Laura Riddell wins Top Teacher Award

You know who they are: The daily heroes in our schools. The women and men who are there early and stay late. Who spend their own cash to buy paper, pencils, crayons for kids who don’t have what they need. The teachers who do everything they can to make certain a child comes to school excited about learning.

When The Jackson Sun and our moms resource Web site began the Top Teacher of the Year contest in September 2007, I was so pleased that we’d recognize teachers for their professional dedication. Throughout the year, we had wonderful nominating

letters submitted by both parents and students.

Then we called upon our Parent Advisory Council and a team of journalists to vote on each finalist’s nomination.

Drum roll, or “ta-da,” please —

Congratulations to The Jackson Sun’s 2007 Top Teacher, Laura Riddell, of North Side High School.

Her nominating letter came in from Robin Turner: “I have three children in the Jackson-Madison County public school system. I am very proud of the education they have received and very appreciative of all their teachers.

“I would like to make a nomination on behalf of my child, Will Turner. Will is a special needs child at North Side High School.

“Laura Riddell is my son’s LRE teacher. Laura spends many countless hours preparing for class. She genuinely cares for each child in her class and treats them with respect despite their disabilities. She encourages them and pushes them to reach their full potential. When other people give up, she keeps trying and believing that they can accomplish task that most people take for granted.

“She sees the humor in life and shares it with her students. Her sincere love and concern for these children goes beyond the classroom. She has a God-given ability to work with special needs children. She is always patient, and no matter how her students may act or what they may do to cause her pain, she is always there the next day and ready to try again.

“Laura is not just a great teacher. She is an encourager, cheerleader, counselor, comedian, nurse/sitter and friend. She is truly an example.

Please see RIDDELL, 6D

When I went out to present her award Friday, she was surrounded by smiling students, mom Robin Turner (who is also a teacher at North Side), several parents and her principal, Jan Watson. Riddell cried and laughed at the same time when she received her award. “Bring the tissues,” she grimaced.

“I’m so honored and humbled to receive this,” she said. “But it’s really these guys here in my class. They’re wonderful.”

Then she laughed and pointed her finger at the group. “This is why they told me I looked bad and to put on some make-up!”

Principal Jan Watson said, “We’re proud that she’s a member of our North Side family. Laura has always gone above and beyond with her students, ensuring that they receive every opportunity to reach their full potential.”

Riddell wins a $50 gift card from First South Bank and a two-night stay in a king suite from the Hampton Inn.

Our other finalists were:

Karen Fuller, Jackson Career and Technology Magnet School.

Gwen Denwiddie, Washington-Douglass Special

Education Pre-School.

Renee Maynard, Trinity Christian Academy.

Dawn Shelton, Jackson Christian School.

Lorrie Pomeroys, Bemis Intermediate School.

Becky Bledsoe, Medina Elementary School.

Tina Anderson, University School of Jackson.

Thanks go to each of you for making our children’s days at school enjoyable learning experiences.

Jacquie Hillman is The Jackson Sun’s Content Editor. To reach her, call (731) 425-9679 or send an e-mail to jhillman@jacksonsun.com.

Laura Riddell, left, The Jackson Sun’s Top Teacher for 2007-2008, celebrates her award with Robin Turner, who wrote the nominating letter. Turner’s son, Will, is in Riddell’s class at North Side High School.
Professional accounting skills workshop slated for Nov. 10

The West Tennessee Accounting Conference is planned Nov. 10, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Offered by the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education and the UT Martin Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business, the workshop will be in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center.

Five professionals will staff the workshop that will provide participants with eight continuing professional education credits. The day will begin with registration and a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. The first session begins at 8 a.m. The fee for the conference is $195.

“Understanding and Implementing the New Risk Assessment Standards” will be taught by Dennis Dycus, director of the Division of Municipal Audit for the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee. This session provides expert insight into the interpretation and application of the standards and the specific information on how to apply the audit risk model in the planning of a financial audit.

“XBRL, Financial Reporting, and Analysis - Your World is About to Change!” will be taught by Dr. Richard Griffin, professor of accounting, and Dr. Tom Payne, chairholder of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and interim chair of the Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business. This session provides a summary of XBRL, what it is, how it works and how it will change the way accounting and finance professionals do business. The session will include an overview of the taxonomies, structured data and instance documents. “Individual Tax Update” will be taught by Paula Hearn Moore, assistant professor of accounting and business law. Attendees will hear about recent and upcoming changes in income tax laws. Drawing on her background as an attorney, tax accountant and professor, Moore uses a case approach and provides summary handouts to illustrate relevant changes in the tax code.

“Financial Accounting Standards Update for Businesses” will be taught by Dr. Robert Putman, professor emeritus of accounting. This session addresses the most up-to-date and important changes to FASB and other financial accounting standards. Dr. Putman will provide useful “take away” materials on the subject.

To register, call ECCE at (800) 482-5199 or 881-7082 or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.

Mosch to talk about recent trip to North Korea

The Friends of Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin will host Dr. Ted Mosch, UT Martin professor emeritus of political science and retired U.S. Army Colonel, for a presentation on his recent trip to North Korea. Mosch had the opportunity to tour North Korea, photograph many of its landmarks, speak with many of its citizens and experience the country and its culture.

The presentation will be at 4 p.m., Nov. 6, in Campbell Auditorium of the Holt Humanities Building. Parking is available at Boling University Center. A reception with light refreshments will follow the presentation. This presentation is free of charge and open to the public. The event will be co-sponsored by the following UT Martin groups: College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Public Affairs, Department of Military Science, International Programs, Center for Global Studies and International Education and the Department of Management, Marketing and Political Science.

Sylvan Dell Publishing awards Educational Resource Grants

Children's book publisher Sylvan Dell has passionately pursued its mission of "bringing science and math to children through literature." Now, they are reaching out to schools and school districts nationwide with an unprecedented educational resource grant offer, and Tennessee schools have already reaped the benefits. The grant is for a free, one-year site license, providing unlimited access to all 35 Sylvan Dell e-Books, featuring flipview technology with selectable English and Spanish text and audio. The license can be used on all school computers and may be placed on secure school Web sites, enabling students and their families to log in and have access from their homes. Grants will be awarded to one elementary school per district and are open to every district in the United States. To facilitate submission, individual schools may submit the grant application directly. When more than one school from a single district applies, Sylvan Dell will ask the district contact to make the selection. An easy online grant application is available at: www.SylvanDellPublishing.com/ResourceGrant.htm.

The rapid response in Tennessee has been impressive. So far Dresden Elementary in Dresden is one of 36 schools in the state have been awarded the Sylvan Dell Publishing educational resource grant.

"I will use this resource to enhance teaching science," said one Tennessee elementary school principal. "We don't have science books in this school, and I feel it would greatly benefit the students if they had something more to look at than a worksheet." Sylvan Dell picture books with science, math and nature themes excite children's imaginations through fun stories, vibrant artwork and a 35-page "For Creative Minds" educational section in the back of each book. But that is just the start – what really makes the books unique, is their tremendous amount of free, online educational material available for cross-curricular learning, including 50-300 pages of teaching activities, interactive reading and math quizzes, and much more.

According to Sylvan Dell co-owner Lee German, "What we have created is a set of serious tools for teachers and parents to use to both entertain and teach their children. We don't want to be just another picture book publisher. We want to be loved for our products and our commitment to excellence, and we want to be part of the education solution."

For additional information, contact GrantCoordinator@SylvanDellPublishing.com or call (877) 958-2600.
ECCE offers Intermediate Excel and 'Teaching Writing' online

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) is offering an Intermediate Excel class from 9 a.m.-noon, Nov. 18 and 20. The class is designed to expand students' knowledge of spreadsheets by working through complex functions and formulas, using statements and conditional formatting, teaching relative and absolute referencing, creating detailed examples and executive summaries, importing data into a spreadsheet from an external source, customizing graphs, integrating spreadsheets into word processing documents, using pivot tables, practicing planning and design skills and familiarizing students with Excel 2007 and Vista.

Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer, will be the instructor for this class. The fee is $85. To register, contact ECCE at 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/non_credit_registration.php.

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will introduce a new online course, “Teaching Writing: Grades 4-6.” This new program is a teacher-training course designed to help teachers become more effective assisting students in developing writing skills. Participants will explore the benefits of writing across the curriculum, examine ways to organize writing instruction and uncover the secrets of effective assessment. “Teaching Writing: Grades 4-6” meets the qualifications for professional development activities that can be used for renewal purposes. This course is part of UT Martin’s growing catalog of more than 300 instructor-facilitated online courses. Through lessons, online instruction and interaction with fellow students, participants in these courses gain knowledge at their convenience. They have the flexibility to study at their own pace combined with enough structure and support to complete the course.

New sessions of each course begin every month. They last six weeks, with two new lessons being released weekly (for a total of 12). The courses are entirely Web-based with comprehensive lessons, quizzes and assignments. A professional instructor facilitates every course; pacing learners, answering questions, giving feedback and facilitating discussions. To learn more, call UT Martin at 881-7082 or visit them online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php and select: Education To Go.

UT MARTIN SAACS CELEBRATES ANNUAL CHEMISTRY WEEK WITH LOCAL BOY SCOUTS – The Student Affiliates of the American Chemistry Society (SAACS) at University of Tennessee at Martin recently hosted a chemistry merit badge clinic in conjunction with National Chemistry Week. SAACS planned a day filled with various demonstrations and activities for 37 Boy Scouts from eight northwest Tennessee towns. In Jackson, Troop No. 18 and Martin Troop 11 are (from left) Lepold Phipalath (SAACS), Dr. Philip H. Davis (Scoutmaster and clinic facilitator), Sam Clayton (Troop 11), Thomas Foster, Casey Ellington, Quincy Newman, Dylan West and Casey Unger (SAACS).
'Lincoln as Southerner'
Burton's presentation topic

Award-winning historian Orville Vernon Burton will speak at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 6, in Watkins Auditorium at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His visit will be co-sponsored by Honors Programs and the Department of History and Philosophy.

"Lincoln as Southerner" is the title of his presentation.

A native of Ninety-Six, S.C., Burton received his bachelor of arts degree from Furman University and his master's and doctorate from Princeton University. He has taught at the University of Illinois since 1974 and is currently professor of history, African-American studies and sociology, as well as professor and senior research scientist at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. He has also served as the executive director of the Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program at the College of Charleston from 2001 to the present. He was the Mark W. Clark Visiting Distinguished Chair at the Citadel during 2000-01 and has held named lectureships at the University of Notre Dame (2001), the University of Washington (2005) and Middle Tennessee State University (2006).

Burton has been widely heralded for his teaching and has received numerous honors and awards, including the U.S. Research and Doctoral University Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (1999), the Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Prize from the American History Association (2004) and the University of Illinois-Urbana Champagne Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagement (2006).

Burton is as noted for his research as he is for his teaching. With a specialty in Southern history, Burton has authored or edited 14 books and more than 100 articles. His recent work, "The Age of Lincoln" (2007) is widely praised as one of the finest discussions of Civil War America and was recently honored with the Heartland Prize. His "In My Father's House are Many Mansions: Family and Community in Edgefield, South Carolina" (1985) is an example of local history at its finest.

As a southerner, Burton notes that it is important to remember that Lincoln, too, was a Southerner. He notes that Lincoln's Southern identity is too often overlooked—a great mistake "because Lincoln's Southernness had a huge impact on his personality, ambition, sense of honor and his views on freedom and slavery."

"As we prepare to celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, it is now more fitting than usual to recall the traits and character that contributed to his greatness," said Dr. Dan McDonough, UT Martin Honors Programs director. "Vernon Burton reminds us that Lincoln was born and raised a Southerner and that his essential character was shaped by that Southern identity. As a Southerner himself, shaped by many of the same forces, Burton is uniquely qualified to identify how that character prepared Lincoln for greatness."

For more information, contact McDonough at 881-7436.

Weakley County student receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

A Weakley County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

* Kelly Stewart, daughter of Roger and Susan Stewart of Greenfield, is a junior. She received the Rehabilitation Corporation Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTMI; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.
Plans revealed for 24th annual Santa’s Village during luncheon

By David Fisher
Staff Reporter

Organizers and supporters of the 24th annual Santa’s Village heard from several speakers during a luncheon held at The Heath Restaurant in Martin Monday, November 3, 2008.

Santa’s Village, which will be held inside the Ned R. McWherter Agricultural Pavilion at the University of Tennessee at Martin, December 11-14, serves a dual purpose. It provides a Christmas wonderland for young and old alike from all over the region, who bring their families to enjoy the festivities of the season, while providing donations of food and toys to the less fortunate. These donations are distributed to local charities, which in turn, give these items to needy families in the area.

The local service agencies which will place the donations of food and toys from those attending this year’s Santa’s Village into the hands of needy families are: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, Obion County Red Cross, Santa’s Helpers, Department of Children Services, and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development District. For example, We Care Ministries alone assisted over 700 children and youth last year and 115 senior adults.

The suggested admission to the event is a donation is $5 worth of non-perishable food items, or toys.

While waiting to learn the details about the lineup of activities at this year’s Santa’s Village, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal provided by MTD Products of Martin. Martin Alderman Randy Edwards gave the invocation during the luncheon.

Martin Parks and Recreation Director Brian Moore said, “This is a worthwhile program. It helps a lot of people, not just in Weakley County, but also in the surrounding areas. I know the times are getting even tougher, so the needs are going to be even greater.”

Martin Parks & Recreation Program Director Kim Kirby welcomed everyone to the event and recognized the workers, sponsors and other supporters that make Santa’s Village possible, including: the University Plaza Association, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, Tyson Foods, Southern Source, Martin Kiwanis Club, WCMT's Canned Caravan, the Dresden Enterprise, Weakley County Press, UTMB’s Public Relations Department (including a Principals of Public Relations class), MTD Products, the Elementary School Council, and Westview High School.

“The theme for Santa’s Village is ‘Christmas Around the World,’ Kirby said. She added there are 12 different pods planned. She noted the opening ceremony features Santa Claus, and the giant Christmas tree will be decorated a little bit differently this year.

C.E. Weldon Library Director Roberta Peacock described some of the decorations at this year’s event saying, “We’re going to have different pods set up representing different countries that shows the traditions of each of these countries. The countries are: England, Mexico, Australia, Germany, Italy, China, Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.”

Moore asked anyone with information about, or items from, any of these counties to help with these displays. He stated UT Martin students help come up with new ideas for the exhibits each year and also provide workers.

Moore said next year would be the 25th year for Santa’s Village.

“I think that speaks highly of the event.”

“If I know a lot of the time, we get the credit, but other departments of the city, including the public works, the police department, and the fire department – have all done things to make this happen. It’s the same thing with the university. Several different departments help us out.”

He stated other agencies and people in the community also take part in making the program a success.

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige said, “We are going through some critical times in our country with our economy. But, I know Santa’s Village is going to be a bright spot in children’s lives at Christmastime. A lot of families wouldn’t have a hot meal, if it weren’t for the donations. I know we’re going to have a great turnout again this year for this event, as we always do.”

Mayor Brundige recognized UTMB for providing the facility for Santa’s Village, and commended the students participating in the labor.

“We couldn’t do this alone,” Brundige said. “Come out and have a good time at Santa’s Village.”

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes said, “We are in hard times, and our businesses and everybody is up against the same barier. For the folks who are doing without, it’s even tougher. I’m thankful to live in a community that allows us to work back and forth and share. It also depends on some folks who are literally in the midst of some really tough times. And there’s some more coming. Particularly when the companies are laying off and so forth. So, just remember, when you are talking to folks, everything counts. The volunteers are what make it happen too. That’s really the American spirit that will pull us through this. In spite of what the rest of the world is doing around us, this is a chance for us to take care of our own. And that’s what it’s about.”

Reba Wade of Reba Wade Music Studio in Martin, entertainment coordinator for Santa’s Village, said, “We have 20 hours of entertainment planned, with lots of local groups. We’ve got a lot of instruments - piano, guitar, accordions, trumpets, banjos, oboes, bells, and different kinds of instruments that will be making music.” In addition to Christmas music, she stated there would be songs made famous by Miley Cyrus who plays Hannah Montana, singer Britney Young, The Beach Boys, and several Disney songs. There will also be songs from “The Wizard of Oz,” the musical “Grease,” and other types of music. “There will be something for everybody,” Wade said. “There will be a family time, where mothers and daddies will sing with their children. There will also be karaoke.” She added performers would be from Martin, Dresden, Greenfield, Sharon, Gleason, Union City, Paris, Huntingdon, and Jackson.
Speakers during the 24th annual Santa’s Village Luncheon held Monday at The Hearth Restaurant in Martin revealed plans for this year’s exciting winter wonderland of fun in celebration of the Christmas season. They are (l to r): Martin Parks & Recreation Program Director Kim Kirby, Martin Parks & Recreation Director Brian Moore, Martin Mayor Randy Brundige, and University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. Santa’s Village provides donations of food and toys to needy families in the area through the donations of those attending the event.

Coker to perform tuba recital

Dr. Bradley G. Coker, assistant professor of low brass and music education, will present a faculty tuba recital titled “Song and Dance” at 7:30 p.m., November 10, in Harriet Fulton Theatre on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Coker will perform in collaboration with staff accompanist, Delana Easley, lecturer of music.

This recital will feature original works for the tuba and transcriptions of pieces written for voice or other instruments. Music by Roger Kellaway, Elizabeth Raum, Johannes Brahms, Erlend Skomsvoll, Oystein Baadsvik and Astor Piazzolla will allow the audience to experience both the song-and-dance-like qualities of the tuba.

This event will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact Coker at (731) 881-7401.

Final Preview Day set for UT Martin

The final preview day for fall 2008 is set for November 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Preview Day is an opportunity for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. The event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life. Registration will be from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. in the Elam Center.

Representatives of UT Martin will provide information and answers to students’ questions on a variety of topics, including scholarships, financial aid, college and housing costs, and the various university academic programs.

The day will include a welcome and general information session, the university’s academic fair, academic department visits and campus tours.

For more information about preview day activities and events, call the UT Martin Office of Admissions, at 1-800-829-UTMI or 731-881-7020. Students may register for preview day online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/fpd08.php.
Teaching writing to be featured in new online course at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will introduce a new online course, “Teaching Writing: Grades 4-6.” This new program is a teacher-training course designed to help teachers become more effective assisting students in developing writing skills. Participants will explore the benefits of writing across the curriculum, examine ways to organize writing instruction and uncover the secrets of effective assessment. “Teaching Writing: Grades 4-6” meets the qualifications for professional development activities that can be used for renewal purposes.

The course is part of UT Martin’s growing catalog of more than 300 instructor-facilitated online courses. New sessions of each course begin every month. They last six weeks, with two new lessons being released weekly (for a total of 12). The courses are entirely Web-based with comprehensive lessons, quizzes and assignments. A professional instructor facilitates every course, pacing learners, answering questions, giving feedback and facilitating discussions.

To learn more, call UT Martin at (731) 881-7082 or visit them online at http://www.utsm.edu/departments/ecce/onlinecourses.php and select: Education To Go.

Sarah Holt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Holt of Rives, has been awarded a scholarship for the 2008-09 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions. A junior, she received the Tom and Patti Wade Scholarship.

Diabetes rate among Tennessee adults increased


Based upon the average age-adjusted mortality rate from 1999-2004, the western region of Tennessee had the second highest diabetes mortality rate in Tennessee.

There are several risk factors for diabetes including inactivity, individuals who are not qualified for Tenn Care but do not have private insurance. The Tri-County Community Wellness Initiative Grant serves as an adjunct to the services that are provided by the local health departments.

In April of 2006, a West Tennessee Community Diabetes Forum was sponsored by the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta and held at the University of Tennessee at Martin. A follow up meeting to this forum entitled “Exploring Diabetes Dynamics” was held in July 2006. One consensus coming from the forum and follow up meeting was that a coordinated plan was needed to address life- provided in Gibson, Obion and Weakley counties, all three of which have diabetes on their list of community priorities.

In the 2007-08 grant year, more than 160 people have received one-on-one consultation with a registered dietician and many have returned for follow up appointments. Educational material regarding diabetes prevention and management have been made available to the county health departments and footwear in the form of Diabetic Crocs were purchased to be distributed on an “as needed” basis through the health departments. Exercise equipment and videos were also made available. Working with the Union...
Deadline for applications for Governor’s School is Friday, November 21

The deadline to apply for two Governor’s Schools hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin is November 21. Governor’s School for the Humanities will be May 31-July 2 and Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences is slated for May 24-June 26. Successful applicants will be notified January 25.

Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences focuses on the importance of agriculture and natural resources to the state and national economy. Emphasis on experiential learning and laboratory exercises related to the agricultural sciences will include production agriculture, agricultural business enterprises and natural resources management. For an application or for more information, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/caas/tgssas/. Brochures are available and may be requested by telephone at 731-881-7260 or by mail at TGSAS, University of Tennessee at Martin, 256 Brehm Hall, Martin, TN 38238.

Governor’s School for the Humanities examines the role of language, history, philosophy, politics and the arts in defining the relevance of humanities in the modern age. Visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/govschool/for an application or for more information. Applications also are available in high school guidance offices.

Final Preview Day scheduled at UT Martin

The final preview day for fall 2008 is set for November 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Preview Day is an opportunity for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. The event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life. Registration will be from 9 to 9:30 a.m. in the Elam Center.

For more information about preview day activities and events, call the UT Martin Office of Admissions, at 1-800-829-UTM1 or 731-881-7020. Students may register for preview day online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/fpd08.php.

London, Paris travel study planned in spring

The University of Tennessee at Martin will conduct a spring travel-study program to London and Paris, March 4-16.

Among the highlights of the travel study in London will be the Tower of London, St. Paul’s Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the British Museum and the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. While in Paris, the group will see the Arc de Triomphe, Sacre Coeur, Notre Dame, the Louvre, Napoleon’s Tomb and the Eiffel Tower.

In addition to the tours of London and Paris, day trips have been planned to Stonehenge, Bath and Windsor Castle and a day trip to the Palace of Versailles. Also, the group will take the Eurostar train from London to Paris.

The cost is $3,175 per person. This includes roundtrip transportation from Martin to the airport, roundtrip airfare from Memphis to London and back from Paris, 11 nights of hotel accommodations, daily breakfast, admission to all scheduled events, day trips to Stonehenge and Versailles and the Eurostar train from London to Paris.

Final preview day set at UT Martin

The final preview day for fall 2008 is set for Nov. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Preview Day is an opportunity for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. The event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life.

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The day will include a welcome and general information session, the university’s academic fair, academic department visits and campus tours.

For more information about preview day activities and events, call the UT Martin Office of Admissions, at 1-800-829-UTM1 or 731-881-7020. Students may register for preview day online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/fpd08.php.
Workplace violence topic of course

The University of Tennessee at Martin Institute of Professional Development will offer a course from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 12-14, in Jackson, Tenn. The cost is $365 per person, and the course focuses on recognizing, preventing and responding to incidents of violence in the workplace. The course also examines the cost to business and industry, threat assessments, offender characteristics, triggering events, prevention strategies, intervention techniques, sample grievance reporting procedures, management of the security function, employee screening, termination strategies and interaction with local law enforcement.

At the conclusion of this instruction the participant will:
• Understand the potential causes of workplace violence;
• Know how to recognize behavior that may predict violence;
• Have learned types of events that have triggered incidents;
• Have learned intervention techniques designed to prevent an incident;
• Recognize the importance of planning for an event and the steps involved;
• Understand the types of police responses; and
• Know the legal issues faced by officers and managers.

The course will be taught by Dennis Mays, a retired commander of the uniform patrol and special operation units of the Jackson Police Department, and Jimmie V. Leach, a 20-year law enforcement professional who has served as a police officer, state trooper, special agent, special agent in charge with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and as the director of criminal investigations for the Department of Safety.

To register, contact UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education at 731-881-7082.

Business seminar offered at Chamber

"The Dynamics of Marketing Your Business" will be offered as a free seminar by the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center, from 6-8 p.m., Nov. 13, at the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce, in South Fulton. Instructor will be Jamie Frakes, a Tennessee Small Business Development Center director. This program focuses on distinct issues that will affect how a business is marketed.

The program includes activities that can be integrated into a marketing plan immediately. Attendees will establish a foundation for building a more comprehensive marketing plan for their businesses.

Register online at www.utm.edu/reed or by calling the REED Center at 731-587-7333 or the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce at 731-479-7029.

UTM final preview Nov. 15

The final preview day for fall 2008 is set for Nov. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Preview Day is an opportunity for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. The event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life. Registration will be from 9 to 9:30 a.m. in the Elam Center. Representatives of UT Martin will provide information and answers to students' questions on a variety of topics, including scholarships, financial aid, college and housing costs, and the various university academic programs. The day will include a welcome and general information session, the university's academic fair, academic department visits and campus tours. For more information about preview day activities and events, call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 1-800-829-UTM1 or 731-881-7020. Students may register for preview day online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/fpd08.php.
The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present its opening performance of “The Learned Ladies,” at 8 p.m., Nov. 6, on the main stage in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building. Additional performances will be at 8 p.m., Nov. 7-8, and 3 p.m., Nov. 9.

It’s an age-old story – a father wants his daughter to marry one man; a mother wants her to marry another. Molière’s “The Learned Ladies” concerns a 17th century Parisian named Chrysale whose wife, sister and eldest daughter have fallen under the spell of a would-be poet named Trissotin who aspires to marry the youngest daughter, Henriette, and thereby acquire a lovely and rich wife. Henriette, however, has her own plans for marriage with the poor but handsome Clitandre. A crew of unforgettable characters inhabits this fast-paced satire on intellectual pretensions where mishaps and mayhem abound.

UT Martin cast members include: Kassi Abney, of Martin; Davida Ambrose, of Memphis; Anne Albrecht, of Memphis; Jay Campbell, of Martin; Natalie Horbelt, of Memphis; Jade Johnson, of Paris; Justin Hunt, of Martin; Jonathan Johnson, of Union City; Joshua Jones, of Kingston Springs; Patrick Nugent, of Memphis; Kara Salyers, of Huntington; Benjamin Stoer, of Gainesville, Fla.; and Lizzie Wouters, of Knoxville.

The box office will open at noon on Nov. 3. Operation hours are from noon to 5 p.m. and two hours before performances. Tickets are $5 for students and children and $10 for adults. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7090.

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Christmas parade slated for Dec. 8

The Martin Kiwanis Club/City of Martin Christmas Parade will begin at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8. The theme of this year’s parade is “Christmas Around the World.” Judging will begin at 5:30 p.m., with line-up at 6 p.m. in the UT Martin football parking lot. The parade will start at 7 p.m. and will proceed down University Street to Lindell Street and downtown Martin. The entry fee is $5. Deadline for entries is Wednesday, Dec. 3. To download an entry form, visit the Martin Kiwanis Club Web site: www.martinkiwanisclub.org.

Rain date for the parade is Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Veterans Day Banquet planned

Members of the American Legion Post 69 of Martin are inviting community members to the annual Veterans Day Banquet on Tuesday. The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. in The Hearth Restaurant’s banquet hall. University of Tennessee at Martin political science professor Dr. Ted Mosch is the guest speaker for the dinner. Lloyd Duncan serves as the adjutant for Post 69, and the Rev. Mace Jett is the commander. Veterans from World War II through the Operation Iraqi Freedom will be featured guests at the banquet. Tickets are $13 and can be purchased from Col. Bob Smith at 587-3211 or any Post 69 American Legion member. Everyone is invited to attend.

Art exhibit to begin Nov. 11 at UTM

The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at the University of Tennessee at Martin will present an exhibition of unadulterated, unbridled and unapologetic "contemp" for art - contemporary art, that is. An opening reception is slated from 5-7 p.m., Nov. 11, in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus. The exhibit will continue through Nov. 15. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 881-7400.

Senior trombone recital scheduled

Sean Campbell, a senior music education major from Brighton, will present his senior trombone recital at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, in Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Campbell will perform with UT Martin collaborative artist and lecturer of music, Delana Easley, on works by Serocki, Bernstein, Weber and McKay. This event will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Bradley Coker, assistant professor of music, at 881-7401.
Workplace violence to be topic of course

The University of Tennessee at Martin Institute of Professional Development will offer a course from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 12-14, in Jackson. The cost is $365 per person, and the course focuses on recognizing, preventing and responding to incidents of violence in the workplace. The course also examines the cost to business and industry, threat assessments, offender characteristics, triggering events, prevention strategies, intervention techniques, sample grievance reporting procedures, management of the security function, employee screening, termination strategies and interaction with local law enforcement.

At the conclusion of this instruction the participant will:
- Understand the potential causes of workplace violence;
- Know how to recognize behavior that may predict violence;
- Have learned types of events that have triggered incidents;
- Have learned intervention techniques designed to prevent an incident;
- Recognize the importance of planning for an event and the steps involved;
- Understand the types of police responses; and
- Know the legal issues faced by officers and managers.

The course will be taught by Dennis Mays, a retired commander of the uniform patrol and special operation units of the Jackson Police Department, and Jimmie V. Leach, a 20-year law enforcement professional who has served as a police officer, state trooper, special agent, special agent in charge with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and as the director of criminal investigations for the Department of Safety.

To register, contact UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education at 881-7082.

Consultant will be at REED Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center assists an average of 100 small business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs each year with one-on-one consulting. The next opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues from Ron Acree, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant, will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Nov. 20. The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise. The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell St., Martin. For additional services offered by the REED Center, go to www.utm.edu/reed.

UTM to hold final 2008 Preview Day

The final preview day for fall 2008 is set for Nov. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Preview Day is an opportunity for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. The event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life. Registration will be from 9 to 9:30 a.m. in the Alam Center.

Representatives of UT Martin will provide information and answers to students’ questions on a variety of topics, including scholarships, financial aid, college and housing costs, and the various university academic programs.

The day will include a welcome and general information session, the university’s academic fair, academic department visits and campus tours.

For more information about preview day activities and events, call the UT Martin Office of Admissions, at (800) 829-UTM1 or 881-7020. Students may register for preview day online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/fpd08.php.
Science Olympiad scheduled at UTM

Plans are under way to offer a Science Olympiad for grades 6-9 Feb. 28, at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Science Olympiad is a science-based team competition.

The goal of Science Olympiad is to improve science education, encourage teamwork and participation from all students and promote inquiry-based learning. Science Olympiad Tournament events are correlated with the state as well as the National Science Education Standards.

Interested students should contact their teachers, who will organize Olympiad teams.

For the first year, event organizers plan to offer 12 events during the competition. Each event is usually a hands-on activity in which each team is graded and competes against other teams. It may also include a laboratory activity in which students complete a given task and report results.

Teams should be formed in the beginning of the semester to allow for preparation time. For hints about how to start a team, visit the Web page http://soinc.org/start_a_team.

Some examples of 2009 events include amphibians and reptiles, anatomy, bio-process lab, compute this, crave the wave, disease detectives, dynamic planet, ecology, elevated bridge, environmental chemistry and fossils.

Other examples include rubix cross, science crime busters, scrambler, trajectory, "wright" stuff and write it do it. Most events are aligned with the state curriculum.

Unlike other science competitions, the olympiad is intended for all students.

For more information, coaches/teachers should contact Dr. Cahit Erkal, professor of physics at UT Martin, at cerkal@utm.edu or (731) 881-7432.

Registration for the olympiad can be completed at the Tennessee Science Olympiad website (www.chattanoogastate.edu/science_olympiad/soomain.asp).

Those interested also may check the National Web site for event descriptions and hints for preparation (www.soic.org), according to organizers.

Contemporary art featured

The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at the University of Tennessee at Martin will present an exhibition of unadulterated, unbridled and unapologetic "contemp" for art — contemporary art, that is.

An opening reception is slated for 5-7 p.m. Tuesday in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

The exhibit will continue through Nov. 15 in the gallery on campus.

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

Final preview day planned

The final preview day for Fall 2008 is set for Nov. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Preview day is an opportunity for high school seniors and their families to visit and learn about the university. The event is designed to enable future college students to become familiar with the Martin campus and to get that all-important first impression of university life.

Registration will be from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Elam Center.

Representatives of UT Martin will provide information and answers to students’ questions on a variety of topics, including scholarships, financial aid, college and housing costs and the various university academic programs.

The day will include a welcome and general information session, the university’s academic fair, academic department visits and campus tours.

For more information about preview day activities and events, call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 1-800-829-UTML or (731) 881-7020. Students may register for preview day online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/fpd08.php.

Piano ensemble to present concert

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Elaine Harriss, Department of Music interim chair.

A wide variety of musical selections for one piano, four hands, and two pianos, four and eight hands, will be presented.

UT Martin piano students performing will include Matthew Damons and Michael Yandell, both of Union City; Andrew Moore of Fulton; Brandon Whaley of Dresden; and Harold Johnson of Memphis.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Harriss at (731) 587-7411.
LET THERE BE MUSIC — Two groups with local ties will present the upcoming Community Concerts second performance for the 2008-09 season Nov. 22 at Union City Civic Auditorium. The David Johnson Chorus (at left), drawn from singers across the northwest Tennessee area, and University Singers from the University of Tennessee at Martin (above) will present a concert that crosses many musical boundaries at 7:30 p.m. Memberships will be on sale at the door on a first-come, first-served basis.

‘Wall’ to be built, torn down next week at UT Martin

A symbolic “wall of hate” will be built and then torn down Monday through Thursday at the University of Tennessee at Martin as part of the Writing on the Wall Project.

The wall project last came to UT Martin in the fall of 2004. The wall project is designed to symbolize a dramatic shared community experience of taking personal action to confront human rights atrocities and acts of oppression in society. A cement block wall representing these barriers will be built around the fountain located between the Boling University Center and the Paul Meek Library.

Starting Monday, students, faculty, staff and the community can express individual feelings by painting words and symbols on the wall. At 4:30 p.m. Thursday, the wall will be pulled down, symbolic of tearing down hate-related barriers. The public is invited to this closing activity.

UT Martin groups and organizations sponsoring the Writing on the Wall Project include the Student Government Association, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Minority Affairs, American Democracy Project, Office of Alumni Relations and Department of History and Philosophy. Questions about the wall project can be directed to the Student Government Association at sga1@utm.edu or by calling (731) 881-7785.
UT Martin student to intern at Augusta

MARTIN — Jimmy Gann of Kingston Springs has earned an internship at a well-known golf club in preparation for his career goal to become a professional agronomist. Gann will serve a six-month internship at Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Ga., beginning January 2009. He plans to attend graduate school upon completion of this internship.

Last summer, Gann completed an internship at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., in which he gained tournament experience.

He is a senior agriculture major with a concentration in plant and soil science: golf course and landscape management option.

"Gann is a great example of success via determination and persistence," said Dr. Wes Totten, UT Martin assistant professor of plant and soil science.

Business consultant available

Nov. 20 at the REED Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REEC) Center assists an average of 100 small business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs each year with one-on-one consulting.

The next opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues from Ron Acree, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant, will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 20.

The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at (731) 587-REEC (7333).

The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell St. in Martin.

For additional services offered by the REED Center, visit the Web site www.utm.edu/ceed.

Miss UT Martin/ Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival
November 15

Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is Nov. 15

The combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be staged at 7 p.m., Nov. 15, in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at UT Martin. The theme is "The Way You Look Tonight." Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

For more information or an application, go online to www.utm.edu/missutm or contact pageant executive directors, Hollie Holt, 731-514-3556 or Kimberly Craddock, 731-588-2507.

University of Tennessee Martin's Preview Day for high school seniors is set for Saturday. Find out information about financial aid and scholarships, college and housing costs and academic programs. Take a college tour, and meet with campus representatives during the academic fair and general information session.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at (800) 829-8861 or (731) 881-7020. Students may register for the event online at www.utm.edu/departments/admissions/pd08.php. General campus tours are offered at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and require students to register first by sending an e-mail to admitme@utm.edu in advance or call one of the numbers above.
Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is November 15

MARTIN - The combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be staged at 7 p.m., November 15, in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at UT Martin. The theme is "The Way You Look Tonight." Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Pageant will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be sold for $10 at the door with proper ID.

For more information or an application, go online to www.utm.edu/missutm or contact pageant executive directors, Hollie Holt, 731-583-5556 or Kimberly Craddock, 731-583-2505.

Area Student Receives UTAA Scholarship

MARTIN - University of Tennessee at Martin student Lauren Scott of McKenzie, recently received a University of Tennessee Alumni Association Valedictorian Scholarship. UTAA was established in 1836 as a tradition of services of alumni from Chattanooga, Knoxville, Martin, Memphis and Tullahoma campuses. Scott is pictured with UT Martin chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes.

Evans to perform clarinet recital

Calyn Evans, of Trenton, will present her senior clarinet recital at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 17, in Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Evans will perform Weber’s “Fantasia and Rondo,” a 20th century piece called “Excursion” by Ronald Caravan and a Debussy piece for clarinet and piano. Evans will also play an arrangement of “Vocalise” by Rachmaninoff for clarinet solo and clarinet choir accompaniment and Schubert’s “Shepherd on a Rock,” which will be performed with soprano Sarah Jenkins. Delana Easley, lecturer of music, and Evans’ mother, will accompany on piano.

This event will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Department of Music at 881-7402.

AAUW to hold meeting Nov. 13

AAUW will hold a meeting Thursday, Nov. 13, at the C.E. Weldon Library in Martin. Speakers will be women in non-traditional careers. A Dutch treat dinner will begin at 6 p.m. (students eat for free). The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. The following panel of women who have unusual careers will speak: Shelby Hurley, owner and operator of Country Pet Resort and Spa; Deb Kidwell, owner and operator of Lake Nowhere Mule & Donkey Farm; and Ashley Owens, engineer.

County student receives UTM scholarship

A Weakley County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2008-9 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions. Jennifer, daughter of Roger and Susan Stewart of Greenfield, is a junior. She received the Rehabilitation Corporation Scholarship. Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 201 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone (800) 829-UTMI; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.
Symbolic 'wall' to tear down hate-related barriers

A symbolic “wall of hate” will be built and then torn down, Nov. 10-13, at the University of Tennessee at Martin as part of the Writing on the Wall Project. The wall project last came to UT Martin in fall 2004.

The wall project is designed to symbolize a dramatic shared community experience of taking personal action to confront human rights atrocities and acts of oppression in society. A cinderblock wall representing these barriers will be built around the fountain located between the Boling University Center and the Paul Meek Library.

Starting Nov. 10, students, faculty, staff and the community can express individual feelings by painting words and symbols on the wall. At 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, the wall will be pulled down, symbolic of tearing down hate-related barriers. The public is invited to this closing activity.

UT Martin groups and organizations sponsoring the Writing on the Wall Project include the Student Government Association, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Minority Affairs, American Democracy Project, Office of Alumni Relations, and Department of History and Philosophy.

Questions about the wall project can be directed to the Student Government Association at sga1@utm.edu or by calling 881-7785.

Springer receives Beth Malone outstanding student employee

The Fall 2008 Beth Maloon Outstanding University of Tennessee at Martin Student Employee Award recently was presented to Kristina Springer, a UT Martin Paul Meek Library Reference Department and Government Documents employee. Springer is an elementary education major and has been employed at the library for four years. The award was presented Oct. 27 prior to an Academic Speaker Series presentation.

Among many tasks, Springer, of Leona, helps with the processing of all government documents, entering into the online catalog, maintaining the card catalogue, assisting patrons, training student workers and helping with major projects for government and reference documents. According to her supervisor, “Kristina has worked for the Government Documents Department for the last four years. She is very diligent in her work and is always willing to help on any project. She goes above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to her working on projects.”

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

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

Dismuke to perform clarinet recital

Erin Dismuke, of Cordova, will present her senior clarinet recital at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 16, in Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dismuke will perform Aaron Copland’s “Clarinet Concerto,” which was originally written for Benny Goodman. She will also perform a version of “The Carnival of Venice.” Delana Easley, lecturer of music, will accompany Dismuke on piano. This event will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at 881-7402.
Santa's Village celebrates 24th season

Sara Reid
Staff Writer

With the close of the Halloween holiday, the focus now shifts to one of the largest seasonal fund raisers in the area.

In its 24th year of operation, this year's running of Santa's Village promises to be its most important especially considering the ups and downs of the economy in recent months.

"This year, with economic times being very difficult, this event will be very helpful for a lot of folks," Martin Mayor Randy Brundige admitted. "These are crucial times and Santa's Village will be a bright spot for many families and children this year. We'll have a great turnout as we always do."

University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes supplemented Brundige's words.

"We are in hard times. A lot of these people haven't been down the road of doing without before. Particularly, when there are layoffs everything counts and everything's worth it. This is a chance for us to take care of our own."

Martin Parks and Recreation Director Brian Moore reported that all local charitable organizations would be involved this year including Chimes for Charity, We Care, the Northwest Tennessee Economic Development District, Santa's Helpers, the Department of Children's Services and theObion County Red Cross.

This is Moore's first Santa's Village holding the reins as the new parks and recreation director for the City of Martin.

Moore replaced Dennis Suiter upon his retirement earlier this year.

Returning this year for the opening ceremony will be the Martin Elementary Student Council, Westview and, of course, Santa himself.

"This year's theme will be Christmas around the world and there will be 12 pods set up depicting Christmas from 12 different countries around the world," Kim Kirby of Martin Parks and Recreation reported.

Kirby was recently promoted to program director for the parks and rec department.

Also returning will be the MTD model train display, arts and crafts, children's inflatables, petting farm and live entertainment.

"We have 20 hours of entertainment scheduled," Reba Wade reported. "We have lots of vocals, groups, solos, males, females, children aged 4 to 70 and lots of instruments."

"This is the 24th anniversary for us and next year will be the 25th and that speaks very highly of the event," Moore stressed.

Santa's Village will be open Dec. 11 and 12 from 6-9 p.m., Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 14 from 1-5 p.m. at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the UT Martin campus. A minimum of $5 worth of nonperishable food and/or toys is suggested as a donation.

Hirosaki professor on campus as part of long-standing exchange

Kazutaka Tanaka, professor of English at Hirosaki University in Japan, is at the University of Tennessee at Martin, participating in an ongoing visiting professor exchange program. UT Martin and Hirosaki University have maintained a sister-university relationship for more than 20 years.

Tanaka is a graduate of Tsukuba University with a master of arts in English literature. After graduating, Tanaka taught as an assistant professor at Tsukuba until 1990, when he began teaching at Hirosaki University in the Humanities Department. He now teaches both English literature and English language.

Tanaka's primary area of interest is Shakespeare and other Renaissance writers. While at UT Martin, Tanaka has been doing research on Shakespearean and Renaissance drama and giving a series of presentations on his work to Department of English faculty and students.

"I want to teach English language as effectively as possible," said Tanaka. "I want my students to be very good at speaking, reading and writing the English language, and I want to communicate the excellence of Shakespeare's drama to Japanese students." Tanaka admitted that this is not an easy task and added, "The language of Shakespeare is difficult for Japanese students to understand, so it's necessary for them to use a special dictionary of Shakespearean language and vocabulary to understand the meaning of the words."

Tanaka also is scheduled to make a presentation during International Education Week in late November on teaching English using Shakespeare. He has written more than 20 articles on Shakespeare and other Renaissance writers and has two books to his credit: "A Japanese Translation of Robert Alter's The Pleasures of Reading in an Ideological Age" and "A Japanese Translation of Erwin Chargaff's Serious Questions: An ABC of Skeletal Reflections."

Tanaka is here with his wife, Yumi; daughter, Shiori; and son, Yuta; through the end of fall semester.
Cox attends unveiling of 'Trail of Tears' monument

A University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member attended a recent ceremony at Blythe’s Ferry for the unveiling of a new monument for the Trail of Tears. Brent Cox, of Milan, lecturer of history, attended the ceremony for the leaders of the Cherokee nation of Oklahoma, eastern band of Cherokee Indians, Creek nation of Oklahoma, Keetoowah band of Cherokee and the Trail of Tears Association.

The monument opened to the public in October and marks the beginning of the Trail of Tears and the various routes taken by the Cherokee in 1838. One of the routes traveled just north of the Martin area.

“It was an honor to meet the dignitaries from the various tribes/nations,” said Cox, who serves as a member of the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Advisory Council to the Tennessee Indian Affairs. The monument is at Blythe’s Ferry, north of Chattanooga, where a large number of Cherokee and Creek crossed the Tennessee River in 1838 on the Trail of Tears. “Approximately 18,000 Cherokee were removed and more than 4,500 died before reaching Indian Territory. It is time for people to recognize those who lost their culture and land,” he said.

In November 2006, Cox received the Tennessee Eagle Award for “heroic contributions to Native Americans.” The award is presented by the Tennessee Eagle Award Organization, a group of Native Americans in Tennessee.

Cox’s involvement as a board officer for the Tennessee Native American Convention, his work teaching a Native American class for several years at UT Martin and his involvement making Native American issues a part of UT Martin’s Civil Rights Conference, supported his award nomination. He began as an adjunct instructor at UT Martin in 1999. Cox is a native of Tennessee, whose grandparents have Catawba and Cherokee lineages. He points to the teachings of one of his grandmothers as having a lasting effect on his life.

Piano ensemble concert planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present a concert at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 18, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Elaine Harriss, Department of Music interim chair. A wide variety of musical selections for one piano, four hands, and two pianos, four and eight hands, will be presented. Included on the program is an eight-hand arrangement of “Two Trumpet Voluntaries” from the English Baroque composer Henry Purcell. For piano duo (two pianos, four hands) is “Gracia” from “Andalusian Dances” by the Spanish composer Manuel Infante. Piano duets (one piano, four hands) include the witty set of “5 Bagatelles” by French composer Georges Auric, and “Sonata in F” by Johann Christian Bach. Three popular pieces arranged for piano duet will round out the program. They include “Happy Face” from “Bye-Bye Birdie” and two familiar Irving Berlin songs, “Alexander’s Ragtime Band” and “I Love a Piano.”

UT Martin piano students performing are Matthew Damos from Union City, Harold Johnson from Memphis, Andrew Moore from Fulton, Brandon Whaley from Dresden and Michael Yandell from Union City. This concert will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact Harriss at 587-7411.

HARTSHORN RECEIVES UTAA AWARD — University of Tennessee at Martin professor, Dr. Robert Hartshorn, of Martin, recently received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Distinguished Professor award. UTAA was established in 1836 as a tradition of services of alumni from Chattanooga, Knoxville, Martin, Memphis and Tullahoma campuses. Hartshorn is pictured with Ford Little, UTAA president.
Miss UT Martin/ Miss Tenn. Soybean Festival Pageant

The combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be staged at 7 p.m., Nov. 15, in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at UT Martin. The theme is “The Way You Look Tonight.” Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the city of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Pageant will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be sold for $10 at the door with proper ID.

For more information or an application, go online to www.utm.edu/misstum or contact pageant executive directors, Hollie Holt, 514-3556 or Kimberly Craddock, 588-2507.

Miss UT Martin/Miss Tenn. Soybean Festival Pageant

From Paris to Amazon, UTM has variety of travel-study programs

From Paris to the Amazon, Lisbon to South Korea, European Alps to Washington, D.C., the University of Tennessee at Martin Center for Global Studies and International Education will offer 15 travel-study programs in 2009.

Trips begin in February and March with a study program titled “Abraham Lincoln at 200: Words, Will & Wisdom” to Springfield, Ill., Feb. 26-March 1 and to Washington, D.C., March 9-15. Dr. Michelle Merwin, Department of Psychology interim chair, and Tim Hacker, English instructor, will lead both trips.

On March 4-16, two trips are planned to Paris and London. One will be led by Dr. Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications, and Stan Sieber, professor of history, and the other by Dr. Tom Payne, Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and International Business interim chair.

A list of other trip dates, destinations and department faculty leaders includes: March 5-14, Lisbon, Portugal/Madrid, Spain, Drs. Lucia Florido and Randall Garza (modern foreign languages); March 7-12, Washington, D.C. (Holocaust), Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls (history and philosophy); May 10-16, Washington, D.C., Drs. Paula Gale, Michael Gibson and Jeff Rogers (agriculture and natural resources/geology, geography and physics); May 10-23, Germany, Dr. Chuck Hammond (modern foreign languages); May 11-21, South Korea, Dr. J.C. Kim (health and human performance); May 15-26, Greece, Dr. Nathan Howard (history and philosophy); May 18-31, New England/Atlantic Canada, Drs. Charles Bradshaw and David Creelman (English); May 23-31, Mediterranean Cruise, Mike Sudzum and Lorrie Jackson (community); July 6-20, European Alps, Stan Sieber (history and philosophy); Aug. 10-15, Washington, D.C., Darrell Simmons (criminal justice); December 2009, Amazon, Dr. Sue Byrd, Scott Purn and Dr. Bradley Ray (family consumer sciences/health and human performance/agriculture and natural resources).

For more information, visit the Web site, at www.utm.edu/departments/globalstudies, or call the center at 881-1017.

Wildlife Society gets grant for stream cleanup

The University of Tennessee at Martin student chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) recently received a $1,000 grant from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to conduct a stream cleanup project in Martin. Joshua Tompkins, of Greenbrier, a UT Martin TWS member, completed the grant application.

The Wildlife Society conducted its first cleanup day, Oct. 25, cleaning the stream that flows through the campus and along the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway that is under construction. The group will sponsor another stream cleanup day in the spring. The Wildlife Society is also joining forces with the group, Recycles UT Martin, to recycle the trash collected. For more information, contact Tompkins, at roghtompkins@hotmail.com.

Evans’ recital is Nov. 17

Calyn Evans of Trenton will present her senior clarinet recital at 7:30 p.m., Monday, November 17, in Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Evans will perform Weber’s “Fantasia and Rondo,” a 20th century piece called “Excursion” by Ronald Caravan and a Debussy piece for clarinet and piano. Evans will also play an arrangement of “Vocalise” by Rachmaninoff for clarinet solo and clarinet choir accompaniment and Schubert’s “Shepherd on a Rock,” which will be performed with soprano Sarah Jenkins, Delana Easley, lecturer of music, and Evans’ mother, will accompany on piano.

This event will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Miss UTM, Soybean Pageant slated Saturday

The combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be staged at 7 p.m., November 15, in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at UT Martin. The theme is “The Way You Look Tonight.” Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer.

The combined pageant is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and UT Martin and is open to single women, ages 17-24, who are residents of or students in Tennessee. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant is open statewide, while the Miss UT Martin event is open only to UT Martin students.

General admission tickets for the UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Pageant will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be sold for $10 at the door with proper ID.

For more information or an application, go online to www.utm.edu/missutm or contact pageant executive directors, Hollie Holt, 731-514-3556 or Kimberly Craddock, 731-588-2507.

UTM’s ‘Guide to Speakers, Sources’ updated

The University of Tennessee at Martin “Guide to Speakers and Sources” is an online guide to speakers and topics. This guide is designed to acquaint the public with the wide range of human resources available at UT Martin. A variety of groups may find this guide useful in the selection of speakers or experts for various projects and/or meetings.

The guide, at http://www.utm.edu/departments/univrel/resources.php, is prepared in alphabetical order by general topic and divided into subtopics. For assistance in making contacts with the speakers and sources, or for assistance in finding campus experts for topics not listed, call the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

Cox attends unveiling of ‘Trail of Tears’ monument at Blythe’s Ferry

A University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member attended a recent ceremony at Blythe’s Ferry for the unveiling of a new monument for the Trail of Tears. Brent Cox, of Milan, lecturer of history, attended the ceremony for the leaders of the Cherokee nation of Oklahoma, eastern band of Cherokee Indians, Creek nation of Oklahoma, Keetoowah band of Cherokee and the Trail of Tears Association.

The monument opened to the public in October and marks the beginning of the Trail of Tears and the various routes taken by the Cherokee in 1838. One of the routes traveled just north of the Martin area.

“It was an honor to meet the dignitaries from the various tribes/nations,” said Cox, who serves as a member of the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Advisory Council to Tennessee Indian Affairs. The monument is at Blythe’s Ferry, north of Chattanooga, where a large number of Cherokee and Creek crossed the Tennessee River in 1838 on the Trail of Tears. “Approximately 18,000 Cherokee were removed and more than 4,500 died before reaching Indian territory. It is time for people to recognize those who lost their culture and land,” he said.

In November 2006, Cox received the Tennessee Eagle Award for “heroic contributions to Native Americans.” The award is presented by the Tennessee Eagle Award Organization, a group of Native Americans in Tennessee.

Cox’s involvement as a board officer for the Tennessee Native American Convention, his work teaching a Native American class for several years at UT Martin and his involvement making Native American issues a part of UT Martin’s Civil Rights Conference, supported his award nomination. He began as an adjunct instructor at UT Martin in 1999. Cox is a native of Tennessee, whose grandparents have Catawba and Cherokee lineages. He points to the teachings of one of his grandmothers as having a lasting effect on his life.

Soybean Festival Pageant is November 15

The combined Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant will be staged at 7 p.m., November 15, in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at UT Martin. The theme is “The Way You Look Tonight.” Winners of each crown will gain the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer.

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General admission tickets for the Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Pageant will be available at the door for $15. UT Martin student tickets will be sold for $10 at the door with proper ID.

For more information or an application, go online to www.utm.edu/missutm or contact pageant executive directors, Hollie Holt, 731-514-3556 or Kimberly Craddock, 731-588-2507.
Soil-judging team wins Southeast Regional competition at Virginia Tech

A team of University of Tennessee at Martin students know their soils. The soil-judging team recently claimed first place in the Southeast Regional Soil Judging contest hosted by Virginia Tech and held in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Twelve teams (75 individuals) from throughout the Southeast participated in the contest, with the top six teams from the regional contest qualifying for the national contest in April.

UT Martin claimed 1,997 points and will be the first Tennessee team to appear on a traveling trophy in the last 12 years of competition. Individually, Lindsey Slaughter, of Lyles, won first place; Kelly Whitson, of Troy, was fourth; Hannah Davis, of Lewisburg, 11th; and Trey Browning, of Dresden, 23rd. Team alternates were Scott Bearden, of Cumberland Furnace; and Wes Rodgers, of Prospect.

As part of the competition, students evaluate soil based on color, texture, structure and horizons or layers and then interpret this information as it relates to agricultural soil qualities and possible limitations to urban development of the soils. Students spend three days looking at practice sites in the region and the contest, held on the fourth day, involves describing and evaluating four different soil pits. Students compete for both individual prizes (ranking) and a team score. The team score is the combined score of the students on each team.

The team was accompanied to Virginia Tech by Dr. Steve Monteith, USDA-National Resources Conservation Service soil scientist from Jackson, in the absence of Dr. Paula Gale, UT Martin professor of soil science, who was unable to attend.

Kraft to perform senior voice recital

Kimberly Kraft, of Martin, will perform her senior voice recital at 3 p.m., November 16, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Kraft will perform solo songs by Handel, Bellini, Schubert, Fauré and Duke. Delana Easley, lecturer of music, will accompany her on piano. This concert will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Thomas to perform senior saxophone recital

Cara Thomas, of Martin, will present her senior saxophone recital at 7:30 p.m., November 24, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Thomas will perform a variety of pieces ranging from classical to jazz. She will play a Japanese piece called “Night Bird” for saxophone and electronics, as well as the “Glazounov Concerto” for saxophone and piano. The jazz portion of the recital will feature “+8,” a piece for tenor saxophone and drum set (played by Cory Bozard, of Bells) and a sonata by jazz composer and arranger, Phil Woods. Delana Easley, lecturer of music, will accompany Thomas on piano. This event will be free and open to the public.

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

Piano ensemble concert planned November 18

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble will present a concert at 7:30 p.m., November 18, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Elaine Harriss, Department of Music interim chair.

A wide variety of musical selections for one piano, four hands, and two pianos, four and eight hands, will be presented. Included on the program is an eight-hand arrangement of “Two Trumpet Voluntaries” from the English Baroque composer Henry Purcell. For piano duo (two pianos, four hands) is “Gracia” from “Andalusian Dances” by the Spanish composer Manuel Infante. Piano duets (one piano, four hands) include the witty set of “5 Bagatelles” by French composer Georges Auric, and “Sonata in F” by Johann Christian Bach. Three popular pieces arranged for piano duet will round out the program. They include “Happy Face” from “Bye-Bye Birdie” and two familiar Irving Berlin songs, “Alexander’s Ragtime Band” and “I Love a Piano.”

UT Martin piano students performing are Matthew Damon from Union City, Harold Johnson from Memphis, Andrew Moore from Fulton, Brandon Whaley from Dresden and Michael Yandell from Union City. This concert will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Harriss at 731-587-7411.

Springer receives Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award

The Fall 2008 Beth Maloan Outstanding University of Tennessee at Martin Student Employee Award recently was presented to Kristina Springer, a UT Martin Paul Meek Library Reference Department and Government Documents employee. Springer is an elementary education major and has been employed at the library for four years. The award was presented October 27 prior to an Academic Speaker Series presentation.

Among many tasks, Springer, of Leona, helps with the processing of all government documents, entering into the online catalog, maintaining the card catalogue, assisting patrons, training student workers and helping with major projects for government and reference documents. According to her supervisor, “Kristina has worked for the Government Documents Department for the last four years. She is very diligent in her work and is always willing to help on any project. She goes above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to her working on projects.”

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

Contributions to this scholarship award may be made through payroll deduction by employees of UT Martin or by sending a contribution to the Office of Development at UT Martin.
Among those participating in the groundbreaking ceremony at the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer are, from left, Jerry Hartsfield, representing TLM Associates, Inc., of Jackson; Sen.-elect Dolores Gresham; Wilburn Gene Ashe, former McNairy County mayor; Deidra Beene, center director; University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes; Selmer Mayor David Robinson; and U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn.

UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer expanding

A groundbreaking ceremony today marked construction of an expansion project at the University of Tennessee at Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer. The expansion is funded by a one-time $500,000 state appropriation. The center, in its 10th year of operation, is a joint venture of the city of Selmer and McNairy County, with each contributing $60,000 to the expansion project.

Beginning in fall 2009, the 4,330-square-foot expansion will provide four additional classrooms and office space. The center, located at 1269 Tennessee Ave., Selmer, originally opened in 1998 as the first of four UT Martin extended campus sites.

“The UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer has been a highly successful partnership,” said McNairy County Mayor Jai Templeton. “I am grateful for the investment that the University of Tennessee has made in McNairy County. I’m equally grateful for Rep. Randy Rinks and Sen. John Wilder securing the $500,000 that provides the bulk of funding for this expansion project.”

He added that the expansion offers “significant opportunities for academic advancement not only to the residents of McNairy County but to the residents of the entire Southwest Tennessee region.” Local industries also have taken advantage of the center’s programs to develop the local workforce.

Selmer Mayor David Robinson agreed that the center is an asset to the region, and said that one of the most remarkable aspects is that the enrollment is outside the traditional student demographics, with students of all age groups taking advantage of the opportunity to further their education. He added, “Certainly, in this challenging economy, the UT Martin center will play an important role in developing the skill sets of our workforce as well as proving to be an enormous recruiting asset for industries seeking a location in this region.”

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes recognized several groups and individuals, including the Selmer and McNairy County mayors, for their ongoing support and true partnership involvement with the center. Dr. Rakes thanked members of the center’s Higher Education Committee and Director Deidra Beene for providing local input and solid leadership for the programs. He also talked about the state appropriation that is integral to the project and thanked Sen. Wilder and Rep. Rinks.

“I feel that this center has accomplished the mission set out 10 years ago; to educate its citizens and to better this community,” said Beene. “To date, 129 students have graduated from UT Martin through the Selmer Center.”

Beene said that approximately 70 classes are offered each spring and fall staffed by 40 adjunct faculty members. “We started with one full-time faculty member in education,” she added.

Also attending the ceremony were 7th District U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn and 26th District State Sen.-elect Dolores Gresham. Former County Mayor Wilburn Gene Ashe represented County Mayor Jai Templeton, who was unable to attend.

Currently, there are 250 students enrolled, and the center offers K-6 (elementary education), Bachelor of University Studies, history and social work degrees. With the addition of four classrooms, plans are to offer the registered nurse-bachelor of science in nursing program and to expand current course offerings.

For more information about the center and the courses offered, contact Beene, at 731-646-1636, or email: dbbeene@utm.edu.
UTM Recycles! event includes collection facility opening, coincides with city cleanup

UTM Recycles! announces the next Community Recycling Event will be from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., November 15 and invites the public to join the grand opening of its new collection facility at the former National Guard Armory on Moody Street. Vaughn Cassidy, a representative from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, will be on hand to share information about radon, to distribute non-mercury home thermometers in exchange for mercury thermometers and to share ideas on being eco-friendly during the holidays.

This event is in conjunction with Martin Beautiful’s citywide Fall Cleanup, November 10-14, when the city will pick up yard debris and other trash placed at curbside. Recyclable material can be saved and brought to the new facility on November 15. For more information on the citywide cleanup, contact Marvin Downing at mdowing37@charter.net or 731-587-6054.

The following materials will be accepted for recycling on November 15: paper and cardboard, aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastics of any kind, steel cans and other scrap metal, eye glasses, used clothing in good condition, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, ink cartridges and mercury thermometers. Rinse food and beverage containers, and it is helpful if all material is sorted beforehand.

Partners and sponsors of UTM Recycles! include the American Democracy Project, the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts, the UT Martin Physical Plant, Sodexo and university student organizations including the Agronomy Club, Tri-Beta and Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. For more information on recycling at UT Martin, contact Dennis Kosta at 881-7640 or dkosta@utm.edu. To learn how to join UTM Recycles! and/or volunteer at the November 15 event, contact Dr. Angie MacKewn at 731-881-7370 or amackewn@utm.edu.

Hirosaki professor on campus as part of long-standing exchange

Kazutaka Tanaka, professor of English at Hirosaki University in Japan, is at the University of Tennessee at Martin, participating in an ongoing visiting professor exchange program. UT Martin and Hirosaki University have maintained a sister-university relationship for more than 20 years.

Tanaka is a graduate of Tsukuba University with a master of arts in English literature. After graduating, Tanaka taught as an assistant professor at Tsukuba until 1990, when he began teaching at Hirosaki University in the Humanities Department. He now teaches both English literature and English language.

Tanaka’s primary area of interest is Shakespeare and other Renaissance writers.

While at UT Martin, Tanaka has been doing research on Shakespearean and Renaissance drama and giving a series of presentations on his work to Department of English faculty and students.

“I want to teach English language as effectively as possible,” said Tanaka. “I want my students to be very good at speaking, reading and writing the English language, and I want to communicate the excellence of Shakespeare’s drama to Japanese students.” Tanaka admitted that this is not an easy task and added, “The language of Shakespeare is difficult for Japanese students to understand, so it’s necessary for them to use a special dictionary of Shakespearean language and vocabulary to understand the meaning of the words.”

Tanaka also is scheduled to make a presentation during International Education Week in late November on teaching English using Shakespeare. He has written more than 20 articles on Shakespeare and other Renaissance writers and has two books to his credit: “A Japanese Translation of Robert Alter’s The Pleasures of Reading in an Ideological Age” and “A Japanese Translation of Erwin Chargaff’s Serious Questions: An ABC of Skeptical Reflections.”

Tanaka is here with his wife, Yumi; daughter, Shiori; and son, Yuta; through the end of fall semester.
UT breaks ground for expansion

By RUSSELL INGLE
Staff Writer

Local leaders and school officials gathered Monday on the grounds of the UT Martin/McNairy Campus to break ground for the upcoming expansion. The expansion project will be approximately 4,330 square feet and will include four additional classrooms, three additional offices and new restrooms.

Campus Director Deidra Beene opened the ceremony by welcoming state and local leaders. She also acknowledged that the success of the local campus was due in part to her staff and UT Martin administrators. Beene said it was their foresight and dedication that insured the school's success.

"I feel that this center has accomplished the mission set out 10 years ago; to educate its citizens and to better this community," said Beene. "To date, 129 students have graduated from UT Martin through the Selmer Center."

Beene said that approximately 70 classes are offered each spring and fall and staffed by 40 adjunct faculty members. "We started with one full-time faculty member in education," she said.

Beene then introduced UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. Rakes recognized several groups and individuals, including the Selmer and McNairy County mayors, for their ongoing support and true partnership involvement with the center. Dr. Rakes thanked members of the center's Higher Education Committee and Director Deidra Beene for providing local input and solid leadership for the programs.

McNairy County Mayor Jai Templeton was not able to attend the event, but was quick to express his appreciation for the facility and those that helped to bring it to the county.

"The UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer has been a highly successful partnership," said Templeton. "I am grateful for the investment that the University of Tennessee has made in McNairy County. I'm equally grateful for Rep. Randy Rinks and Sen. John Wilder securing the $500,000 that provides the bulk of funding for this expansion project." He added that the expansion offers one-time $500,000 state appropriation. The center, in its 10th year of operation, is a joint venture of the city of Selmer and McNairy County, with each contributing $60,000 to the expansion project.

The center, located at 1269 Tennessee Ave., in Selmer, originally opened in 1998 as the first of four UT Martin extended campus sites. Currently, there are 250 students enrolled, and the center offers K-6 (elementary education), Bachelor of University Studies, history and social work degrees. With the addition of four classrooms, plans are to offer the registered nurse-bachelor of science in nursing program and to expand current course offerings. For more information about the center and the courses offered, contact Beene, at 731-646-1636, or e-mail: dbeene@utm.edu.

significant opportunities for academic advancement not only to the residents of McNairy County but to the residents of the entire Southwest Tennessee region."

Selmer Mayor David Robinson agreed that the center is an asset to the region, and said that one of the most remarkable aspects is that the enrollment is outside the traditional student demographics, with students of all age groups taking advantage of the opportunity to further their education. He added, "Certainly, in this challenging economy, the UT Martin center will play an important role in developing the skill sets of our workforce as well as proving to be an enormous recruiting asset for industries seeking a location in this region."

Former McNairy County Mayor Wilburn Gene Ashe spoke briefly and thanked everyone involved with the campus and local leadership for bringing the school to where it is today.

"This is a proud day for the campus and the community," said Ashe. "Hopefully this is the beginning of more successful days ahead."

Also attending the ceremony were 7th District U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn and 26th District State Sen.-elect Dolores Gresham.

The expansion is funded by a
Among those participating in the groundbreaking ceremony at the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer are, from left, Jerry Hartsfield, representing TLM Associates, Inc., of Jackson; Sen.-elect Dolores Gresham; Wilburn Gene Ashe, former McNairy County mayor; Deidra Beene, center director; University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes; Selmer Mayor David Robinson; and U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, November 12, 2008

UT Martin expansion announced

SELMER (AP) — The University of Tennessee at Martin McNairy County Center is expanding.

Groundbreaking was held Monday for the $500,000 expansion of the 10-year-old center.

Beginning next fall, the 4,330-square-foot expansion will provide four additional classrooms and office space.

The center currently has 250 students.

Percussion, steel bands to perform at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble, the steel band and the Jamaica Me Happy steel band will perform at 3 p.m. Nov. 23 at Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

The concert includes a piece titled “Sprint,” which moves through a musical depiction of a day in the life of a long-distance runner. Other pieces are taken from a recent concert tour in Mexico and include a snare drum ensemble feature. In addition, the Jamaica Me Happy Steel Band will have a new CD available.

Performers will include Scottie Somerville of Kenton, Mark Fairless of Trenton, Daniel Vargason of Selmer, Cory Bozard of Bells, Jacob Abbott of Rutherford, Jeff Moore of Dyersburg, Sean Johnson of Charleston, W.Va., Andrew Lynn of Gibson, Stephen Hughes of Brighton, Colby Snider of Memphis, Hamilton Moore of Cordova, Keegan Paluso of Munford, Merlyn Bruce of Nashville, Davin Smith and Joshua Porche, both of Erin, and Daniel Houston of Jackson.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of music, at (731) 881-7418.
By STANLEY DUNLAP
sdlunlap@jacksonsun.com

MARTIN — A wall at the University of Tennessee Martin has captured the attention of the campus with its brash graffiti.

Today students, faculty and staff will pull ropes on hooks to bring down the free-standing cinderblock "wall of hate" that's been painted with more than 100 discriminatory words such as "towel head," "nigger" and "baby killer."

The ceremony, taking place at 4:30 p.m., is designed to represent the breaking down of hate-related barriers. Throughout the week students have been able to write the words on the wall located near a fountain between the library and university center.

Student Government Association President Brittany McGruder said there's been an encouraging reception from the campus about the wall.

"What I hope most is students walk away with a greater understanding of the effect words can have on people," she said. "What's great about the ceremony of tearing the wall down is standing there can be a powerful experience for the people involved."

The wall was brought back this year after first appearing on campus in 2004. Then an estimated 400 people watched the wall come down, said John Abel, assistant director of the Boling University Center.

A lot of the words are hurtful and bring a sense of awareness that classifying people is wrong, he said. "What was interesting to me the last time was the melting pot of the crowd," Abel said. "That was neat in itself because you're crossing feelings of discrimination on the wall, which will be torn down today.

A concrete 'wall of hate' stands on Wednesday at the University of Tennessee Martin. Students expressed feelings of discrimination on the wall, which will be torn down today.

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Wall

Continued from cover

those cultural barriers."

The plan is to have the "Writing on the Wall" project every four years in order to reach a new cycle of students.

"With the most recent election, it was obvious to us that there was still some discrimination in West Tennessee, and we felt like the timing was appropriate," McGruder said.

The project is taking place during diversity week at the school, which includes events such as a forum with international students discussed their experiences.

The rules for the "wall of hate" are few — no personal attacks, and any profanity must be considered discriminatory.

McGruder said she, like other students, was shocked by the number of words and had to have the meanings of some of the words explained to her.

The key is allowing students the freedom to express themselves in an outright fashion, she said.

"College students more than anyone can be jaded by things," she said about the importance of having the wall. "Just to sit back and survey what people write is an interesting sociological experiment."

Junior Callie Davis-Lupin said she's been called some of the words on the wall by friends but didn't necessarily take offense.

In certain cases, it can depend on the context of what's said, she said, but in a diverse setting like UT Martin, people can better grasp how vital it is to pay attention to their impact.

"It's going to inspire people to think about things," said Davis-Lupin, who is from Jackson.

Freshman Allen Farmer said he appreciated the symbolism behind the project.

"It's definitely original. I've never seen anything like it before," Farmer said.

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What to know

• The ceremony of tearing down the 'wall of hate' will take place at 4:30 p.m. today on the University of Tennessee Martin campus at the fountain between the Boling University Center and Paul Meek Library.
• The 'Writing on the Wall' Project is sponsored by the Student Government Association, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Minority Affairs, American Democracy Project, Office of Alumni Relations and Department of History and Philosophy.

The wall has stimulated conversations among its visitors, McGruder said.

There have been discussions about whether a wall with only positive words would have the same effect.

"I think there are far more words that describe hate and discrimination than there are for love and respect," she said.

Visit jacksonsun.com and share your thoughts. — Stanley Dunlap, 425-9668
Kids College sends student to Space and Rocket Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin continued its tradition through the annual Kids College summer youth program by sending one student to Space Camp® at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center® in Huntsville, Ala.

Ten-year-old Erin Bell won the scholarship in June for a project that she completed about space exploration and submitted for the contest.

She was excited about Space Camp since she first heard about the opportunity.

“It was a year ago when I heard about the scholarship,” Erin said.

“I really wasn’t expecting to win, but then when I walked in and it said on the wall, ‘Erin Bell is going to Huntsville’s Space Camp,’ I went crazy.”

Erin had a truly unique experience as she joined dozens of other campers from around the world.

“I’m one of only four Americans here,” Erin said.

Most of the other campers, both kids and adults, traveled from India, Costa Rica and Australia to experience Space Camp.

Erin was a member of the Bluford team, which is named after astronaut Guion S. Bluford Jr., who was the first African American in space. Erin and the other members of team Bluford overcame their cultural and linguistic differences to work as a team during their simulated space mission.

Erin and her teammates also went through some astronaut training, climbed the Mars climbing wall, and launched rockets.

“It was awesome,” Erin said, after her Space Camp graduation. “I can’t pick a favorite part, I liked it all.”

Erin graduated from Space Camp on Friday, October 3 with her teammates on the Bluford team and the rest of the campers.

At graduation, team Bluford won the Mission Patch Team Award for the best mission patch design. Erin was a nominee for the Right Stuff individual award.

“Erin was one of my best campers ever,” said nominating Space Camp counselor Kevin Hill.

“She had leadership abilities and what I call the ‘spirit of Space Camp.’ She was the first kid to give up her position if it was for the good of the team and she was the first to volunteer to help.”

Erin did receive one unofficial award. She broke the record for the most amount of mail that any camper received while at camp.

Erin said that she would like to return to Space Camp someday soon, or try one of the other programs, such as Space Academy® or Aviation Challenge®.
Senior art exhibition slated for Nov. 18
The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host another senior art exhibition. From 5-7 p.m., Nov. 18, Rickey Mask, a graphic design emphasis student from Greenfield, and David Barrington, a graphic design emphasis student from Martin, will display pieces of their artwork in the gallery of the Fine Arts Building. The exhibition will begin with an opening reception, and will continue through Dec. 5. This exhibition will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 881-7400.

Kraft to perform senior voice recital
Kimberly Kraft, of Martin, will perform her senior voice recital at 3 p.m., Nov. 16, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Kraft will perform solo songs by Handel, Bellini, Schubert, Faure and Duke. Delana Easley, lecturer of music, will accompany her on piano. This concert will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Department of Music at 881-7402.

UTM teacher attends monument unveiling
A University of Tennessee Martin faculty member attended a ceremony at Brythe’s Ferry for the unveiling of a monument for the Trail of Tears. Brent Cox of Milan, lecturer of history, attended the ceremony for the leaders of the Cherokee nation of Oklahoma, eastern band of Cherokee Indians, Creek nation of Oklahoma, Keetoowah band of Cherokee and the Trail of Tears Association.

“The monument opened to the public in October and marks the beginning of the Trail of Tears and the various routes taken by the Cherokee in 1838. One of the routes traveled just north of the Martin area.”

‘Christmas Around the World’ planned for Santa’s Village
Santa’s Village will celebrate its 24th year of operation Dec. 11-14 and continue to provide donations of food and toys to agencies that distribute the proceeds to area residents who need them.

The holiday fantasyland — which provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas — is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

This year’s event is set for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 13; and 1-5 p.m. Dec. 14.

Santa’s Village will carry out the “Christmas Around the World” theme in scenes from holiday festivities in 10 different countries. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, the MTD model train display, children’s inflatables and 54 shopping booths. Twenty hours of continuous entertainment, highlighting regional talent, and a petting farm will add to the festivities.

The opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m. Dec. 11. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of non-perishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include Chimes for Charity, the Obion County American Red Cross, the Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers and the Department of Children’s Services.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional confirmed sponsors of the event include University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and Southern Source.

“This is a worthwhile program. It helps a lot of people, not just in Weakley County, but also in surrounding areas,” said Brian Moore, Martin Department of Parks and Recreation director, which coordinates the event each year.

In the previous 23 years, Santa’s Village has collected $774,969 worth of food and toys and attracted 200,710 visitors to the community event. Last year, the value of the donations reached $60,685 and 12,837 people attended.

Moore expressed thanks to the many sponsors and volunteers, who contribute time and money to the annual event, and the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa’s Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year.

“I know a lot of the time, we get the credit, but other departments of the city — including public works, the police department and the fire department — have all done things to make this happen. It's the same thing with (See Page 5, Col. 6)

Christmas...
(Continued from Page One)

the university," Moore said.

He added that other agencies and people in the community also take part in making the program a success.

At the annual kickoff luncheon recently held, Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes spoke about the country’s economic times, with Brundige adding, “Santa’s Village is going to be a bright spot in children’s lives at Christmas time.”

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at (731) 587-6784.
UTM Steel Drum Band kicks off Community Concert season this Sunday

Special to the State Gazette

A performance by the University of Tennessee at Martin's Steel Drum Band will begin the 2008-2009 Community Concert season this Sunday, Nov. 16.

The band, directed by Dr. Julie Hill, will perform at 3 p.m., on Sunday, Nov. 16, in the Yates Auditorium. The auditorium is located in the Professional Development Center at 305 College St. in Dyersburg.

Music lovers in the area will be treated to “Musical Celebrations of Africa,” a presentation that strives to explore all facets of world percussion and embraces diversity found throughout Africa, Brazil, Cuba and the Caribbean.

Hirosaki professor at UT Martin

Kazutaka Tanaka, professor of English at Hirosaki University in Japan, is at the University of Tennessee Martin, participating in an ongoing visiting professor exchange program. UT Martin and Hirosaki University have maintained a sister-university relationship for more than 20 years.

Tanaka is a graduate of Tsukuba University with a master of arts in English literature. After graduating, Tanaka taught as an assistant professor at Tsukuba until 1990, when he began teaching at Hirosaki University in the humanities department. He now teaches both English literature and English language. Tanaka’s primary area of interest is Shakespeare and other Renaissance writers. While at UT Martin, Tanaka has been doing research on Shakespearean and Renaissance drama and giving a series of presentations on his work to Department of English faculty and students.

Tanaka is scheduled to make a presentation during International Education Week in late November on teaching English using Shakespeare. He has written more than 20 articles on Shakespeare and other Renaissance writers and has two books to his credit: “A Japanese Translation of Robert Alter's The Pleasures of Reading in an Ideological Age” and “A Japanese Translation of Erwin Chargaff's Serious Questions; An ABC of Skeptical Reflections.”

Troy de Elite is last in foreign film series

'Tropa de Elite' will be shown at 7 p.m., Nov. 21, in Watkins Auditorium as part of the foreign film series sponsored by the Department of Modern Foreign Languages on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Set in 1997, "Tropa de Elite" follows in the footsteps of the critically acclaimed "City of God" (2002) in its semi-fictional portrayal of the problems inherent to keeping order in the violent and poverty-stricken "favelas" or slums of Rio de Janeiro. In the slums, male life expectancy doesn't reach 20 years and the drug dealers are kings.

The elite State Police Special Operations Battalion (BOPE) is charged with controlling the drug cartel, but greed among their forces leads to police corruption. This makes it difficult to discern right from wrong and justice from revenge. BOPE Captain Nascimento (Wagner Moura) faces a personal crisis. In addition to the pressures of fighting within war zones, the captain must find and train his own replacement, hoping one day to escape the violence.

Two of the force's newest recruits, Neto and Matias, are good friends. One is quick on the trigger, and the other refuses to compromise his ideals. Together they are the perfect replacement. Alone they may not have what it takes to survive.

This film is rated R for strong violence, pervasive language and drug content. It will be shown in its original foreign language with English subtitles and will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Daniel Nappo, Department of Modern Foreign Languages chair and associate professor of Spanish, at 881-7420 or 881-7428.
**Fall choral concert set**

The New Pacer Singers and the University Singers from the University of Tennessee at Martin will perform as part of the Community Concert Series Association of Union City/Obion County at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 22. The concert will take place in the Union City Civic Auditorium at 1311 High School Dr. in Union City.

The New Pacer Singers will present "Requiem" by Czech composer Zdenek Lukas, and the University Singers will perform the work, "Testament of Freedom," by Randall Thompson accompanied by the UT Martin wind ensemble. The David Johnson Chorus from Dresden will also perform during the concert. Individual tickets are $20 and may be purchased at the door.

Tickets may also be obtained by calling Chuck Doss at (731) 886-1155 or Mike Cox at (731) 536-4569.

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**Peckham recognized as featured scholar**

Dr. Robert D. Peckham, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of French, was recently named the featured scholar for fall semester.

Each semester, the university recognizes outstanding faculty for excellence in teaching and scholarship. Peckham received a bachelor of arts degree in French from Randolph-Macon College. He also earned a master of arts from Middlebury College Summer Language Schools, and received his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. Peckham joined the UT Martin faculty in 1979 from Baylor University, where he developed his own visual-aided first-year French course. From 1986-87, Peckham served as visiting professor in the Department of Foreign Languages at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. He also served as a teaching fellow in the Department of French and Italian at the University of Pittsburgh. Peckham currently teaches all levels of French language, literature and civilization. He advises French and undeclared majors, and has served on 20 university committees (chairing three).

Beginning as assistant professor and promoted in 1984 and 1989, Peckham currently serves as the director of the Muriel Tomlinson Language Resource Center and is the director for the Globe-Gate Interultural Web Project and the Andy Holt Virtual Library. Peckham is the editor of "Societe Francois Villon Bulletin." He is also the Web and activity consultant for the International Consortium for International Education. Peckham was constituent for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Marquette University in 2006 and the College Board Advanced Placement Program in 2007 and others. He is a member of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, American Association of Teachers of French (former vice president and current chair of the Commission on Advocacy, member of the Commission on Telematics and New Technologies and on French for Business and Economic Purposes), International Congress on Medieval Studies, the Modern Language Association, Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association and the International Association for Language Learning Technology. Peckham also received the Robert J. Ludwig National Distinguished Leadership Award in 2008.

A sample of Peckham's publications and accomplishments is on display in the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus.

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**Fund established at UTM in memory of Steve Rogers**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Development has established a memorial fund for Steve Rogers, former director of the Paul Meek Library. Memorials will be utilized to design a reading nook for UT Martin students, faculty and staff in the university library.

To make a donation, write a check to UT Martin and earmark it for Library Development Fund in Memory of Steve Rogers. Mail the check to UT Martin, Office of Development, 328 Administration Building, Martin TN 38238.
Percussion ensemble, steel bands to perform

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble, the steel band and also the Jamaica Me Happy steel band, will perform at 3 p.m., Nov. 23, at Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building. The concert includes a piece titled “Sprint” which moves through a musical depiction of a day in the life of a long-distance runner. Other pieces are taken from a recent concert tour in Mexico and include a snare drum ensemble feature. In addition, the Jamaica Me Happy Steel Band will have a new CD available.

Performers include Scottie Somerville, of Kenton; Davin Smith, of Erin; Mark Fairless, of Trenton; Daniel Vargason, of Selmer; Cory Bozard, of Bells; Jacob Abbott, of Rutherford; Jeff Moore, of Dyersburg; Sean Johnson, of Charleston, W. Va.; Andrew Lynn, of Gibson; Stephen Hughes, of Brighton; Colby Snider, of Memphis; Hamilton Moore, of Cordova; Keegan Paluso, of Munford; Merlyn Bruce, of Nashville; Joshua Porche, of Erin; and Daniel Houston, of Jackson. This concert will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of music, at 881-7418 or online at www.utm.edu/percussion.

Cara Thomas to perform senior saxophone recital

Cara Thomas, of Martin, will present her senior saxophone recital at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 24, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Thomas will perform a variety of pieces ranging from classical to jazz. She will play a Japanese piece called “Night Bird” for saxophone and electronics, as well as the “Glazounov Concerto” for saxophone and piano. The jazz portion of the recital will feature “+8,” a piece for tenor saxophone and drum set (played by Cory Bozard, of Bells) and a sonata by jazz composer and arranger, Phil Woods. Delana Easley, lecturer of music, will accompany Thomas on piano. This event will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Department of Music at 881-7402.

Fall Choral Concert is November 22

The New Pacer Singers and the University Singers from the University of Tennessee at Martin will perform as part of the Community Concert Series Association of Union City/Oblion County at 7:30 p.m., November 22. The concert will take place in the Union City Civic Auditorium at 1311 High School Dr., in Union City.

The New Pacer Singers will present “Requiem” by Czech composer Zdeněk Lukáš, and the University Singers will perform the work, “Testament of Freedom,” by Randall Thompson accompanied by the UT Martin wind ensemble. The David Johnson Chorus from Dresden will also perform during the concert. Individual tickets are $20 and may be purchased at the door.

Tickets may also be obtained by calling Chuck Doss at 731-886-1155 or Mike Cox at 731-536-4569.

Weakley County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Six Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

* Zachary Baker, son of Bonnie Hickman of Dresden, is a junior. He received the Dee Fields Pritchett Business Scholarship.
* Lauren Burrell, daughter of Michael and Valeria Burrell of Martin, is a freshman. She received the Clayton Arnold Teacher Training Scholarship and the Martin Kiwanis Club Scholarship.
* Alex Crowell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Crowell Jr. of Dresden, is a freshman. She received the Cayce Pentecost Scholarship and the First State Bank Dresden Scholarship.
* Derek Galey, son of Roger and Vicki Galey of Greenfield, is a freshman. He received the West Tennessee Young Farmers Scholarship.
* Sunni Jackson, daughter of Tommy and Cathy Jackson of Dresden, is a senior. She received the Golsightly Foundation Scholarship.
* Aletha Morris, of Martin, is a sophomore. She received the Alex Haley Scholarship.

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

Dr. Robert D. Peckham, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of French, was recently named the featured scholar for fall semester. Each semester, the university recognizes outstanding faculty for excellence in teaching and scholarship. Peckham received a bachelor of arts degree in French from Randolph-Macon College. He also earned a master of arts from Middlebury College Summer Language Schools, and received his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh.

Peckham joined the UT Martin faculty in 1979 from Baylor University, where he developed his own visual-aided first-year French course. From 1986-1987, Peckham served as visiting professor in the Department of Foreign Languages at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. He also served as a teaching fellow in the Department of French and Italian at the University of Pittsburgh. Peckham currently teaches all levels of French language, literature and civilization. He advises French and undeclared majors, and has served on 20 university committees (chairing three). Beginning as assistant professor and promoted in 1984 and 1989, Peckham currently serves as the director of the Muriel Tomlinson Language Resource Center and is the director for the Globe-Gate Intercultural Web Project and the Andy Holt Virtual Library.

Peckham is the editor of "Société Francois Villon, Bulletin." He is also the Web and activity consultant for Mid-Continent Consortium for International Education. Peckham was constituent for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Marquette University in 2006 and the College Board Advanced Placement Program in 2007 and others. He is a member of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, American Association of Teachers of French (former vice president and current chair of the Commission on Advocacy, member of the Commission on Telematics and New Technologies and on French for Business and Economic Purposes), International Congress on Medieval Studies, the Modern Language Association, Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association and the International Association for Language Learning Technology. Peckham also received the "Robert J. Ludwig National Distinguished Leadership Award" in 2008.

A sample of Peckham's publications and accomplishments is on display in the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus.
Christmas Around the World’
planned for Santa’s Village

Santa’s Village will celebrate its 24th year of operation, December 11-14, and continue to provide donations of food and toys to agencies that distribute the proceeds to area residents who need them. The holiday fantasyland, which provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas, is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., December 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., December 13; and 1-5 p.m., December 14, the event will carry out the “Christmas Around the World” theme in scenes from holiday festivities in 10 different countries. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s inflatables and $4 shopping booths. Twenty hours of continuous entertainment, highlighting regional talent, and a petting farm, will add to the festivities. Opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m., December 11. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers, Chimes for Charity and the Department of Children’s Services.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional confirmed sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and Southern Source.

“This is a worthwhile program. It helps a lot of people, not just in Weakley County, but also in surrounding areas,” said Brian Moore, Martin Department of Parks and Recreation director, which coordinates the event each year.

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“I know a lot of the time, we get the credit, but other departments of the city, including public works, the police department, and the fire department have all done things to make this happen. It’s the same thing with the university,” said Moore. He stated other agencies and people in the community also take part in making the program a success.

At the annual kickoff luncheon, Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes spoke about the country’s economic times, but Brundige added, “Santa’s Village is going to be a bright spot in children’s lives at Christmas time.”

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.

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Foreign film to be shown
Friday at UT Martin

“Tropa de Elite” will be shown at 7 p.m. Friday in Watkins Auditorium as part of the foreign film series sponsored by the Department of Modern Foreign Languages on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.


In the slums, male life expectancy doesn’t reach 20 years and the drug dealers are kings. The elite State Police Special Operations Battalion (BOPE) is charged with controlling the drug cartel, but greed among their forces leads to police corruption. This makes it difficult to discern right from wrong and justice from revenge. BOPE Captain Nascimento (Wagner Moura) faces a personal crisis. In addition to the pressures of fighting within war zones, the captain must find and train his own replacement, hoping one day to escape the violence.

Two of the force’s newest recruits, Neto and Matias, are good friends. One is quick on the trigger and the other refuses to compromise his ideals. Together they are the perfect replacement. Alone they may not have what it takes to survive.

The film is rated R for strong violence, pervasive language and drug content. It will be shown in its original foreign language with English subtitles.
Percussion ensemble, steel bands to perform November 23

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble, the steel band and also the Jamaica Me Happy steel band, will perform at 3 p.m., November 23, at Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building. The concert includes a piece titled "Sprint," which moves through a musical depiction of a day in the life of a long-distance runner. Other pieces are taken from a recent concert tour in Mexico and include a snare drum ensemble feature. In addition, the Jamaica Me Happy Steel Band will have a new CD available. Performers include Scottie Somerville, of Kenton; Davin Smith, of Erin; Mark Fairless, of Trenton; Daniel Vargason, of Selmer; Cory Bozard, of Bell's; Jacob Abbott, of Rutherford; Jeff Moore, of Dyersburg; Sean Johnson, of Charleston, W. Va.; Andrew Lynn, of Gibson; Stephen Hughes, of Brighton; Colby Snider, of Memphis; Hamilton Moore, of Cordova; Keggan Paluso, of Munford; Merlyn Bruce, of Nashville; Joshua Porche, of Erin; and Daniel Houston, of Jackson. This concert will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of music, at 731-881-7418 or online at www.utm.edu/percussion.

Olympiads plans under way at UTM

Plans are under way to offer a Science Olympiad, for grades 6-9, Feb. 28, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Science Olympiad is a science-based team competition.

The goal of Science Olympiad is to improve science education, encourage teamwork and participation from all students and promote inquiry-based learning. Science Olympiad Tournament events are correlated with the state as well as the National Science Education Standards. Interested students should contact their teachers, who will organize Olympiad teams.

For the first year, Olympiad organizers plan to offer 12 events during the competition. Each event is usually a hands-on activity in which each team is graded and competes against other teams. It may also include a laboratory activity in which students complete a given task and report results. Teams should be formed in the beginning of the semester to allow for preparation time. Visit the Web page, http://soinc.org/start_a_team, for hints about how to start a team.

Some examples of 2009 events include: amphibians and reptiles, anatomy, bio-process lab, computer this, crave the wave, disease detectives, dynamic planet, ecology, elevated bridge, environmental chemistry and fossils. Others are robo-cross, science crime busters, scramble, trajectory, "wright" stuff and write it do it. Most events are aligned with the state curriculum. Unlike other science competitions, Olympiad is intended for all students.

For more information, coaches/teachers should contact Dr. Cahit Erkal, professor of physics, UT Martin, at erkal@utm.edu or 731-881-7432. Registration for the Olympiad can be completed at the Tennessee Science Olympiad Website (www.chattanoogastate. edu/science_olympid/sonmain.asp). Those interested also may check the national website for event descriptions and hints for preparation (www.soinc.org).
UT Martin students helping Loaves & Fishes with food drive

By RUSSELL INGLE
Staff Writer

As part of their annual holiday tradition of community service, students at the UT Martin/McNairy Campus in Selmer have been conducting a food drive. For several weeks the students collected canned goods and non-perishable items so that the food bank could help local families or individuals in need.

According to campus director Deidra Beene, the students enjoy working on the projects and making a difference in their community. Beene says the students collected over 1,300 items for the food bank, considerably more than last year's drive.

The Loaves & Fishes program is based on a miracle that Jesus performed in the Gospels of the New Testament. In the best known, Jesus was preaching to a crowd of thousands who grew hungry and needed to be fed, but only five loaves and two fishes could be found. He blessed the food and then commanded his disciples to distribute it among the people. After everyone had eaten and was satisfied, twelve baskets of food remained.

Thanks to the efforts of the students of UTM and the volunteers of Loaves & Fishes, many families will have a happy holiday season.

The UT Martin McNairy County Center is located at 1269 Tennessee Avenue in Selmer. For more information about classes offered at the local campus call 646-1356.
Percussion ensemble, steel bands to perform

The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble, the steel band and also the Jamaica Me Happy steel band, will perform at 3 p.m., November 23, at Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building.

The concert includes a piece titled “Sprint” which moves through a musical depiction of a day in the life of a long-distance runner. Other pieces are taken from a recent concert tour in Mexico and include a snare drum ensemble feature. In addition, the Jamaica Me Happy Steel Band will have a new CD available.

Performers include Mark Fairless, of Trenton; Jacob Abbott, of Rutherford; Scottie Somerville, of Kenton; Andrew Lynn, of Gibson; Davin Smith, of Erin; Daniel Vargason, of Selmer; Cory Bozard, of Bells; Jeff Moore, of Dyersburg; Sean Johnson, of Charleston, West Virginia; Stephen Hughes, of Brighton; Colby Snider, of Memphis; Hamilton Moore, of Cordova; Keegan Paluso, of Munford; Merlyn Bruce, of Nashville; Joshua Porche, of Erin; and Daniel Houston, of Jackson. This concert will be free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of music, at 731-881-7418 or online at www.utm.edu/percussion.

Scholarships are awarded to countians

Three Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

• Emily Worrell, daughter of Roger and Renee Worrell of Dyer, is a freshman. She received the E.C. Crafton Memorial Scholarship, the Leaders-in-Residence Scholarship and the UTM McWhorter Scholarship/Workshop.

• Ethan Bickerstaff, son of Michael and Kim Parham of Milan, is a freshman. He received the Martha and Andy Holt Scholarship.

• Tucker Phillips, son of Dwaine and Lisa Phillips of Humboldt, is a junior. He received the Billie Grace Goodrich Scholarship.

MISS TENNESSEE SOYBEAN FESTIVAL CROWNED — Hannah-Wade Powell, of Alamo, second from left, won the 2009 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UT Martin. First runner-up was Amber-Rose Haywood, of Nashville, left; and second runner-up was Jennifer McCullough, of Brighton, right. Powell was crowned by Elizabeth Looney, of Eads, second from right, 2008 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

MISS UT MARTIN CROWNED — Katelin Turner, of Union City, second from left, was crowned 2009 Miss UT Martin at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at UT Martin. Angela Kee, of Humboldt, left, was first runner-up, and Courtney Cockrill, of McMurrayville, right, was second runner-up. Jordan Cole, of Martin, second from right, 2008 Miss UT Martin, crowned Turner.
Katelin Turner is Miss UT Martin; Hannah-Wade Powell is Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival

Katelin Turner, of Union City, was crowned Miss University of Tennessee at Martin at the combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant, Saturday night, at the Harriet Fulton Theatre on campus. The UT Martin biology major won the 2009 title and the opportunity to compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in June in Jackson.

Also headed to the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant is Hannah-Wade Powell, of Alamo, a UT Martin criminal justice major, who won the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

The winners led a field of eight contestants. Miss UT Martin 2008, Jordan Cole, of Martin, crowned Turner. Powell was crowned by Elizabeth Looney, of Eads, 2008 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

"Well, I'm just absolutely floored at the moment," Turner, 19, said following her win. "This is such an honor just to be able to represent the school that I love so much." As for Miss Tennessee pageant preparations, she said, "I will definitely have to start working on talent and swimsuit and getting the whole act together."

Turner's platform is "Step Up, Stand Out."

Powell, 19, said that she was "completely shocked" at winning the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crown. "I did not expect that (winning the crown) at all, and it was just incredible to be able to represent this area (in the pageant)," she added.

Powell plans to prepare for Jackson much as she did last year when she was among the 10 finalists in the 2008 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant. "I'm just going to work really hard. ... I'm going to stay positive. I'm going to work out really hard and just keep pushing," said Powell, who held the Miss Metropolitan crown when she competed in last year's Miss Tennessee pageant. Her platform is "It's Your Town."

Runners-up for the Miss UT Martin crown were: Angela Kee, of Humboldt, biology major, first; and Courtney Cockrill, of McMinnville, a pre-pharmacy major, second. All members of the Miss UT Martin court must be UT Martin students.

For Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, Amber-Rose Haywood, of Nashville, a music business major at Belmont University, was first runner-up, and Jennifer McCullough, of Brighton, a chemistry major at the University of Memphis, was second runner-up.

Ellen Carrington, Miss Tennessee 2008, was hostess for the evening. Carrington and Looney entertained the audience with vocal selections. Kimberly Craddock and Hollie Holt, both of Martin, directed the pageant. Craddock and Holt succeeded Lynn Gibson, of Martin, who was recognized during the evening for her service as past pageant director.

"We had a great group of girls compete tonight," Holt added. "Each year, the Miss Tennessee system gives young women the opportunity to learn and grow as they develop platforms and give back to their communities. Our two titleholders are prime examples of what the system is all about."

Two Obion County students and one Martin student have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The recipients include:
- Heather Grossner of Troy, daughter of Linda and Rick Bradberry and Fred Grossner. A junior, she received the Aspiring Women Scholarship and the Maintenance Center Family Scholarship.
- Julianne Lawson, daughter of Homer and Julia Lawson of Union City. She is a junior who received the Robert G. and Elizabeth Latimer Scholarship.
- Aletha Morris of Martin, a sophomore. She received the Alex Haley Scholarship.
MISS UTM — Katelin Turner of Union City (second from left) was crowned 2009 Miss UT Martin at the annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant Saturday night at the Harriet Fulton Theatre at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Angela Kee of Humboldt (left) was first runner-up and Courtney Cockrill of McLemoresville (right) was second runner-up. Jordan Cole of Martin, 2008 Miss UT Martin, crowned Miss Turner.

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Katelin Turner named Miss UT Martin

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Ms. Craddock and Ms. Holt succeeded Lynn Gibson of Martin, who was recognized during the evening for her service as past pageant director.

"I am excited about working with our two new titleholders. This is my first year as director, and I am excited about the experience of mentoring these girls and preparing them for the Miss Tennessee pageant," Ms. Craddock said.

"We had a great group of girls compete tonight," Ms. Holt added. "Each year, the Miss Tennessee system gives young women the opportunity to learn and grow as they develop platforms and give back to their communities. Our two titleholders are prime examples of what the system is all about."

Fund established at UTM in memory of Steve Rogers

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Development has established a memorial fund for Steve Rogers, former director of the Paul Meek Library. Memorials will be utilized to design a reading nook for UT Martin students, faculty and staff in the university library.

To make a donation, write a check to UT Martin and earmark it for Library Development Fund in Memory of Steve Rogers. Mail the check to UT Martin, Office of Development, 328 Administration Building, Martin TN 38238.

MS Access course offered by ECCE

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will offer a course on beginning Microsoft Access. From 9 a.m.-noon, Dec. 9 and 11, students will learn how to design and create a database, edit data, sort, filter, use queries to find answers, create quick forms for data entry and create quick reports that can be customized. Students will also get the chance to work with Access 2007 and Vista. The registration fee is $85. Doug Bloodworth, UT Martin analyst and programmer, will teach the class.

To register, call ECCE at 881-7082.
A groundbreaking ceremony today marked construction of an expansion project at the University of Tennessee at Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer. The expansion is funded by a one-time $500,000 state appropriation. The center, in its 10th year of operation, is a joint venture of the city of Selmer and McNairy County, with each contributing $60,000 to the expansion project.

Beginning in fall 2009, the 4,330-square-foot expansion will provide four additional classrooms and office space. The center, located at 1269 Tennessee Ave., Selmer, originally opened in 1998 as the first of four UT Martin extended campus sites.

“The UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer has been a highly successful partnership,” said McNairy County Mayor Jai Templeton. “I am grateful for the investment that the University of Tennessee has made in McNairy County. I’m equally grateful for Rep. Randy Rinks and Sen. John Wilder securing the $500,000 that provides the bulk of funding for this expansion project.” He added that the expansion offers “significant opportunities for academic advancement not only to the residents of McNairy County but to the residents of the entire Southwest Tennessee region.” Local industries also have taken advantage of the center’s programs to develop the local workforce.

Selmer Mayor David Robinson agreed that the center is an asset to the region, and said that one of the most remarkable aspects is that the enrollment is outside the traditional student demographics, with students of all age groups taking advantage of the opportunity to further their education. He added, “Certainly, in this challenging economy, the UT Martin center will play an important role in developing the skill sets of our workforce as well as proving to be an enormous recruiting asset for industries seeking a location in this region.”

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes recognized several groups and individuals, including the Selmer and McNairy County mayors, for their ongoing support and true partnership involvement with the center. Dr. Rakes thanked members of the center’s Higher Education Committee and Director Deidra Beene for providing local input and solid leadership for the programs. He also talked about the state appropriation that is integral to the project and thanked Sen. Wilder and Rep. Rinks.

“I feel that this center has accomplished the mission set out 10 years ago; to educate its citizens and to better this community,” said Beene. “To date, 129 students have graduated from UT Martin through the Selmer Center.”

Beene said that approximately 70 classes are offered each spring and fall staffed by 40 adjunct faculty members. “We started with one full-time faculty member in education,” she added.

Also attending the ceremony were 7th District U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn and 26th District State Sen.-elect Dolores Gresham. Former County Mayor Wilbur Gene Ashe represented County Mayor Jai Templeton, who was unable to attend.

Currently, there are 250 students enrolled, and the center offers K-6 (elementary education), Bachelor of University Studies, history and social work degrees. With the addition of four classrooms, plans are to offer the registered nurse-bachelor of science in nursing program and to expand current course offerings.

For more information about the center and the courses offered, contact Beene, at (731) 646-1636, or e-mail: dbeene@utm.edu.

Handel’s ‘Messiah’ planned for Nov. 30

The Martin Choral Society, under the direction of Dr. Mark Simmons, University of Tennessee at Martin assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, will make its return to the concert stage at 3 p.m., Nov. 30, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at UT Martin. The choral group will perform the Christmas portion of Handel’s “Messiah” with chamber orchestra and soloists from the voice faculty of UT Martin, as well as singers from Union University and Southeast Missouri State University.

“We encourage everyone to come out and take part in this wonderful seasona work that will help to set the tone for a joyous holiday time of year,” said Simmons. Tickets can be purchased at the door or reserved by calling Sherry Adams at 881-7402 or by e-mail at sadams@utm.edu. General admission is $10.
TEARING DOWN THE WALL — A symbolic “wall of hate” was built and then torn down last week at the University of Tennessee at Martin as part of the Writing on the Wall Project. The wall project last came to UT Martin in fall 2004. The project is designed to symbolize a dramatic shared community experience of taking personal action to confront human rights atrocities and acts of oppression in society. The cinderblock wall representing these barriers was built around the fountain located between the Boling University Center and Paul Meek Library. Starting Nov. 10, students, faculty, staff and the community expressed individual feelings by painting words and symbols on the wall. Thursday, Nov. 13, the wall was pulled down, symbolic of tearing down hate-related barriers. UT Martin groups and organizations sponsoring the Writing on the Wall Project included the Student Government Association, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Minority Affairs, American Democracy Project, Office of Alumni Relations and Department of History and Philosophy.

County students receive scholarships

Six Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

• Zachary Baker, son of Bonnie Hickman of Dresden, is a junior. He received the Dee Fields Prickett Business Scholarship.

• Lauren Burress, daughter of Michael and Valeria Burress of Martin, is a freshman. She received the Clayton Arnold Teacher Training Scholarship and the Martin Kiwanis Club Scholarship.

• Alex Crowell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Crowell Jr. of Dresden, is a freshman. She received the Cayce Pentecost Scholarship and the First State Bank Dresden Scholarship.

• Derek Galey, son of Roger and Vicki Galey of Greenfield, is a freshman. He received the West Tennessee Young Farmers Scholarship.

• Sunni Jackson, daughter of Tommy and Cathy Jackson of Dresden, is a senior. She received the Golightly Foundation Scholarship.

• Aletha Morris, of Martin, is a sophomore. She received the Alex Haley Scholarship.

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

Dr. Joan K. West, director of the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts, recently was re-elected to the Grants Resource Center (GRC) Advisory Board in Washington, D.C. Serving a two-year term on the board, West joins eight other advisory board members from U.S. colleges and universities in supporting the GRC, a component of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

AASCU represents more than 400 public colleges, universities and systems of higher education throughout the U.S. and its territories. The GRC supports the realization of institutional goals and program development initiatives through timely and detailed information on funding opportunities, personalized support to meet specific campus needs and promotion of networking among sponsored programs professionals.

West is one of two representatives of public, four-year institutions of higher education with a full-time enrollment between 5,000 and 10,000 students. In her capacity as director, West is UT Martin’s chief research officer. Since her arrival at the university, external funding has increased from $2.6 million per year to almost $8 million annually, and indirect cost recovery has increased an average of 400 percent.

She is an adjunct graduate lecturer in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and has served on several UT System committees and task forces. In 2004, she was awarded the Outstanding Administrative Award by the Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education for her contributions to the university.

West has authored and/or co-authored numerous papers and made presentations at state and national conferences and workshops. She is a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators, American Educational Research Association and Mid-South Educational Research Association. She also served on the Carl Perkins Child Advocacy Group advisory board for Weakley and Obion counties from 2004 to 2008.

“These are exciting and challenging times in the world of grant-seeking,” said West. “We do not secure external funding alone. Being a member of the GRC Advisory Board has and will continue to provide me opportunities to develop a stronger collegiality with research and sponsored programs directors.”

Business consultant at Reed Center

December 11

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center assists an average of 100 small business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs each year with one-on-one consulting.

The next opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues from Ron Acree, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant, will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 11.

The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise.

The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 731-587-REED (7333).

The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell St., Martin, Tenn. 38237. For additional services offered by the REED Center, go to www.utm.edu/reed.
Santa’s Village gets technical help from local MTD Products employee

Don Box, who has been employed with MTD Products, Inc., in Martin for 23 years, will help with Santa’s Village this year as he has done for the past 16 years. Box lends his expertise to the annual event helping to set up the MTD model train display.

“It’s about 140 hours of hard work, making sure it all goes together and hoping it runs after moving it,” said Box.

“It brings the community closer together,” Box said of Santa’s Village. It allows people to help someone that they may or may not know with donations of canned goods and toys.” He added that the event also brings visitors to Martin, which is good for area businesses.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 13; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 14, the 24th annual Santa’s Village will carry out the “Christmas Around the World” theme in scenes from holiday festivities in 10 different countries. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s inflatables and 54 shopping booths. Twenty hours of continuous entertainment highlighting regional talent and a petting farm will add to the festivities. Opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m., Dec. 11. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers, Chimes for Charity and Department of Children’s Services.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional confirmed sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and Southern Source.

“Knowing that I am helping the families that need help at a very special time of year has benefited me. It has allowed me to meet and know some very good people that otherwise I would not have known,” said Box. “The looks I see on the kids’ faces, when they are looking at the train display, or just running around Santa’s Village is worth the work. The compliments that I have received about the hard work I have put into the display are appreciated. I have benefited in special ways.”

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.

Handel’s Messiah to be staged at UTM

The Martin Choral Society, under the direction of Dr. Mark Simmons, University of Tennessee at Martin assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, will make its return to the concert stage at 3 p.m., Nov. 30, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre of the Fine Arts Building at UT Martin.

The choral group will perform the Christmas portion of Handel’s “Messiah” with chamber orchestra and soloists from the voice faculty of UT Martin, as well as singers from Union University and Southeast Missouri State University.

“We encourage everyone to come out and take part in this wonderful seasonal work that will help to set the tone for a joyous holiday time of year,” said Simmons.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling Sherry Adams at 731-881-7402 or by email at sadams@utm.edu. General admission is $10.

Handel’s “Messiah”

November 30

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NASHVILLE — Troy resident Larry Armstrong has been honored by being named the 2008 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Wildlife Biologist of the Year.

He was presented the award at the November meeting of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission in Nashville at the TWRA Region II Ray Bell Office Building.

Armstrong serves TWRA as a Region I wildlife manager. He plays a lead role in the management of more than 22,000 acres of TWRA’s public lands in northwest Tennessee, with an emphasis on wetlands habitat and waterfowl management, along with the great diversity of other species that rely on this important habitat type.

A 16-year employee of TWRA, Armstrong served nine years as a wildlife officer and the last seven as a wildlife manager. He currently operates three wildlife management areas and three wildlife refuges in the area.

Armstrong was referred to at his award presentation as “a professional whose tireless efforts to improve the habitat for West Tennessee’s wildlife species,” by Gary Myers, TWRA executive director.

Among his accomplishments, Armstrong developed a sandhill crane habitat that has attracted and holds several thousand migrating cranes annually. This development is unique in this region of Tennessee. He has also helped create habitat for migrating spring and fall shorebirds.

In addition, he has combined moist-soil management techniques with agricultural rice growing practices to create a diverse waterfowl habitat that produces high seed yield annually. He has helped provide more than 16,000 waterfowl opportunities annually in a quality managed bottomland hardwood area. Armstrong has also maximized the number of roads and walking trails available to the public to allow the opportunity to observe and photograph wildlife.

The Area 12 Wildlife Officer of the Year in 1996, he was a member of the TWRA Scuba team and TWRA Swift Water Recovery team from 1995-99. The team worked law enforcement and river rescue during the 1996 Olympic Games on the Ocoee River in the whitewater events.

Armstrong conducts educational programs throughout the year to various student groups on a variety topics, ranging from elementary to college level classes. He has worked with the University of Tennessee at Martin Wildlife Society Chapter and is involved with research on deer movement at Bean Switch Refuge. He also was involved in the TWRA Eastern Wild Turkey Restoration Project.

Armstrong is a graduate of Obion County Central High School and UT Martin.
Peckham chosen as featured scholar at University of Tennessee at Martin

Dr. Robert D. Peckham, University of Tennessee at Martin professor of French, was recently named the featured scholar for fall semester.

Each semester, the university recognizes outstanding faculty for excellence in teaching and scholarship.

Peckham received a bachelor of arts degree in French from Randolph-Macon College. He also earned a master of arts from Middlebury College Summer Language Schools and received his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh.

Peckham joined the UT Martin faculty in 1979 from Baylor University, where he developed his own visual-aided first-year French course. From 1986-87, Peckham served as visiting professor in the Department of Foreign Languages at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. He also served as a teaching fellow in the Department of French and Italian at the University of Pittsburgh.

Peckham currently teaches all levels of French language, literature and civilization. He advises French and undeclared majors and has served on 20 university committees (chairing three). Beginning as assistant professor and promoted in 1984 and 1989, Peckham currently serves as the director of the Muriel Tomlinson Language Resource Center and is the director for the Globe-Gate Intercultural Web Project and the Andy Holt Virtual Library.

Peckham is the editor of “Société François Villon, Bulletin.” He is also the Web and activity consultant for Mid-Continent Consortium for International Education. Peckham was constituent for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Marquette University in 2006 and the College Board Advanced Placement Program in 2007 and others. He is a member of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, American Association of Teachers of French (former vice president and current chair of the Commission on Advocacy, member of the Commission on Telematics and New Technologies and on French for Business and Economic Purposes), International Congress on Medieval Studies, the Modern Language Association, Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association and the International Association for Language Learning Technology.

Peckham also received the “Robert J. Ludvig National Distinguished Leadership Award” in 2008.

A sample of Peckham’s publications and accomplishments is on display in the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus.

Microsoft class to be offered at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education (ECCE) will offer a course on beginning Microsoft Access.

From 9 a.m.-noon Dec. 9 and 11, students will learn how to design and create a database, edit data, sort, filter, use queries to find answers, create quick forms for data entry and create quick reports that can be customized.

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Travel-study program set for spring

The University of Tennessee at Martin will conduct a spring travel-study program to London and Paris March 4-16, 2009.

Among the highlights of the travel study in London will be the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the British Museum and the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace.

While in Paris, the group will see the Arc de Triomphe, Sacre Coeur, Notre Dame, the Louvre, Napoleon's Tomb and the Eiffel Tower. In addition to the tours of London and Paris, day trips have been planned to Stonehenge, Bath, Windsor Castle and the Palace of Versailles. The group will also take the Eurostar train from London to Paris.

The cost is $3,175 per person, which includes roundtrip transportation from Martin to the airport, roundtrip airfare from Memphis to London and back from Paris, 11 nights of hotel accommodations, daily breakfast, admission to all scheduled events, day trips to Stonehenge and Versailles and the Eurostar train from London to Paris.

For a complete schedule of activities, contact Dr. Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications, at (731) 881-7547 or jhoyer@utm.edu or Stan Sieber, professor of history, at (731) 881-7467 or ssieber@utm.edu.

Santa's Village slated to begin Dec. 11

Don Box, who has been employed with MTD Products, Inc., in Martin for 23 years, will help with Santa's Village this year as he has done for the past 16 years. Box lends his expertise to the annual event helping to set up the MTD model train display.

"It's about 140 hours of hard work, making sure it all goes together and hoping it runs after moving it," said Box.

"It brings the community closer together," Box said of Santa's Village. It allows people to help someone that they may or may not know with donations of canned goods and toys. He added that the event also brings visitors to Martin, which is good for area businesses.

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Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional confirmed sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and Southern Source.

"Knowing that I am helping the families that need help at a very special time of year has benefited me. It has allowed me to meet and know some very good people that otherwise I would not have known," said Box. "The looks I see on the kids' faces, when they are looking at the train display, or just running around Santa's Village is worth the work. The compliments that I have received about the hard work I have put into the display are appreciated. I have benefited in special ways."

For more information about Santa's Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.

Union City engineering student headed to NASA for internship

University of Tennessee at Martin engineering student Bradley Gregg of Union City has been selected for a NASA Undergraduate Research Project, a 15-week internship at one of the 10 NASA centers.

The NASA Undergraduate Student Research Project, or USRP, offers internship opportunities for undergraduate science and engineering students at all 10 NASA centers and additional partner facilities.

These mentor-guided internships provide hands-on, real-life, career-related experiences that challenge, inspire and provide practical application that complements and expands upon students' academic education.

Gregg, a junior, will participate in a spring internship at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. He is a 4.0 grade-point-average engineering major with a concentration in mechanical engineering.

Gregg plans to attend graduate school to pursue a doctorate in aerospace engineering following graduation in May 2010.

"It's been a dream of mine to work for NASA for quite some time now. Hopefully, this will help me get into a good graduate program and eventually lead me back to work for NASA," he said.
‘Christmas Around the World’ set for Santa’s Village December 11-14

Santa’s Village will celebrate its 24th year of operation, December 11-14, and continue to provide donations of food and toys to agencies that distribute the proceeds to area residents who need them. The holiday fantasyland, which provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas, is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., December 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., December 13; and 1-5 p.m., December 14, the event will carry out the “Christmas Around the World” theme in scenes from holiday festivities in 10 different countries. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s inflatables and 54 shopping booths. Twenty hours of continuous entertainment, highlighting regional talent, and a petting farm, will add to the festivities.

Opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m., December 11. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council, Obion County American Red Cross, We Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers, Chimes for Charity and the Department of Children’s Services.

Co-sponsors for the event are Martin Parks and Recreation, the C.E. Weldon Public Library and UT Martin. Additional confirmed sponsors of the event include: University Plaza, Hamilton-Ryker, First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and Southern Source.

“This is a worthwhile program. It helps a lot of people, not just in Weakley County, but also in surrounding areas,” said Brian Moore, Martin Department of Parks and Recreation director, which coordinates the event each year.

In the previous 23 years, Santa’s Village has collected $774,969 worth of food and toys and attracted 200,710 visitors to the community event. Last year, the value of the donations reached $60,685 and 12,837 people attended.

Moore expressed thanks to sponsors and volunteers, who contribute time and money to the annual event, and the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa’s Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year.

“I know a lot of the time, we get the credit, but other departments of the city, including public works, the police department, and the fire department-have all done things to make this happen. It’s the same thing with the university,” said Moore. He stated other agencies and people in the community also take part in making the program a success.

At the annual kickoff luncheon, Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes spoke about the country’s economic times, but Brundige added, “Santa’s Village is going to be a bright spot in children’s lives at Christmas time.”

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.

Entertainers share talent to benefit Santa’s Village

Performers slated to take the stage during Santa’s Village to provide 20 hours of continuous entertainment at the 24th annual event will include winners and finalists in several area talent contests.

The Dec. 12-13 lineup will also feature entertainers from a five-state area. They range in age from 4 to 70.

Finalists from the Memphis Mid-South Youth Talent Show and the Kentucky Opy Talent Contest, as well as winners of the Soybean Festival Talent Show and the Dresden Iris Festival Talent Show, are among the entertainers to be featured this year. Also appearing will be youth and adults playing guitars, violins, accordions, trumpets, bells and piano.

The night of Dec. 12, there will be karaoke from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Following karaoke will be Kenny Presley performing with his band. From 8-9 p.m. Dec. 13 will be family time when families can sing together.

This year’s Santa’s Village theme is “Christmas Around the World.” It is scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Dec. 11-12; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 13; and 1-5 p.m. Dec. 14 at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Ag Pavilion. The opening ceremony is set for 6 p.m. Dec. 11.

(See Page 13, Col. 6)
UTM Recycles takes off

Sarah Brunstad
Press Intern

This January, the local Cub Scouts will compete for a recycling badge and a new bicycle. Once a month, the group hosts Recycle Day; the next Recycle Day is Dec. 6. Several student groups are also actively involved with the recycling program.

The campus is slowly being converted to using energy efficient materials. In the Business Building and Gooch Hall, recycled carpets have been installed. These carpets function as new carpet, and according to Kosta, the recycled materials last 10 years longer.

Low energy light bulbs are another improvement on campus. Also, new no-water urinals are being installed in some buildings to conserve water.

Kosta also reminds recyclers that rechargeable batteries and print cartridges can be recycled at the recycling center, in addition to aluminum cans, scrap metal, #1 and #2 plastic, paper, and cardboard.

The center is located behind the UTM stadium and maintenance center on Moody Avenue. It is open to anyone that wishes to drop off recyclables.

Ultimately, UT Martin’s recycling group and Kosta seek to teach students and the community to “respect what we have, so we can enjoy it in years to come.”

UTM RECYCLES! TIMES TWO — A community recycling event was sponsored, Nov. 15, by UTM Recycles! at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event also marked the grand opening of the group’s new collection facility at the former National Guard Armory on Moody Street. Partners and sponsors of UTM Recycles! include the American Democracy Project, the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts, the UT Martin Physical Plant, Sodexo, and campus student organizations including the Agronomy Club, Tri-Beta and Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. Area residents can still recycle at the facility from 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information on recycling at UT Martin, contact Dennis Kosta at 881-7640 or email dkosta@utm.edu. Among those helping collect and sort materials were, from left, Michelle Fieser (yellow hat), Laura Barber, Emily Barber, Emma Fieser, two sets of identical twins, and Laura Fieser.
Consultant to be at REED Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center assists an average of 100 small business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs each year with one-on-one consulting. The next opportunity for existing business owners to get advice on marketing, customer service or cash flow issues from Ron Acree, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) consultant, will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 11. The UT Martin REED Center is a service of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise. The REED Center also offers consulting by appointment any time, any day. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the REED Center at 587-REED (7333). The REED Center is located at 406 Lindell St., Martin. For additional services offered by the REED Center, go to www.utm.edu/reed.

Look of learning

Admiring the Memphis skyline from Holiday Inn-Rivermont are administrators of four colleges in town in November 1966 for the first meeting of college and university presidents of this region. They are (from left): Sister Agatha, president of Stena College; Donald R. Thomsen, area coordinator of the Central Midwestern Regional Educational Laboratory Inc., sponsor of the meeting; Paul Meek, vice president of the University of Tennessee, Martin Branch; Roy N. Baker, president of Bethel College and Claude Gardner, dean of Freed-Hardeman College.