in full dress. The Mexican version of hopscotch was set up on the sidewalk outside the back entrance to the library and many children enjoyed learning the differences of how to play this timeless game. To finish off the experience, children were invited to listen to the traditional piñata song and line up to hit a piñata, which was hung from a tree. The children cheered for one another as each took their turn and were excited as they rushed in to pick up candy and other goodies when the piñata burst.

Jenny Claiborne, children's librarian at Weldon Library, was excited by the success of Mexican Culture Day. "We have had wonderful Japanese and Korean Culture Days in the past," she said, "but this is the first time we have ever done a Latin community experience, and it has been a wonderful way for our community to learn more about the many cultural groups that are represented in our area. I'm thrilled to be able to partner with the University in hosting these events and hope we can offer more like it in the future."

For more information on programs offered at C. E. Weldon Public Library, visit www.ceweldonlibrary.org or call 731-587-3148.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT — Local students tried their hand at Mexican arts and crafts (above) and the Mexican form of hopscotch (below).

SOUTHERN FLAIR — Alhelí Mariano, one of several students visiting the University of Tennessee at Martin, entertained local students with Mexican dances. Performing the sombrero dance beside her is Fabian Barrera.
SAMPLING THE CULTURE — Students who visited the Weldon Library last week had a chance to get their faces painted and to learn a few words in Spanish. Brenda Alegre works while (left) Daniel Fuente and Miguel Angel Hernandez look on.
By Wendy Smith

When Keith Carver, who was recently selected as the next UT Martin chancellor, arrived in Knoxville in 1999, he took the advice of a college mentor and made an appointment with then-UT president Dr. Joe Johnson.

Carver didn’t know it then, but Johnson would become an invaluable adviser throughout his career.

“I don’t think there’s a job that I applied for that I haven’t sought his advice,” he says.

Carver came to UT Knoxville for a master’s degree in college student personnel and educational leadership. His relationship with Johnson developed after he was asked to join Student Counselors to the President, a systemwide group of students who met a few times each year to address assigned topics.

Carver and Johnson also attended church together at Laurel Church of Christ.

After graduation, Carver had opportunities at UT, but Johnson suggested that he “might want to see something different.” So he took his first job at Marietta College in Ohio.

He returned to UT Knoxville in 1997 as an adviser in the Office of Student Activities, and began fundraising for the UT College of Law a year later.

In 2006, Carver became the assistant vice chancellor for development at UT Martin, and in 2010, he commuted to Memphis during the week to serve as interim vice chancellor for development at the UT Health Science Center.

When he learned that UT president Joe DiPietro was hiring an executive assistant, Carver contacted Johnson for advice. It was the same position held by Johnson when Ed Boling was UT president. Johnson told Carver that if he was interested, he should “make a run for it.”

Over the last six years, Carver says he’s consulted with Johnson at least once a week. Though Johnson is technically retired, Carver estimates that he works at least 40 hours a week, including teaching an educational leadership class for doctoral students.

“That guy does not stop,” Johnson continues to excel at fundraising because he knows so many people, Carver says. Because of the bulk of his experience, he’s a resource for university presidents and chancellors.

“There’s not anything that happens at this place that he’s not seen before.”

Johnson broke down the responsibilities of a chancellor for Carver before he applied for the position at Martin. Now that he’s gotten the job, Carver plans to keep in touch.

He begins his new post in January. It will be a bittersweet move for his family – wife Hollianne and children Carson, Jack Thomas and Britton – but they love Martin, and will have extended family nearby. Carson, a senior at West High School, plans to attend UT Knoxville next fall.

Keith Carver won’t mind coming back for visits. The campus is special because of the people here, he says.

At least one of them thinks Carver is pretty special, too.

“Keith is a remarkable human being. Ethically, he’s as straight as an arrow,” says Johnson. “He’ll do a grand job as chancellor at Martin.”
Somerville Board Approves
Low Bidder Zellner
Construction for UT Martin
Somerville Center Renovations

The Town of Somerville Board of Mayor and Aldermen met on Monday, November 14, 2016. Mayor Ronnie Neill stated the new board member swearing-in ceremony will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at city hall, with Fayette County Mayor Skip Taylor presiding. Light refreshments will be served. He suggested that following at 7:00 p.m. the board have their workshop instead of the following day, December 6th. The board was in agreement.

UT Martin Bids
Next was the review of the bid tabulations for the UT Martin Somerville renovation project. City administrator Bob Turner told the board after inspecting the roof, we added the re-roofing of the large awning at the main entry, at a cost of $4000.

There were seven bidders—Wagner Construction, Zellner Construction, Chris Woods Construction, Fullwood Construction, Montgomery Martin, Smith Doyle, and Barns & Brower. Turner stated that Fullwood was disqualified because their bid packet was not put together in the proper manner.

All the bidders had a base bid and architect Ellen Wadley of Fleming Architects put together 11 alternates after ongoing discussions. Some alternates are deductible amounts from the base bid.

At the bid opening Ms. Wadley was present, UT Martin officials, Mayor Neill, Alderman Mike French and others. It was determined that alternate #2 to replace glass in large windows be added, alternate #4 to remove wood from the community room be deleted, alternate #6 to reroof the awning at main entry be added, and alternate #8 to upgrade from tile to carpet in all classrooms be added.

Turner said when you add in all the alternates, Zellner Construction was the low bid at $2,382,700. Barnes & Brower was just a little over by $10,000. He said Ellen did a good job designing this project and the bids were close.

Alderman Sandra Myers asked if Ellen familiar with Zellner. Ms. Wadley stated yes, we have done several jobs with Zellner. They have been in business since 1966, and they do about $55 million a year in construction.

Alderman John David Douglas stated we don’t plan on any change orders costing more. Neill said no, we don’t plan on that. Douglas said this is pretty close to what we budgeted so is there anything the contractor could do to raise our price or is he bound to the bid cost.

Ms. Wadley said the contractor’s bid is a lump sum based on our specifications and our drawings. He also puts some contingencies in his number to cover some things to guarantee he has a profit. But if he comes up with something in the walls that is justified scope of work change, then he has the right to come to us with a change order. We would go through that process with everyone’s approval, she said.

Douglas said I see Mayor Skip Taylor in the audience and asked are we going to work on an interlocal agreement with the county on their donation to the project. Turner said yes, it will probably be in January since the county commission won't meet in December. Mayor Taylor spoke to the board, saying now that you have a contract, on the county side when you get the debt issued and obligated, we will do the interlocal agreement. It can come to the county commission in January. I don’t see any problems, everyone is very happy with what you are doing and are supportive, he said.

Douglas asked Turner that the known cash flows have not changed in the three months since we did the agreement, which is the $250,000 each from Somerville and Fayette County, etc. Turner said yes, everything is in place.

Douglas asked about the purchase of furniture for the project. Turner said this was discussed at the bid opening and UT Martin knows they are required to purchase the equipment and furniture and IT needs, at about $700,000.

Douglas said I just thought it was a good idea before approving the contract to ask any last possible question.

French moved to accept the low bid from Zellner Construction and it was approved.
Santa’s village returns to Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex

Twinkling lights and reindeer bells will soon return to Martin for the 32nd-annual Santa’s Village celebration Dec. 8-11 in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The doors will be open from 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11. Admission to the event is free, but attendees are asked to bring $5 worth of nonperishable food and/or toys to be distributed to needy area families.

The annual holiday event has drawn more than 323,728 visitors and collected more than $1,145,136 in food and toy donations over the past three decades. This year’s event will feature the traditional “enchanted forest” display, as well as a petting farm, amusement rides, vendor booths and visits with Santa Claus himself. “Jet” from WLJT’s “Ready, Jet, Go!” will be a special guest from 1-4 p.m., Dec. 10.

UTM Ripley leader speaks to Exchange

The Lauderdale County Exchange Club held its bi-monthly meeting Nov. 17 at the Carl Perkins Center. The speaker for the day was Dr. Simpfronia Taylor, who is the Director at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center. Dr. Taylor spoke about the direction the center is taking to increase class sizes by offering a more diverse array of options for students. Dr. Taylor spoke about all the classes offered at the center for traditional and non-traditional students. For more information call the center at 221-8778. Pictured are, from left, Exchangite Annette Sanders Long, Dr. Taylor, and Patrick Cayson, Exchange Club President.
UTM Parsons Center hosts Health Fair

UTM Parsons Center students and staff conducted a health fair on Monday, Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. until noon in the main lobby of the campus in Parsons. It was hosted by senior level nursing students and the Student Nurses Association. The students offered blood glucose screenings, blood pressure checks, stress reduction and coping strategies, smoking cessation and BMI. Anita Rogers, nursing instructor and advisor to the nursing students says she was proud of all the hard work the nursing students put into the health fair to make it a success.

photos by R. Mitchell
Visit Havana, Playa Giron and Trinidad with UTM travel study to Cuba

Community members interested in visiting Cuba can reserve spaces in an upcoming University of Tennessee at Martin travel study. The trip is planned for May 7-17, 2017, and will cost approximately $4,255 plus a $40 fee for trip insurance. The cost includes a round-trip flight, hotel stay, excursion fees and some meals. Participants will need current passports. A $500 non-refundable deposit is due to the UT Martin Center for International Education by Dec. 2, 2016.

The trip will focus on agriculture in Cuba, such as organic farming and sustainable agriculture, while also studying the country’s changing economy, culture, history, music and art.

While in Havana, participants will visit Organoponico Vivero Alamar, Cuba’s most successful urban cooperative agricultural project. The group will also tour the Museum of the Revolution and the Partagas Tobacco Factory in Old Havana and spend time at the Fabrica del Arte Cubano for live music, art and dancing.

Travelers will also stay overnight in both Playa Giron and Trinidad. During their time in Playa Giron, participants will have an opportunity to snorkel in the Cueva de los Peces and visit the Bay of Pigs Museum. While in Trinidad, the group will take a guided walking tour of the Plaza Mayor and Romantic Museum before spending the evening listening to live music at Casa de la Musica.

Participation in the academic course is not required for non-students; however, community members wishing to learn more about the areas featured may enroll in agriculture 230.

For more information or a complete itinerary, contact Jessica Crews Garcia, UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, at jcgarcia@utm.edu, or call the UT Martin Center for International Education at 731-881-1023.

UT Martin online programs receive national attention

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s online course offerings have recently received attention at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

AffordableCollegesCommunity.org ranked UT Martin's online programs number seven on the website’s list of the “Best Online Colleges in Tennessee for 2016-17.” UT Martin comes in above the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, ranked 13th and 14th respectively.

Institutions must be fully accredited and offer at least three online degree programs to be considered for this listing. The ranking considered a variety of factors, including tuition and fees at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, types of available programs, graduate rates, scholarship availability and job-placement services.

UT Martin offers six undergraduate programs completely online, as well as an online degree-completion program for veterinary technicians. Four master’s degrees are also available to distance learners, including three Master of Science degrees and the Master of Business Administration with either a business or an agricultural focus.

UT Martin’s online master’s degree in agriculture and natural resources, focusing on agribusiness and risk management, was recently named one of the “Top 20 Most Affordable Online Master’s in Agriculture Business/Agribusiness” for 2016-17 by GradSchoolHub.com. The program is ranked number eight on the list, making it the highest-ranked Tennessee school in the listing.

Placements in this ranking were determined by comparing information on graduate tuition and fees from the National Center for Education Statistics College Navigator for accredited colleges and universities offering online master’s degrees in agricultural business or related fields.

For more information on online programs, contact UT Martin Online at 731-881-7080.
UTM online programs get national attention

For the Independent Appeal

MARTIN - The University of Tennessee at Martin's online course offerings have recently received attention at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

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Lawyer J. Houston Gordon to speak at commencement

J. Houston Gordon of Covington will serve as keynote speaker at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s fall commencement, slated to begin at 11 a.m. Dec. 10 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

University of Tennessee System President Joe DiPietro will confer degrees.

Gordon graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor of science degree in 1968 and later received a juris doctorate degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1970 and an L.L.M. master of law degree in taxation from the George Washington University National Law Center in 1973.

He served the University of Tennessee System on the Board of Trustees from 1989-95 and was vice chair of the board from 1994-95. He has also served as an instructor at the College of Trial Advocacy for the University of Tennessee College of Law.

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He and his wife, Debbie, have three grown sons and nine grandchildren.

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For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.

‘Warfighters’ episode offered online now for a limited time

U.S. Marines Capt. Brent Morel, a 1999 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, was killed in combat near Fallujah, Iraq, on April 7, 2004.

The History Channel launched a series called “The Warfighters” on Veterans Day, an episode of which featured the insur- gent attack in which Morel died defending his fellow Marines.

Those who were unable to view the episode as it aired can download a copy of the footage for a limited time. All eight episodes of “The Warfighters” shown to date are available for viewing at http://bit.ly/2gyC5bM for a few weeks. Those interested are encouraged to save a copy before the website becomes inactive.

Morel’s story is featured in episode 112: “The Ambush of April 7th.” The series is composed of first-person accounts combined with cinematic sequences and real images and footage from actual Middle Eastern operations.

“The Warfighters,” directed by Peter Berg, aims to give viewers an inside look at the global war on terror by chronicling recent U.S. Special Operations Forces missions. Each hour-long episode highlights the courage, dedication and sacrifice of the Army Rangers, Green Berets, Marines and Navy SEALs in what is now the longest ongoing conflict in American his-
**Holiday bazaar scheduled at UTM**

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**STEM camp registration under way**

Did you know carbon dioxide can power a dragster? Participants in the most recent STEMulation Camp at the University of Tennessee at Martin built their own dragsters and discovered Newton’s third law of motion.

Parents can still register children in grades 5-8 for the last remaining camp to be offered Dec. 10 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The STEMulation Saturday Camps, sponsored by the Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub, give students the opportunity to work through a series of hands-on STEM-based activities both individually and in teams. All activities are aligned with National Science Teacher Association academic standards and include egg drop vehicle construction, T-Bot II hydraulic arm, mousetrap vehicle construction, EZ Build dragstagers and LabQuest activities.

The registration fee for this camp is $25 per session and financial assistance is available for eligible students. Teachers or parents may contact Debbie Mount, UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach, for more information regarding qualifications.

To register, contact the Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

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**Cuba trip available to public**

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For more information, email Jessica Crews Garcia at jcgarcia@utm.edu; or call the UT Martin Center for International Education at (731) 881-1023.
ATTEND SUMMIT — Union City High School students (from left) Tripp Conley, Anna Oliver and Ariana Warner attended the WestStar Leadership Program's RisingStar Leadership Summit recently on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The two-day summit is designed for high school students who demonstrate leadership potential.

ACT prep workshop set

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships.

High school students looking to improve their scores can register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon Saturday on the University of Tennessee at Martin's main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years.

This one-day workshop will include tips on how students can improve their performance and boost their scores to increase their chances of top-college acceptance.

The registration fee for this course is $45 per person.

For more information or to register for the course, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.