WestStar alumni attended a continuing education program Aug. 9 in Germantown. Members representing Madison County attending the special session included (from left) Martin Jelinek, digital and social media manager at The Jackson Sun, WestStar Class of 2013; Katie Pace, executive director of Jackson Downtown Development Corporation, WestStar Class of 2012; Charley Deal, executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program; Deidra Beene, director of the University of Tennessee Martin McNairy Center/Selmer, WestStar Class of 2005; Scott Dahlstrom, general manager of Trenton Light and Water, WestStar Class of 2013; and Teresa Sanders, business loan administrator of Southwest Tennessee Development District, WestStar Class of 2011. PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN
I learned teamwork, and when a customer comes in we offer them the proper tone and treat them the way we want to be treated.”

TED AUSTIN, Jackson Energy Authority.

Long after his football playing days at South Side High School had come to an end, Ted Austin recalled the time he and his former head coach Bobby Wilson crossed each other's path.

“My wife and I have one child, a daughter,” Austin said. “When I saw Coach Bobby, I told him that I had told her about the things about life he and the other coaches taught us.”

Austin’s list included character.

“He asked me, ‘You believed all those things we told you?’” Austin said. “I told him, ‘Every one of them.’”

Austin also mentioned teamwork was part of the process.

The process has witnessed Austin go from one of the area’s top running backs to someone who helps run interference as the manager of the customer care center at Jackson Energy Authority.

“I was fortunate,” Austin said. “I learned teamwork, and when a customer comes in we offer them the proper tone and treat them the way we want to be treated.”

Austin and his staff work with customers at Jackson Energy Authority’s Downtown Customer Service Center at 351 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

“The key is — things break and go wrong,” Austin said. “But you fix them. If it’s cable or the Internet, you work to get it resolved... get them restored that day if they have a problem.

“I learned that on the football field. You want the guy next to you to say, ‘Job well done.’”

Austin laughs when asked about the job he did in one of South Side’s most memorable games — a 12-6 overtime win over rival North Side High School in 1978 — his sophomore season.

Austin provided the final margin when he scored the winning touchdown.

“That was one of the best games I ever played,” Austin said. “That game did it for me.”

It was the first time South Side was going to the playoffs.”

To no surprise, Austin still credits his offensive line 35 years later.

“The hole opened quickly, and Pete Richardson was (blocking) in front of me,” Austin said. “The next thing I knew, I’m on top of Pete and the team is on top of us.”

Austin continued playing football at the University of Tennessee at Martin and following graduation, he changed his position as a defensive back to a position with the Boy Scouts of America Chickasaw Council in Memphis.

A job with Coca-Cola temporarily returned him to Jackson.

“We got bought out after about two years,” Austin said.

“I worked for Coca-Cola Consolidated in Charlotte, N.C., and went to Albany, Ga., as an accounts manager before returning to Tennessee.”

The Austins moved to south Georgia and Avis was six months pregnant with their daughter, Morgan.

Morganne Austin graduates from the University of Memphis with a degree in social work in December.

With a promise to Ted Austin’s parents and in-laws that the family would return home, they got as close as Nashville with Coca-Cola in field marketing.

With their heart in Jackson, the Austins headed for home when Ted decided to fly solo.

“I got out on my own and tried my hand at my own business,” Austin said. “I sold medical equipment as an independent contractor... a sanitation machine all hospitals use to clean instruments.”

Learning the American Heart Association was searching for a director for the Jackson market, Austin held the position for about three years.

Encouraged to look into a position with Jackson Utility Division — now Energy Authority — Austin was introduced to

See AUSTIN, Page B4

AUSTIN, Page B4

Jim Watson at JEA and became an employee in 2001.

“Jim was the senior vice president of customer service,” Austin said. “And I interviewed 12 years ago.”

During that time, Austin has worked as the supervisor of the call center, manager of customer accounts, senior manager of marketing working with EP Plus TV6 and developing pricing for the telecommunications division before becoming the manager of customer care.

The roster of products includes cable, Internet, telephone, electricity, natural gas, propane, water and wastewater services.

“We moved to a new location across from the post office on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive,” Austin said. “But we offer the same service we did at the previous location.”

For Austin, it’s always about somebody else or a team.

“Teams I work with come with intent of doing a great job and having fun while looking forward to offering our services,” Austin said. “My parents, brothers and sisters taught me all the right things to do and they were not shy to tell me when I was wrong.”

He thinks of Bobby Wilson, his high school football coach, who told him to give his best and great things will happen.

“But there are few coaches who stand out more than Andy Rushing during my sophomore year,” Austin said. “He asked me, ‘Ted, do you think you could do more?’ And I asked myself, ‘What is it going to take?’”

Rushing is now the golf coach at Union University.

“But he was instilling in me to never settle; you can always do more,” Austin said.

David Thomas, 425-9637
Ted Austin manages Jackson Energy Authority’s customer care center at 351 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Dr. Tom Payne, chairman of the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, presents Holt Pritchett (left) with his certificate of completion from the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending at the University of Tennessee Martin. The MSAAL was co-hosted by the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture (Food and Fiber). The school was held Aug. 3-7. Pritchett works for First South Bank in Brownsville.
Chmielewelski promoted

Richard H. Chmielewski Jr., the son of Richard and Joan Chmielewski of Union City, has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Friends and family were on hand to witness the promotion ceremony, held May 4 on Brown Parade Field at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz. Col. Gerald Miller and Sgt. Maj. Brian Harris officiated the ceremony and Lt. Col. Marc Washington read the order of promotion.

Lt. Col. Chmielewski’s former unit, the 5/104th Military Intelligence Training Battalion, 80th Command, under the command of Lt. Col. Robert Wilkinson, was in attendance at the ceremony. Lt. Col. Chmielewski’s mother and his wife, Jen, pinned the shoulder board rank on his dress uniform while his father pinned the rank on his beret. Mrs. Chmielewski presented her husband with a ceremonial army officer sabre, engraved with his name. Lt. Col. Chmielewski also had in attendance two friends (former Navy Seals), who in Navy tradition presented Mrs. Chmielewski with the Navy captain rank, which is equal to the Army colonel rank and is one rank above her husband’s rank.

Lt. Col. Chmielewski began his Army career in the ROTC program at the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1990. After his graduation from UTM in 1993, he was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Army Reserve. His military career has focused on the area of military intelligence, though he has served in military police, transportation and civil affairs commands. As a captain, he commanded the 304th Military Police, BN HHHC from Nashville in 2003 and 2004 during Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2010, Lt. Col. Chmielewski completed Command General Staff College as a major. He is currently the G2 for the 351st Civil Affairs Command in Mountain Grove, Calif.

Graduates ROTC course

Army Cadet Kenneth L. Mccord has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officers’ Training Corps) Leader’s Training Course at Fort Knox, Ky.

The four-week course is a leadership internship for cadets that can lead to the ultimate goal of becoming an Army officer. College students experience and examine the Army without incurring an obligation to serve in the Army or ROTC and are eligible to receive two-year college scholarship offers and attend the Advanced ROTC Course at their college.

Cadets are observed and evaluated during classroom and field training exercises to determine their officer potential in leadership abilities and skills. The cadets are trained to have a sound understanding of traditional leadership values during the challenging, motivating “hands-on” training. The training develops well-disciplined, highly motivated, physically conditioned students and helps improve the cadets’ leadership potential, decision making and collective team cohesion.

The cadets receive training in fundamental military skills, Army values, ethics, Warrior ethos, basic rifle marksmanship, small arms tactics, weapons training, drill and ceremony, communications, combat water survival training, rappelling, land navigation and squad-level operations field training.

Mccord graduated in 2010 from Union City High School and is a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

He is the grandson of James and Mable Groeneveld of Union City.
Scenes from the Soybean Festival on Monday

WELCOME TO MARTIN — A group of students from Takasaki City University of Economics in Japan took in the sights and sounds of the Soybean Festival on Monday afternoon. The students are in Martin for three weeks to study English and learn about American culture. (Photo by Raffe Lazarian/Special to The Press)
Meet the county’s new teachers

DANIELLE HARRIS
Danielle Scott Harris will teach second grade at Sharon School. Harris completed her Bachelor’s degree at UT Martin. She is originally from Lexington. In her free time she enjoys weight lifting, sports, cooking and kids’ activities.

BRANDY SPENDLOVE
Brandy Spendlove, a Greenfield native, will teach kindergarten at Greenfield School. Spendlove received her Bachelor of Science in Integrated Studies from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She said she is married to her best friend and has a wonderful daughter. In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors and spending time with family.

KAREN FOWLER
Karen Fowler has been hired as Weakley County Schools Pre-K consultant. Fowler earned her Master’s degree from UT Martin and is a native of Gleason. Her free time is spent studying the Bible and tending to her flowers or otherwise playing in the dirt.

SHERRY PUCKETT
Greenfield native Sherry Puckett has joined the faculty at Greenfield School as a librarian. She received a Master’s in Education from UT Martin and loves spending time with her daughter.

BRITTANY FORRESTER
Brittany Forrester will join Dresden Middle School as a fifth grade reading language, spelling teacher. Forrester is a native of Dresden and graduated with a B.S. in Integrated Studies K-6 from UT Martin. She is married, has three lovely children; loves to cook and loves spending time with her family and friends.

DeANN WOLSKI
DeAnn Wolski joined the staff at Sharon School as a pre-school special education teacher. She lives in Martin and received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. In her free time, she enjoys scrapbooking and spending time with family.

HANNAH CATES
Hannah Cates will teach Spanish at Greenfield School. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Her hometown is Trenton. In her free time she enjoys music, swimming and skiing.

BRITTANY BENNETT
Greenfield native Brittany Bennett teaches math, Algebra II, bridge math and ACT Prep at Dresden High School. The Greenfield native received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She enjoys running.
MBA BOOTH — Taking a break and smiling for the camera at the Martin Business Association booth were (from left) Martin alderman David Sudberry, Twin Oaks Technology owner Elizabeth Pritchett, WLJT general manager Monica Cochran and Weakley County Chamber director Barbara Virgin.

MEET AND GREET — State Rep. Andy Holt attended the City of Martin and Student Organization Fair to meet students and visit with the businesses. Holt is pictured with representatives from Oasis Medical, including (from left) Rita Hancock, Becky Lister, Tia Barnhouse, Kate Carter and Lora Mosley.
Local merchants meet UT Martin students

Martin merchants and UT Martin students had the chance to mingle at a recent expo held on campus. It was an opportunity for students to get connected to businesses in Martin. Some of the merchants offered prize giveaways, free merchandise, coupons or even free samples.

WHAT'S THAT — Jayra Bones, a freshman from Ripley, does her best to keep a straight face as Mindy the monkey sits on her shoulder.

NICE BIKE — Haley David sits on the UT Martin bicycle she won from the Martin Bike Co-Op and Ken Leibold (left). Davis is a freshman art education major from Rutherford.

TENNESSEE SOYBEAN FESTIVAL

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL — The Return, a Beatles tribute band, performed Sunday night at the Martin Recreation Complex. The band performed many of the Beatles' famous hits and the crowd in attendance seemed to enjoy each one. It was an authentic, entertaining and exciting show. A fireworks show celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Tennessee Soybean Festival followed. (Photo by Rafie Lazarian/Special to The Press)
The festivities will continue all week long

The 20th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival began with a bang this past weekend with the Biodiesel Truck and Tractor Pull on Friday night and fireworks on Sunday night.

But the fun times have just begun.

There's plenty more on tap for the rest of the week, starting tonight (Tuesday).

County music star Dustin Lynch will perform at 8 p.m. at Festival Park.

Wednesday's activities begin with a prayer breakfast at 6:45 a.m. at First Methodist Church. Faith and Community Night begins at 5:30 p.m. at Festival Park. Lydia Walker is the opening act, followed by a concert from The Martins.

Also on Wednesday, The Crossroads Luncheon will be held from noon to 1 p.m. and a community health awareness fair will take place in Historic Downtown Martin beginning at 5:30 p.m.

For a full list of events, pick up a copy of "20 Years of Bean Magic," the official Soybean Festival guide.
Miss Driver awarded scholarship

The National FFA Organization recently awarded a $1,000 AGCO Dealer scholarship to Mary Helen Driver of the Obion County Central High School FFA chapter.

The scholarship is sponsored by Alliance Application Equipment as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Miss Driver plans to use the funds to pursue a degree at University of Tennessee at Martin.

This scholarship is one of 1,645 awarded through the National FFA Organization’s scholarship program this year.

Currently, 127 sponsors contribute more than $2.1 million to support scholarships for students.

For 29 years, scholarships have been made available through funding secured by the National FFA Foundation. This generous funding comes from individuals, businesses and corporate sponsors to encourage excellence and enable students to pursue their educational goals.

The 2013 scholarship recipients were selected from 6,116 applicants across the nation. Selections were based on the applicant’s leadership, academic record, FFA and other school and community activities, supervised agricultural or work experience in agricultural education and future goals.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 557,318 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,498 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

UTM Jackson Center offers ‘Laughter Yoga,’ dance classes

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering two personal enrichment classes in ballroom dancing and Laughter Yoga, according to a news release.

Registration is underway, and classes begin as early as this Thursday.

Laughter Yoga has become a worldwide phenomenon, the release said. It combines laughter with yogic breathing.

Anyone can laugh for no reason, without relying on humor, jokes or comedy, the release said. Laughter is simulated as exercise in a group and soon turns into real and contagious laughter.

For more information, visit laughteryoga.org. This class will meet at the UT Martin Jackson Center at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass from 11:30 a.m. until noon on Mondays, Sept. 9 through Dec. 2, and on Thursdays, Sept. 5 through Dec. 5. A person can sign up for either the Monday or Thursday class. The course costs $35 per person. Amy McLean will teach the course. She is a certified Laughter Yoga leader and a licensed advanced practice social worker.

The ballroom dancing class will teach the fundamentals of ballroom dancing. This five-week course introduces you to basic steps in the waltz, swing, foxtrot, rumba and cha-cha.

The dancing course will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Sept. 19 through Oct. 24, at the fellowship hall of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, 1573 N. Highland Ave. The class will not meet on Oct. 3.

Fran Robinson will serve as the instructor. Dancing since the age of 5, Fran began her career in classical ballet and has been studying and teaching ballroom dance for more than 30 years, the release said.

The cost of this class is $100 per person or $150 per couple.
The start of fall classes brings college campuses back to life.

State Rep. Harry Brooks (R-Knoxville) and his wife, Mary, experienced the beginning of a new academic year for themselves last week as they joined thousands of students for the first day of fall semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Brookses weren’t taking classes, but they traveled across the state to see what and how students are learning in today’s college environment.

Brooks, who represents the 19th District, traveled to Martin in his role as chairman of the House Education Committee. Mrs. Brooks, a retired schoolteacher, joined him on the visit as he focused on teacher preparation, STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education, higher education funding and affordability and other topics. UT Martin students also met with the lawmaker.

“We’re pleased that Rep. Brooks chose to visit UT Martin for the start of fall classes,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor. “His interest in teacher preparation and STEM education mirrors our own efforts to prepare students for jobs in a changing technological environment.”

Brooks has served 10 years on the House Education Committee, which he first chaired in 2009. Two years later, he was appointed to lead the Children and Family Affairs and the Joint Ad Hoc Education Finance committees. He again chairs the House Education Committee.

Brooks’ campus listening tour began in the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences.

“What can we as a state do to improve and partner with you folks in preparing people to be good teachers?” he asked in a meeting of academic administrators from the college that also included Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin’s chief academic officer.

Brooks highlighted the university’s “impact and influence in regard to developing teachers” and heard for the first time about the university’s Teacher Warranty Program that assures the classroom skills of teacher education graduates.

Beyond the Martin campus, Dr. Mark Kelley, college dean, said the four UT Martin centers in Jackson, Ripley, Parsons and Selmer each offer an education degree. Dr. Betty Cox, interim chair for the Department of Educational Studies, added, “The majority of those teacher education graduates actually stay in those areas,” which has a direct impact on local schools and communities.

Both expressed concern to Brooks in two areas, one being funding cuts to special-education preparation after next summer that could affect the availability of qualified special education teachers. The other is the state’s decision to no longer support pay raises for teachers who earn master’s degrees.

These issues remain topics for discussion among elected officials and education professionals, Brooks said, including the state’s need to send clear messages about the value of education, especially with the emphasis on Gov. Bill Haslam’s “drive to 55 program” for increasing the percentage of Tennesseans with a postsecondary degree.

Brooks noted the relatively low “cost of delivery of services” for students attending UT Martin.

“If you could come out of a Tennessee high school with a Hope Scholarship and any kind of Pell assistance, well you’re in great shape,” he said.

Brooks’ introduction to the university’s STEM education efforts included discussions about engineering, agriculture and the sciences. Dr. Rich Helgeson, engineering and natural sciences dean, said that the engineering program includes approximately 250 students and graduates 30-40 students annually.

“All of the engineering faculty have practiced as engineers,” he said. “That’s pretty unusual when you look at most programs.”

He also highlighted the hands-on nature of the program, required student internships and the yearlong capstone project required of all engineering students. He reported that between 80 to 85 percent of engineering graduates now work in West Tennessee.

In the sciences, Helgeson reported that seven of the 10 graduates in either chemistry or biology who applied for medical school were accepted at the UT Health Science Center. Also, two chemistry majors finished in first and second place respectively in an undergraduate research competition at the most recent Southeast Regional Conference for the American Chemical Society.

Dr. Todd Winters, agriculture and applied sciences dean, reported similar success for UT Martin students attending veterinary school, with nine students accepted to vet school this fall. He also highlighted programs in geology, geography and meteorology. Agriculture, a specific interest for Brooks, included activity summaries in agriculture engineering technology, precision agriculture, energy and aquaculture. A compression strength demonstration in an engineering lab concluded the STEM overview.

Among his afternoon stops, Brooks met with UT Martin students in the university’s Paul Meek Library. Each told about individual academic goals and Brooks recalled his educational and career experiences that led to his current service.
20th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival underway

The 20th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival underway in Martin offers many top attractions, with something of interest for the whole family.

This year's festival features more than 50 events, which include: the Soybean Festival Parade, Senior Activities, Art Exhibit, Street Fair and Carnival, Softball Showcase, Chicken Crazy & Hog Wild BBQ Cook-off, Car and Bike Show, Disc Golf Tournament, Farmers' Breakfast, and the new Juke and Junkin' Fest, just to name a few.

Music lovers have plenty of free concerts to please their palate this year.

On Tuesday night, area festival-goers welcomed Dustin Lynch Faith to the stage and enjoyed the Soybean Festival Parade.

On Community Night, Wednesday, September 4, Lydia Walker will open for headliner The Martins.

Thursday, September 5, is UT Martin Student Night with The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus.

Survivor will rock the crowd on Friday, September 7.

Country group favorite Sawyer Brown will headline Saturday, September 8.

With all of the events and entertainment, it is important to organizers that the festival remain true to its roots with the celebration of the soybean and the local farming community. There have been numerous articles, concerns and predictions regarding how food production needs to keep up with population growth. Our local farmers are impacted in many ways, and it is important that citizens are aware of the effects. There is a prediction that there will be a shortage of food, which will spur increased prices for feeding livestock and in turn increase prices of food on consumers at the grocery. It is important for us to know the vital role our local farmers fill in feeding America and the world.

To honor the area's farming families, there will be an exhibit in the C.E. Weldon Public Library depicting the history of farming in the community.

"The collaboration of the Martin community is what has made and continues to make this festival a success," said Martin Director of Economic and Community Development Brad Thompson. "Not only does the Soybean Festival bring the community together, but also it creates an economic impact. With 30,000 people expected to attend, there is a projected return of investment of approximately $54 for every dollar spent and a generation of nearly $400,000 in state and local tax revenues.

"The Soybean Festival epitomizes the concept of community development. At a time when many live with ideals of 'what's in it for me' and 'I'm too busy,' residents in the city of Martin still care about community. That's clear with the level of involvement and excitement for the Soybean Festival committee.

It all started back in 1994 when a small group of dedicated community leaders had the vision for a community celebration of the soybean. The Tennessee Soybean Festival is now commemorating its 20th year, and that small group has grown into a committee of more than 100 diverse community organizations working together: churches, industry, small business, non-profits, and public entities.

The emphasis of the festival is, of course, the celebration of the soybean, which is known for its magical qualities and diversity in use. Not only are soybeans for human consumption and feeding livestock, but also the oil from soybeans is contributing to energy independence. There are many other uses such as soy ink, crayons, soymilk, soy nuts, miso and more.

The many various uses of the soybean symbolize the diversity of all working together for a successful community festival. Exemplifying that, the Soybean Festival offers an array of events that appeals to all in the community and those in the surrounding area. The events this year are no exception.
Joshua Ferrell of Union City and Maria Rodriguez of Obion, both students at the University of Tennessee at Martin, were two of 25 students from several colleges and universities across the country whom descended upon Oak Ridge this past month for the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program.

The program is the only one of its kind in the United States and is a joint venture between the University of Tennessee at Martin and the University of Tennessee Law Enforcement Innovation Center.

The students spent three weeks at the LEIC facility in Oak Ridge in an abbreviated version of the center’s well-known 10-week, in-residence crime scene investigator training.

They studied basic crime scene management, forensic digital photography, latent fingerprint processing, DNA evidence recovery, bloodstain analysis and forensic anthropology under the same instructors who teach at the 10-week academy that is exclusively for law enforcement personnel.

“We are extremely pleased with the amount of interest we received in this program,” said Don Green, LEIC executive director. “Our staff and the staff of the UT Martin criminal justice department have done a great job preparing this program and making sure that the students will receive the same top-notch instruction that we provide to crime scene investigators from around the country.”

UT Martin had 16 students attending the academy, while other students from as far away as Colorado, Kansas, Florida and California also attended.

“In response to the increasing demand for higher education to produce graduates with real workforce skills, our partnership with LEIC enables us to provide an unparalleled practical experience for our students and demonstrates the strength of the statewide UT System,” said Dr. Brian Donavant, UT Martin associate professor of criminal justice.

“The tremendous response to this innovative program in its first two years, and the number of applications already coming in for next year’s class, testify to our students’ drive to become more competitive as they seek jobs in this growing area of criminal justice.”
**UTM baseball job filled for one year**

Brad Goss, who has served as an assistant coach on the University of Tennessee at Martin baseball staff for the past nine seasons, has been appointed interim head coach effective immediately.

"Through the search process and discussions with our leading candidates, it became obvious that the timing and circumstances surrounding our search were not ideal," said Phil Dane, UT Martin director of athletics. "We believe the long-term best interests of the program will be served by beginning another search next spring with the new coach being appointed around June 1.

"This will allow the new coach to hire his own staff and recruit at least a portion of his own student-athletes. In the meantime, I am confident that coach Goss can effectively lead our current student-athletes through a successful season."

A member of the Skyhawk coaching staff since 2004, Goss provides continuity to the UT Martin program. He has served as UT Martin's hitting coach while training the catchers and spent the past five seasons as the team's recruiting coordinator.

In his tenure at UT Martin, Goss has presided over 18 All-Ohio Valley Conference performers, one All-American and two Louisville Slugger Freshman All-Americans.

"I am excited to get the opportunity to be the interim head coach," Goss said. "It's been a long process but I am ready to get to work."

Goss came to UT Martin from Arkansas Tech, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 2004 and was a three-time All-Gulf South Conference selection for his father Billy Goss. A four-year starter at catcher, Goss held eight Arkansas Tech career records, including hits (220), runs scored (152), runs batted in (169), home runs (29), doubles (58), total bases (373), walks (110) and times hit by pitch (39).

Goss earned his Master's degree in education from UT Martin in the fall of 2006. He married the former Anna Moore of Trenton, a 2007 graduate of UT Martin.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2013 Chancellor's Honor Rolls.

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

Ali M. Alqallaf, Martin, High Honors; Tiffany D. Browning, Dresden, Highest Honors; Sherie L. Crowell, Dresden, Highest Honors; Sherwood C. Anderson, Martin, Honors; Chase H. Cartmell, Martin, Highest Honors; Kristin D. McCloud, Martin, Honors; Jomane K. Owens, Martin, High Honors; Jennifer L. Parrish, Martin, Highest Honors; Eric R. Talley, Martin, Honors; Charmelle A. Trice, Martin, Honors; Rebecca D. Turner, Martin, High Honors; Libbi W. Verdell, Martin, Highest Honors; James K. Klutts, Sharon, High Honors; John H. Nanney, Sharon, Honors; Hannah L. Wade, Sharon, High Honors; Ahmed Ziyyad, Martin, High Honors.

Anderson and Edwards complete forensic program

UT Martin students Jennifer Anderson and William Edwards, both from Martin, were two of 26 students from several colleges and universities across the country who descended upon Oak Ridge this past month for the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program.

The program is the only one of its kind in the United States and is a joint venture between the University of Tennessee at Martin and the University of Tennessee Law Enforcement Innovation Center.

Anderson and Edwards spent three weeks at the LEIC facility in Oak Ridge in an abbreviated version of the center’s well-known 10-week, in-residence crime scene investigator training.

They studied basic crime scene management, forensic digital photography, latent fingerprint processing, DNA evidence recovery, bloodstain analysis and forensic anthropology under the same instructors who teach at the 10-week academy that is exclusively for law enforcement personnel.

UT Martin had 16 students attending the academy, while other students from as far away as Colorado, Kansas, Florida and California also attended.

New county teachers

BLAKE STIGALL

Martin native Blake Stigall has been hired as a wellness teacher at Westview High School. He earned his Bachelor’s degree from UT Martin and includes coaching football as one of his hobbies.

HANNAH STEADMAN

Hannah Steadman has joined the Westview High School faculty as an English 1 teacher. She is a native of Jackson and earned her B.S. in secondary education from UT Martin. Her hobbies include coaching soccer.

MELODY HOPPER

Teaching fourth grade math and science at Gleason School will be Gleason native Melody Hopper. She received her Master’s degree in elementary education K-6 from UT Martin. Melody enjoys reading and spending time with family.

BRITTANY FORTNER

Dresden Elementary School welcomes kindergarten teacher Brittany Fortner, who is from Martin and received her Bachelor’s degree in integrated studies K-6 from UT Martin. She enjoys gardening and music.

CHELSEA JONES

Teaching English 1 at Dresden High School is Tullahoma native Chelsea Jones. She received her Bachelor’s degree from UT Martin. Her hobby is being a softball coach.
THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

Soybean Festival

20 Years of Bean Magic

PLENTY TO DO — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s rodeo team (above) rode down Lindell Street in Historic Downtown Martin at the Soybean Festival Parade on Tuesday. The Martins (left) performed on the main stage at Festival Park on Wednesday during Faith and Family Night. There were numerous events held throughout Martin on Tuesday and Wednesday, including a sidewalk chalk contest, a bicycle rodeo, a talent contest, a senior adult rook tournament, a prayer breakfast, a luncheon for civic organizations, a community health awareness fair and, of course, amusement rides, games and food courtesy of Midway. But don’t rest now: the party is just getting started. See Page 2 for a full schedule. (Photos by Raffe Lazarian/Special to The Press)
Honors bestowed at Mayor’s Kickoff Luncheon

By MARY JEAN HALL

Special to The Press

Many citizens were recognized at the Mayor’s Kickoff Luncheon Tuesday for their involvement with the Soybean Festival.

Several special guests also attended the luncheon, including U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, state Commissioner of Agriculture Julius Johnson, state Farm Bureau Federation President Lacy Upchurch, state Sen. John Stevens, state Rep. Andy Holt and others.

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige announced the Big Bean Award, which went to Savant Learning Systems. He said the Big Bean Award is presented to the business, organization or person who amplifies service to community, especially to the Tennessee Soybean Festival.

“This year’s winner does just that,” Brundige said.

“Education is the foundation of the Big Bean winner, and their investment in online education is important to Martin,” Brundige said.

Savant has helped with building renovations and also employs 50 people in Martin. Savant provides iPads to Martin students and is involved with Westview athletics and several other organizations.

“If it wasn’t for this winner today, we would not have had the fireworks show and the concert on Sunday night,” Brundige said.

Martin Alderman David Belote introduced the other award winners.

David Murphy, owner of Murphy Funeral Home, was recognized as the grand marshal of the Soybean Festival parade.

“Thank you for allowing us to lean on you in our times of need and for your ongoing contributions to the Martin community,” Belote said to Murphy and his co-workers.

See Bean, Page 4

Bean

FROM PAGE 1

“This is not about me. It was my grandfather, my father and now me. I am humbled and I do appreciate it very much,” Murphy said.

Chris Mathis, city recorder for Martin, was inducted into the Soybean Hall of Fame for his work with the past festivals.

“I hope he realizes that because of his work ethic, his gentle spirit and his love for this city, that he has just about as many fans as the Cardinals do,” Belote said. “He has been one of the best managers for city government I’ve ever seen. Truly he has served well.”

Lynn Harper, owner of Harper’s Wreckers, was honored with the Soybean Service Award.

“You can see it in his eyes and hear it from his heart — he honors his community by serving it,” Belote said.

Harper has raised over $10,000 over the past five years with the festival Cancer Crash Car Bash.

Dr. Marvin Downing announced the Martin Beautiful Awards.

Randy and Debbie Arlee, The Kiwanis Club, Martin Church of Christ, Davis Automotive and City Hall all won awards.

Hollie Holt recognized the Soybean royalty.

Alli Kate Frilling is Little Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, which is the six- to nine-year-old category. Her parents are Eric and Lindsay Frilling of Union City.

Hallie Gray is Junior Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, which is the 10- to 12-year-old category. Her parents are Lance and Stefanie Gray of Martin.

Bunny Jones is Teen Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, which is the 13- to 15-year-old category. Tracey Jones, who is from Martin, is her parent.

Ali Davis is Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival, which is the 16- to 21-year-old category. Her parents are Andrew and Laura of Paris.

“The biggest asset is everybody working together in the community for one purpose,” Lacy Upchurch said. “I was so impressed with the awards given by everybody and the whole community for working together. It’s tremendous.”

“I know our farmers here are really grateful to have the support from the community and to promote the soybean. It’s such a great commodity for agriculture and getting more and more. This is the soybean area of the state,” Upchurch said.

Alexander surprised everyone with a performance on the piano accompanied by some members of The Ryman Shadows. After the performance, he offered a few words of advice during the keynote speech.

“It’s an honor to be at the Soybean Festival, and I salute Martin and Weakley County for 20 years,” Alexander said.

Alexander spoke about all of the legislation that he and Fincher were working on at the national level. He also mentioned the history of Tennessee’s policies, including the improvement of the state’s roadways.
"We need to respect one another’s views about these ideas, or views of other people with whom we disagree and we need to work together to get results," Alexander said.

"My record, I think, is pretty well established as a conservative, but I hope it’s established as a conservative who works with others to solve problems. When I talk about bringing the auto industry here, I don’t say that I did that. I did it because I worked with Ned McWherter, who was the Speaker of the House of a different party. When I talked about building roads, it wasn’t just because I was governor. It was because we had legislators of both parties to vote for that."

"If you elect a Congressman, Senator, legislator or governor, you don’t elect them to make a speech. ... You elect them to go to work, stand on their principles, then come home and say ‘I got a result,’” Alexander said.

Johnson also said a few words during the luncheon.

"Soybeans are very important to this state and production in this area is the heart of soybean production,” Johnson said.

The commissioner that agriculture is 17 percent of the total economy in Tennessee, but it’s more than that in rural Tennessee. In rural Tennessee it could be over 50 percent.

"We can’t ignore the potential in agriculture. We’ve got to keep pushing for more production and more economic activity to help rural Tennessee,” Johnson said.

Johnson said he is working hard to advance agriculture and achieve Governor Haslam’s challenge of doubling farm income over the next 10 years.

"For rural Tennessee to prosper we need to push agriculture and every other sector of business. Certainly agriculture leads the way in Tennessee and we want to do our share of making that push to push it on to a higher place,” Johnson said. "The grain industry is important to us. An important part of the grain industry is getting access to markets, and that is through ports."

"Community activities like this is leadership building. It’s about pushing this community forward in a positive way. Rather than focusing on the negative, focus on the positive for awhile and celebrate the good that is in this community," Johnson said.

The Ryman Shadows, led by Dr. Jim Byford, kicked off the luncheon with a performance of The Soybean Song.

Paul Tinkle, president of Thunderbolt Broadcasting, acted as the master of ceremonies. Tinkle said he has been involved with the Soybean Festival for 20 years.

UTM Chancellor Dr. Thomas Rakes welcomed everyone to the university.

"Welcome back to those who have been here for so many years," Rakes said. "We’re proud to host you here. We’re also pleased to see many of our alumni here. ... We are delighted to have you in our presence.”
Fun for all ages at Soybean Festival

Colby Hammer enjoys the carousel with his grandmother, Phyllis Hammer, Thursday evening at the Tennessee Soybean Festival in Martin.

LINDSEY BLACKWOOD/THE JACKSON SUN

Mckenzie Sollis holds out a stick covered in birdseed to feed the birds Thursday evening at the Tennessee Soybean Festival in Martin.

LINDSEY BLACKWOOD/THE JACKSON SUN

WEB EXTRA
Visit jacksonsun.com to see more photos from the Tennessee Soybean Festival.
West Tennessee leaders mingle

By Nichole Manna
nmanna@jacksonsun.com

Approximately 160 members of WestStar and the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation met, some members for the first time, during the WestStar alumni reception and social held at Oakmont Estate in Jackson on Friday night.

Friday night's reception was the first of its type and will help members network, which ultimately will help them with their work.

"Tonight we're bringing the leadership of West Tennessee through WestStar to Jackson to introduce them to board members of West Tennessee Healthcare and also to help them connect with other West Tennessee leaders as we work together with economic development," said Frank McMeen, president of the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation.

WestStar Leadership is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee, according to a news release. It serves the 21 counties of West Tennessee and is operated by the University of Tennessee Martin.

ON THE WEB
Find more photos from the reception at jacksonsun.com.

See NETWORK, Page A4
“We're hoping this becomes an annual event where we bring all of the West Tennessee leadership of past years together for a very social occasion, then start looking at what's on the horizon for this next year and helping to grow more and more leadership,” McMee $ said.

McMee said WestStar brings communities in West Tennessee together so they can help each other succeed, and having socials like the one held on Friday will help WestStar fulfill its mission of helping people become more involved in the doings of West Tennessee.

While WestStar is located on UTM's campus, it can be used by everybody.

Participants of WestStar learn leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape the future of West Tennessee.

Tom Rakes, chancellor of UTM, said networking between leaders is an invaluable tool.

“It's very hard to get things done if you don't have the information you need,” he said. “If you want to know information about what's going on and if you want to learn from similar areas, you have someone to call. While networking you get to know people face-to-face.”

Nichole Manna, 425-9657

www.westkyjournal.com

UT MARTIN REED CENTER/TSBD HOST FINANCING CLASS

By: Joe Lofaro, UTM Editor
Posted: Sunday, September 8, 2013 2:18 pm

(Martin, TN, Sept. 3, 2013): Are you interested in starting a business? What are your small business lending options? What does the lender look for? Are you a small business owner in search of financing? If so, learn what resources are available to help you properly plan, start and grow your small business.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reed Center and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) is offering a class titled “Going to the Bank? Get Ready. Get Set. Get Prepared to GO!”

The class is scheduled for 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 30 at the UT Martin Reed Center at 406 S. Lindell Street in Martin.

Registration is required. Call 731-587-7333 or register on-line at http://www.utm.edu/reed or http://www.tsbdc.org.
Few Tenn. Universities Make Annual U.S. News Ranking

By Mike Osborne

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - U.S. News has released its annual ranking of the nation's universities and colleges and Tennessee's public institutions did not fare well this year.

Only one public school made the national top 100. Cookeville's Tennessee Tech placed 32nd. UT-Martin and Austin Peay State placed 46th and 69th respectively on the southern regional list.

Tennessee's private institutions did somewhat better. Vanderbilt University was ranked 17th on the U.S. News national list. Belmont University placed 7th on the southern regional list, while Lipscomb University came in at number 20.

Rhodes College, The College of the South, Lee College and King College all placed in the top 100 on national and regional lists.

Criteria used to rank the schools includes selectivity, graduation rates, and retention.
Christian Brothers University cracks Best Colleges ranking

Christian Brothers University is one of the best colleges in the South, according to the 2014 edition of U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges” ranking.

The Memphis school ranked 24th overall on the regional list. CBU joined Belmont University and Lipscomb University in Nashville, and Union University in Jackson in the top 25. Tennessee Tech University, Freed Hardeman University and the University of Tennessee-Martin also made the list.

CBU ranked 9th on the list for Southern regional universities with the best value, which is based on the best education for the lowest price.

The national list is based on criteria created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Training. The ranking criteria includes: graduation and retention rates; faculty resources; student selectivity; financial resources; graduation rate performance; and alumni giving.
Grant funds search for rare flower

Nizia Alam, Campus Editor | Posted: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 10:30 am

Researchers at the University recently received about $86,000 to study a potentially endangered wildflower that is native to only East Texas.

Protecting the cream white petaled wildflower could help preserve a whole habitat and ecosystem.

Dr. Joshua Banta, Dr. Lance Williams and Marsha Williams recently received the $85,456 grant to study the genetics and ecology of Hibiscus dasycalyx, more commonly known as the Neches River rose mallow.

The first purpose of the project is to determine whether the rose mallow is a unique species or a hybrid of the more common Hibiscus laevis and Hibiscus moscheutos.

They will take samples from the common species plants and compare it to samples of the rose mallow. If they find too many genetic similarities then it is not a unique species and not a candidate for being listed as threatened.

If they find the rose mallow to be its own species then not only will the wildflower be protected but the habitat it occupies will be protected.

“We will take plant tissue from these three different supposed species and see based on the genetics if the Neches River rose mallow is genetically distinct from these other species,” Banta said.

The wildflower is known in only four locations in East Texas including the tributaries from the Neches and tributaries from the Brazos.

“How many projects do you get where you’re gonna be one of the few people in the world working on a species that’s only found here,” Banta said.

This white-petaled blossom with a dark red center has been waiting to be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act listing for 32 years, according to the WildlifeEarth Guardians website, which works to protect wildlife and wild places in the American West.

The “Section 6” grant was awarded and administered by the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife in collaboration with the Endangered Species Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
If they determine that the species does not exist then there is no need for the government to conserve and protect its habitat.

“No one has done the genetic work to determine if it’s a real species,” Banta said. “Maybe it’s just a part of the natural variation in hibiscus leaves.”

If the researchers find that the rose mallow is a real species the next part of their project will focus on finding other areas where it can be found.

The environmental value isn’t the rose mallow itself but the habitat where it grows.

“When you preserve an area where you have a unique species you get a lot of bang for your buck because you preserve a whole ecosystem that is probably unique in a lot of other ways,” Banta said.

The research they are conducting plays a larger role in the urbanization of the area.

“If we didn’t do the research on it and actually find out it is a threatened species then anyone can clear that land and it’s no longer there. No one would ever know about it,” Banta said.

The long-term consequences of losing unique plants like the rose mallow are significant.

“These unique environments haven’t been studied so you don’t know what you’re losing,” Banta said.

A first-year biology graduate student, Melody Sain was drawn to the project after hearing the conservation aspect of it. She’s working with Banta on the project and writing her master’s thesis on the topic.

She was introduced to the project when she visited the University and met with the biology faculty members. Previously she received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“Out of my whole day it was the one time that I just got excited,” Sain said. “I thought I really do want to come here and do this. It sounds amazing and interesting and I really want to work on it.”

During the summer, Sain, Banta and a group of other biologists went to a Mud Creek location to look for the wildflower.

“We’ll be doing niche modeling. We have places where they have been found. So using the soil and reference of water bodies we’ll be able to find suitable habitats where they could be found,” Sain said.

They identified, according to morphological characteristics, all three different species of Hibiscus at the site. They took leaf samples to perform further genetic testing.
"Actually we pulled up to the site and before Dr. Banta even saw [it], I was like 'hey is that it? And we went down there [and he] said 'this is your plant. This is [the] perfect example of your plant,'” Sain said.

Sain who originally wanted to pursue herpetology compared this to her past field work with reptiles.

“It was an awesome day to actually see it. Before I would be out looking for reptiles and amphibians for three hours searching and never find anything. So it’s exciting,” Sain said.

In the coming weeks, Banta and the rest of the team will conduct research in other locations.
FHU, Union University and UT Martin Ranked as Top Tier Schools

Story Created: Sep 10, 2013 at 3:33 PM CDT
Story Updated: Sep 10, 2013 at 7:35 PM CDT

JACKSON, Tenn. — Union University, Freed-Hardeman University and UT Martin were all ranked as top tier schools among regional universities in the South, according to the annual rankings of colleges and universities for 2014 by U.S. News & World Report.

Freed-Hardeman University moved up four spots to 35th, while Union University moved up one spot to 13th this year. UT Martin ranked 18th among southern regional public universities.

The rankings, released this week, rate colleges and universities using information gathered from multiple sources.

FHU and Union have both been top tier schools for the past 13 years.

It's the fourth straight year for Union to be ranked in the top 15 schools in its category and the highest ranking ever for the university. This year also marks the 17th straight year for Union to be categorized as one of the South's best universities.

"To be recognized among the top 15 universities in the South is a remarkable affirmation of the extraordinary education provided by Union's high quality faculty and staff for our outstanding students," Union President David S. Dockery said. "To have been recognized now for 17 consecutive years as a top tier institution and to have watched Union consistently move up in these rankings through the years has been quite heartening for the entire Union University community."

StateUniversity.com ranked Freed-Hardeman University as the #7 safest school in Tennessee, according to a message sent to the school Aug. 23. The ranking is based on crime reports made in 2012. The scale used by StateUniversity.com in compiling the ranking accounts for both severity and frequency of crime.

"The safety of our students is a priority of the university," Rodney Weaver, FHU director of campus safety and security, said. "Over the past year we have increased the number of security officers and incorporated programs to increase crime awareness among our students."

At UT Martin, increases in enrollment occurred among out-of-state students, transfers, sophomores and returning graduate students. Enrollment also increased at off-campus centers and for online students.

"UT Martin maintains a strong reputation in this region and beyond as reflected in the new U.S. News rankings," said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. "We're recognized for offering high-quality academics at an excellent value, and UT Martin continues to have the highest graduation rate among public universities in Middle and West Tennessee."

A regional university, according to U.S. News & World Report, is one that provides a full range of undergraduate majors and master's degree programs, while also offering a few doctoral programs. The category includes 621 universities ranked with four geographic areas — North, South, Midwest and West. Other categories the publication uses are national universities, national liberal arts colleges and regional colleges.
Reed Center to host class

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reed Center and the Tennessee Small Business Development District will sponsor a class titled “How to Write a Business Plan” at 5 p.m. Sept. 23 at the UT Martin Reed Center/TSBDC at 406 Lindell Street in Martin.

The course is designed for individuals who want to increase their chances for successful self-employment. This two-hour seminar covers the parts of a business plan, how to get your ideas organized and on paper, key make-it or break-it points for success, common mistakes and much more.

Registration is required. Call 731-587-7333 or register on-line at www.utm.edu/reed or www.tsbdc.org.

SOYBEAN FESTIVAL — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Percussion Ensemble (right) performed Thursday night during the 20th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival. The ensemble was followed by a performance from the band Red Jumpsuit Apparatus. Saturday night was the last night of the festival, and a large crowd gathered along Lindell Street for the festivities (below).
Dawn Walker declares her candidacy for Circuit Court Clerk

Dawn Walker is announcing her candidacy for the office of Circuit Court clerk.

She began working in the clerk's office part-time in the summer of 1989 through a special program for high school students. Walker worked two summers in high school and continued working part-time while attending the University of Tennessee at Martin.

She accepted a full-time position as deputy clerk in July 1994 and was promoted to first deputy in September 1998.

The Circuit Court clerk's office is responsible for keeping court records as well as collecting fines and court costs for both Circuit

See Walker, Page 5
HOMESCHOOL WORKSHOP — Dr. Chuck Julian, director of the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin, with Sara Rachels (left) and Cindy Gaylord will present a workshop on home school resources at 7 p.m. Sept. 24 in the Paul Meek Library’s Media Center (Room 118). The night will begin with an informative session in the media center’s Room 118 and will then move on to individual sessions.

Kevin McAlpin declares his candidacy for Circuit Court judgeship

Kevin McAlpin, assistant district attorney general for the 27th Judicial District, has announced he will seek the position of Circuit Court judge for Obion and Weakley counties.

McAlpin has been a prosecutor in that court for the past 13 years.

Prior to his service as ADA, he worked as an assistant public defender and a private attorney. His private law practice was with the Jim Bradberry law firm in Dresden.

McAlpin is currently a major in the Tennessee National Guard, serving as an attorney with the Judge Advocate General Corps.

He deployed to Iraq with the 194th Engineer Brigade in 2009. During his tour of duty, he served as the Command Judge Advocate for the brigade.

McAlpin is a graduate of Weakley County Schools.

KEVIN McALPIN and FAMILY

McAlpin has been a county commissioner in Weakley County for 15 years. He is the chairman of the Weakley County Nursing Home board and is a member of the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport board. He is a member and past president of the Dresden Rotary Club and a member of the American Legion and the Dresden Elks Lodge. He has also served as president of the Babe Ruth Softball League and has coached youth softball for many years.

McAlpin noted his qualifications and his experience as reasons voters should consider his candidacy for Circuit Court judge.

"I have worked as a defense lawyer, a prosecuting attorney and as a private attorney. I have handled criminal and civil cases in all the courts of our area," he said.

He also asserted that his years of advocacy as an Army lawyer have given him a unique perspective of the judicial system and the issues that face the nation and problems incurred by returning veterans of foreign wars and conflicts.

“I have a deep respect for our judicial system,” McAlpin said. “I realize it’s not perfect, but, in my opinion, it is the best legal and judicial system in the world. The trial judge is the pillar of that system. It is the job of the trial judge to protect the rights of those appearing before the court and ensure the system works to protect all of our citizens and society.

“It would be an honor to serve as your Circuit Court judge. If elected, I promise to strive for the highest standards of integrity. Everyone who appears in court will be treated with courtesy and given the opportunity to present his or her case. I will be hard working, fair and open minded. I look forward to speaking and visiting with you over the next months. I am asking for and would sincerely appreciate your vote and support.”
Dr. Stephen Mansfield, CEO of Methodist Health System, Elected to MD Buyline Board of Directors

DALLAS -- MD Buyline announced today that Dr. Stephen L. Mansfield, CEO of Dallas-based Methodist Health System, has been elected to MD Buyline’s Board of Directors.

Stephen L. Mansfield, Ph.D., FACHE, is President and CEO of Methodist Health System, a role he has served in since 2006. During his tenure, Methodist Health System has doubled in size and has been recognized by Thomson Reuters as one of the nation’s top healthcare performance improvement leaders. Before joining Methodist, Dr. Mansfield served seven years as President and CEO of St. Vincent Health System based in Little Rock, Ark., and prior to that he held a variety of leadership positions within the Baptist Memorial Health Care System in Memphis, Tenn., for 23 years.

“We are proud to welcome Dr. Mansfield to our board,” said Satin H. Mirchandani, MD Buyline President and CEO. “A proven leader in healthcare, Steve has demonstrated the ability to adroitly navigate a turbulent environment with outstanding results. Under his stewardship, Methodist has emerged as a model for not-for-profit, faith-based systems seeking to fulfill their patient care mission, while simultaneously building a strong clinical, financial and operational base for the future.” Mr. Mirchandani went on to say, “As MD Buyline continues to introduce new and value-added products and services, it will prove an enormous benefit to draw from such an experienced healthcare leader and innovator.”

Dr. Mansfield holds a master’s from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and a doctorate in organizational leadership from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va. He is an active member of the Dallas Regional Chamber®, which he will Chair in 2014. Dr. Mansfield also serves as a member of the board of directors for the Dallas County Community College District Foundation, and Dallas Citizens Council and previously served on the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board Region 7, Ad Hoc Committee/subsidiary board and previously served as an RPB Delegate/Alternate Delegate for 2007-2010. Dr. Mansfield was honored by the Arkansas Hospital Association in 2005 as with its Distinguished Service Award, and was named to the 2011 Becker’s Hospital Review “Hospital and Health System Leaders to Know” list. In 2012, he was recognized with the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award in the healthcare provider category. In 2013, Dr. Mansfield was a recipient of the inaugural Becker’s Healthcare 2013 Leadership Awards.

“Over the last 35 years, I’ve gained first-hand knowledge and understanding of the challenges hospitals and health systems face. MD Buyline has delivered substantial return on investment to the provider community during that period. I am pleased to see MD Buyline continuing to innovate, by creating new solutions that healthcare providers need to preserve their standard of care and healthy bottom lines,” said Dr. Mansfield. “I look forward to serving on the Board, and supporting the team at MD Buyline as they continue to deliver extraordinary value to the healthcare community.”

About MD Buyline

For over 30 years, MD Buyline Inc. has been the leading provider of healthcare clinical and technology research to drive improved financial performance across the healthcare supply chain. MD Buyline provides the majority of the nation’s hospitals with objective evidence-based information to help them achieve hundreds of millions of dollars in annual savings. MD Buyline’s healthcare provider members access critical information about their supply chain purchases everyday through personalized analyst support and a comprehensive technology platform comprised of real-time information. For more information on how MD Buyline can support your facility, find us online at www.mdbuyline.com, and on Twitter @mdbuyline.
HOME SCHOOL SUPPORT WORKSHOP - Dr. Chuck Julian, the director of the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin, with Sara Rachels (left) and Cindy Gaylord will present a workshop on home school resources at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 24 in the Paul Meek Library's Media Center (Room 118).

UT Martin librarians, staff members to host home-schooling orientation

Staff members and librarians at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Paul Meek Library hope to eliminate some of the fear and questioning, and provide answers to many home-schooling questions.

The library is offering a special orientation night at 7 p.m., Sept. 24, for homeschooling parents that will highlight the important features the library provides for those involved in education. Highlighted areas include an explanation and overview of the library's textbook section, the juvenile books collection, the Rogers Media Center's special resources and an interactive session on government resources that are helpful in the learning process.

The night will begin with an informative session in the media center's Room 118 and will then move on to individual sessions related to each of the highlighted topics. Those attending the event will be divided up into groups with each group attending all four sessions. The sessions will be set up to be hands-on and questions will be addressed along the way.

Packets of informative materials will be supplied to those in attendance and an RSVP by Sept. 20 will guarantee this information is provided. When calling or emailing an RSVP, the library asks that the grade level be included so sessions can be appropriately geared toward the specific grade levels represented.

As this is an informative meeting for teachers and parents only, the library respectfully asks that children be given the night off to stay at home and take a break from learning.

For more information or to reserve a place at the orientation, contact library staff members Cindy Gaylord at (731) 881-7078 or cgaylord@utm.edu or Sara Rachels at (731) 881-7083 or srachel1@utm.edu.
Late Ed Jones named to ag hall of fame


For his accomplishments, the late congressman was honored in 2011, as he became only the 13th member of the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame.

On Oct. 4, the University of Tennessee at Martin will honor this achievement with a reception and banquet as part of 2013 Homecoming Week.

A reception is set for 5 p.m. in the Paul Meek Library where a replica of the congressman's office is maintained and his congressional papers are held. A dinner and program will follow in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center. Retired U.S. Rep. John Tanner, who succeeded Jones, is the keynote speaker.

The event is open to the public at a cost. The reservation deadline is Sept. 27. Donations can also be made to the Ed Jones Gift Fund, which supports the university's Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series. Registrations and donations can be made through the UT Martin Office of Development, 329 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238, or call 731-881-7620.

The original Ed Jones Distinguished Lecturer Series began in 1989 at the university as Tennessee Sen. Al Gore Jr. participated as the first lecturer. Jones actively supported the series until it ended in 1995. A lead gift of $12,500 in June from Farm Credit Mid-America was the first step toward endowing the lecture series, which will now also carry the congressman's late wife's name.

Jones, a Yorkville native, earned a two-year degree in 1932 from UT Junior College, predecessor to UT Martin, and a bachelor's degree in 1934 from UT Knoxville.

During his career, he served as a state dairy inspector, an agricultural agent for the Illinois Central Railroad, a farm radio host and was appointed Tennessee commissioner of agriculture under Gov. Gordon Browning. He is probably best known for his service from 1969-89 as U.S. representative, and he remained active in his family's farm throughout his career.

While in Congress, Jones was a senior member of the House Committee on Agriculture during a time of change in the agriculture industry and the institutions that supported it. Notable events that occurred during his career were the Farm Strike and Tractorcade to Washington, D.C., in the late 1970s, the financial struggles of the Farm Credit System, the regulation of the futures market, and the transition of the soil and water conservation programs.

“UT Martin maintains a strong reputation in this region and beyond as reflected in the new U.S. News rankings,” said Tom Rakes, university chancellor. “We’re recognized for offering high-quality academics at an excellent value, and UT Martin continues to have the highest graduation rate among public universities in Middle and West Tennessee.”

The university also released preliminary fall enrollment numbers showing a four percent decline from 7,751 students last fall to 7,423 for the current fall semester.

Enrollment declines occurred among dual enrollment and returning undergraduate students, the latter resulting from three years of record-setting UT Martin graduating classes.

Increases occurred among out-of-state students, transfers, sophomores and returning graduate students. Enrollment also increased at off-campus centers and for online students.
HOME SCHOOL SUPPORT — Dr. Chuck Julian, director of the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin, joined by library staff members Sru Rachels (left) and Cindy Gaylord, will present a workshop on home school resources Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Paul Meek Library’s Media Center (Room 118). This is an informative meeting for teachers and parents only, so the library staff respectfully asks that children be given the night off to stay at home and take a break from learning.
Home schooling orientation scheduled at UTM’s library

Staff members and librarians at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Paul Meek Library hope to eliminate some of the fear and questioning and to provide answers to many home schooling questions.

The library is offering a special orientation event at 7 p.m. Sept. 24 for home schooling parents that will highlight the important features the library provides for those involved in education.

Highlighted areas include an explanation and overview of the library’s textbook section, the juvenile books collection, the Rogers Media Center’s special resources and an interactive session on government resources that are helpful in the learning process.

The night will begin with an informative session in the media center’s Room 118 and will then move on to individual sessions related to each of the highlighted topics. Those attending the event will be divided into groups, with each group attending all four sessions. The sessions will be set up to be hands-on and questions will be addressed along the way.

In addition, packets of informative materials will be supplied to those in attendance and an RSVP by Sept. 20 will guarantee this information is provided. When calling or emailing an RSVP, the library asks that the grade level be included so sessions can be appropriately geared toward the specific grade levels represented.

As this is an informative meeting for teachers and parents only, the library respectfully asks that children be given the night off to stay at home and take a break from learning.

For more information or to reserve a place at the orientation, contact library staff members Cindy Gaylord at (731) 881-7078 or cgaylord@utm.edu or Sara Rachels at (731) 881-7083 or srachell@utm.edu.

BEE KEEPER — Bob Hathcock of Martin, a former University of Tennessee at Martin professor, showed a honeycomb to students from South Fulton Elementary during the recent Farm Day held at the Obion County Fairgrounds. He is a member of the Northwest Tennessee Beekeepers Association, which meets at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at First United Methodist Church in Dresden.
Tennessee Head Coach Emeritus and UT Martin product Pat Summitt, 12-time NBA All-Star and Hall of Famer Earvin “Magic” Johnson and youth basketball ambassador Boo Williams were winners of the 2013 Mannie Jackson Basketball’s Human Spirit Award.

The winners were recognized during events leading up to the 2013 Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremonies. Summitt did not travel to Massachusetts for the event.

For nearly four decades, Summitt led the Tennessee Lady Vols program to 16 SEC championships, eight NCAA national titles and won seven NCAA Coach of the Year awards.

In August 2011, Summitt announced that she was battling with early onset dementia, “Alzheimer’s type.”

She finished the 2011-12 season and in November, she revealed the formation of her foundation, the Pat Summitt Foundation Fund with the proceeds going toward cutting-edge research.

The criteria for the Jackson Award winners includes embracing the core values of the game, hard work, striving to improve the community and making a commitment to others.

Beyond the game, award winners must reflect the values of Mannie Jackson’s life-long mission to overcome obstacles and challenge the status quo, while taking responsibility for his or her actions and seeking the highest standard of excellence possible.

Summitt, Johnson and Williams were chosen from a group of nine finalists after nominations were screened by a distinguished selection committee, appointed by the Hall of Fame and Mr. Jackson.
Titans’ time memorable for UTM student

By Kenneth Coker
Sports Editor

UT Martin student MaryLynn Williams will remember the Titans.
Williams -- a communications major at UTM and a native of Franklin -- interned in the media relations department with the National Football League’s Tennessee Titans over the summer break.

“It was exciting to work with the Titans,” said Williams, who serves as the sports director at the campus radio station (WUTM, 90.3). “I got to meet Eddie George. He was my idol when I was growing up. I would tell everyone I wanted to be a running back in the NFL. I was a very abnormal child.”

Childhood aspirations of NFL play in the rearview, Williams has settled on a career in communications with an emphasis in broadcasting of some sort.

The gig with the Titans allowed the former college soccer player (Asbury University in Wilmore, Ky.) to take in the complete NFL experience.

“It was weird because as much as I love the Titans, I couldn’t be a fan while I was there,” Williams said. “I was there to work. I’d seen some of the facilities last year, but not all of it. I never realized how many elements go into making the whole picture work. I met the scouts for college and a lot of the people that work behind the scenes.

“There are employees that are responsible for scheduling hotel rooms for the team. As a fan, I don’t think I realized all of the things that go into making the team work. It was cool to be inside the walls of such an operation.”

Last summer, Williams interned at Nashville radio station 102.5 “The Game” – the city’s ESPN affiliate.

That experience coupled with the time logged with the Titans’ media relations department helped the 22-year-old to better understand the give-and-take relationship between the media and media relations departments.

“Media relations isn’t what I want to do,” Williams said. “However, it’s on the other side of the fence from what I want to do as a broadcaster. Last year, I interned with a radio station. I was the person at the radio station that called the media relations people to schedule an interview with one of the players. This year, I was the person I would’ve called the year before and that helped it to come full circle.

“In the past two years, I’ve gotten to see things the media does to frustrate media relations people and how the media relations department deals with the media. Hopefully, this experience will help me in figuring out how to work with media relations departments when I begin my career.”

For now, Williams is content to scale back her activity level. Since settling back into Martin and leaving the grind of the Titans’ media relations machine, Williams’ schedule has opened up.

“My life has dramatically slowed down,” Williams said of her first week-and-a-half of classes at UTM. “During the internship, I worked seven days a week. Most days began at 8 a.m. and ended around 6 p.m. I think I had two days off in the month I worked.

“The first couple of days I was in bed as soon as I got home. There were times when it was overwhelming, but after the first week I settled in.”

Despite the long days, Williams was glad for her tenure with the Titans, which gave her a unique perspective into this season’s team.

“It’s cool to watch the games on television and see some tendencies that I noticed when I was watching practice at training camp,” Williams explained. “There are some plays I’ll see and remember when they started to use them and they didn’t work. It’s also cool to see the players develop over time and earn starting jobs.

“We think of these players as celebrities, but most of them are just like we are. The only difference is they are really good at football.”
Martin Beautiful announces Fall Garden Seminar

The Martin Beautiful Committee has announced its Fall Garden Seminar is Saturday, September 21st in the Watkins Auditorium of the UTM Boling Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at noon.

The speakers are Dr. Paula Gale and Dr. Wesley Totten, both UTM Professors in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources. They will discuss soil conditions, including soil testing, and the UTM compost program. Dr. Gale graduated from the University of Arkansas and Dr. Totten received his doctorate from Clemson University.

In the second session starting at 10:30 a.m., Martin native John Watkins will talk about landscaping plants at the new Discovery Park of America in Union City, where he is now horticulturalist. Previously, he was a landscape designer and installer for Rolling Hills Nursery in Murray, Kentucky. His parents are Dr. Phil and Pat Watkins.

During the intermission between sessions, Martin Beautiful will give away door prizes.

The event is free and everyone is welcome.

'How to Write a Business Plan' class

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reed Center and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center will sponsor a class titled, "How to Write a Business Plan" at 5:00 p.m., Monday, September 23, at the UT Martin Reed Center/TSBDC at 406 Lindell Street in Martin.

This course is designed for individuals who want to increase their chances for successful self-employment. This two-hour seminar covers the parts of a business plan, how to get your ideas organized and on paper, key make-it or break-it points for success, common mistakes and much more.

Registration is required. Call 731-587-7333 or register on-line at www.utm.edu/reed or www.tsbdc.org.
UTM to honor Ag Hall of Fame inductee Ed Jones

Longtime 8th District U.S. Rep. Ed Jones left many lasting marks on Tennessee’s and the nation’s agriculture. For his accomplishments, the late congressman was honored in 2011, as he became only the 13th member of the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame.

On Oct. 4, the University of Tennessee at Martin will honor this achievement with a reception and banquet as part of 2013 Homecoming Week. A reception is set for 5 p.m. in the Paul Meek Library, where a replica of the congressman’s office is maintained and his congressional papers are held.

A dinner and program will follow in Duncan Ballroom of Boling University Center. Retired U.S. Rep. John Tanner, who succeeded Jones, will be the keynote speaker.

The event is open to the public at a cost of $25 per person. The reservation deadline is Sept. 27. Donations can also be made to the Ed Jones Gift Fund, which supports the university’s Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series.

Registrations and donations can be made through the UT Martin Office of Development, 329 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238; or by calling (731) 881-7620. Gifts to the lecture series fund can also be made online at www.utmforever.com/jones.

The original Ed Jones Distinguished Lecturer Series began in 1989 at the university as Tennessee

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS — The UT Alumni Association announced its four scholarship winners at the recent Legacy Luncheon on the UT Martin campus. Winners of the scholarships included (from left) Alyssa Counce, granddaughter of Elmer Counce and daughter of Jay Counce, an alumnus; Georgia Brown, the daughter of Dr. Laura Brown, who is a professor at UT Martin; Worrick Robinson, the president of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association; Cannon Perry, the grandson of chancellor emeritus and UT Martin alum Margaret Perry. Cannon is the son Lori Roberts Perry, who also is an alumna; Hannah Andrews, daughter of Victor Andrews, who is the past president of the UT Martin Alumni Council.

While Ludlow won the men’s division with a time of 16:55, while Winn topped the female group in a time of 19:11.

Photo submitted

TOP RUNNERS — Dalton Ludlow of UT Martin (left) and Loral Winn of Dresden were the top runners in the 20th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival 5K Road Race. Ludlow won the men’s division with a time of 16:55, while Winn topped the female group in a time of 19:11.

Photo submitted

ED JONES
REMEMBERING 9-11 —
Faculty, staff and students (above) had a moment of silence to remember 9-11 Wednesday morning at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Participating in the program were Chancellor Tom Rakes (second from right) and Lt. Steve Sherfield (third from right). Right: UTM Government Association President Rick Drewry (center) took time out to participate in the 9-11 remembrance on campus. Also participating were Fimis Halkias (left), the assistant director of the Boling University Center, and Tyler Reed.
Around Town

By MARVINE SUGG
Lifestyles Editor

Tanna Renea Norman, 18, of Water Valley, will compete for the title of Miss Tennessee Teen USA 2014 on Oct. 3-5 at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville. Tanna is the daughter of Monte and Tonya Norman. She attends The University of Tennessee at Martin.

Her activities and hobbies include Barrel Racing and Pole Bending on her horses at local horse shows, hunting, fishing, shooting skeets and pageants. Her sponsors for the pageant are her Mom and Dad, Nanny and Grandaddy, Aunt Deanna Norman, Uncle Charles Terrell, Brad Anderson from Texas and the law office of David A. Bates.

Tanna graduated third in her class with a 4.0 grade point average. She was voted Most Likely to Succeed, attended Youth Maury Leadership, was a SCOPE delegate, received the Service Above Self Award and has been called for an interview to be on the Freshman Council at UT Martin. She recently won the 2013 Miss Maury Regional Fair title and 2013 Miss Horseshoe Riverbend Festival Queen in Clifton, where she was one of the main attractions along with Joe Diffie and Jimmy Smith (American Idol) the weekend of Sept 6-7. She was also selected to be on the Freshman Student Council out of 200 interviewed for this position.

The Miss Tennessee Teen USA pageants are the official preliminaries to the Miss Teen USA pageants and are a Donald J. Trump venture. The young woman chosen as Miss Tennessee Teen USA 2014 will go on to represent the state of Tennessee in the 2014 Miss Teen USA pageant as seen live on national television and one of the most anticipated events of the year.

Continued from Page B1

UT Martin named in ranking of top degree values

The Jackson Sun

The University of Tennessee Martin was named among 100 colleges and universities nationwide as most likely to earn top honors on President Barack Obama's upcoming value scorecard, according to a news release from the school. UT Martin appears at number 70 on the list and is the only Tennessee college or university listed.

The ranking was released by AffordableCollegesOnline.org, which provides information about affordable higher education options and financial aid information. The complete rankings can be viewed at http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/spotlight/obama-affordable-collegescorecard/.

"The president voiced his desire to rank colleges by the value they offer students," said AC Online founder Dan Schuessler in a news release. "With President Obama's system still in the planning stages, we decided to create our own rankings based on quantifiable value and affordability metrics."

The release said AC Online used value metrics to determine the rankings, including net price, student loan default rate, four-and six-year graduation rates, student services and starting salaries for graduates. Each was weighted according to how deeply they illustrate cost savings and career success.

AC Online compiled the list of schools meeting these criteria using data sets produced by the National Center for Educational Statistics, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, the Carnegie Classification and PayScale.com.

"We're pleased for this additional recognition as a university that provides high value for the invest-
Burnett announces run for State House seat

By Nicole Young
Robertson County Times

Springfield businessman Matt Burnett announced Monday that he intends to run for the District 66 State House of Representatives seat, currently occupied by Joshua Evans.

Burnett, a Republican, has operated his construction company, Burnett Home Builders, in Robertson County since his graduation from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1999. He also operates a second company, Burnett Real Estate Group, which is affiliated with Keller Williams Realty.

"One of the main issues I see for Robertson County is economic development," Burnett said. "We need to have more opportunities available to bring jobs back to the county, including more businesses."

To date, Burnett has hired a campaign manager, Chris Heeren, and a treasurer, Rob Deberry, to aid him in his run for office.

The state primary election will be held on Aug. 7, 2014, according to Cathy Hamsley, administrator of elections for Robertson County.

Candidates can start picking up petitions to run on Jan. 3, 2014, Hamsley said. The qualifying deadline is April 3, 2014 at noon and the withdrawal deadline is April 10, 2014 at noon, she added.

So far, Burnett is the only candidate who has publicly announced his intent to run for the house seat.

Incumbent Evans has not made an announcement, though he has stated in an interview with The Times that he is considering a run for the State Senate District 25 seat, currently occupied by Jim Summerville of Dickson.

Burnett said he had been considering a run for the district 66 seat for several weeks, but had just decided on it about two weeks ago.

"We have several people behind us, so we're looking forward to campaigning," he said.

Campaign manager Heeren said his candidate felt the timing was right to announce in September.

"We really want to get his name out there in the community," he said. "We're looking to build support and have some momentum going into the primary."

In the meantime, Burnett said he plans to continue to operate his two businesses as well as be involved in the community. Because he has grown his business team, he says he now has more flexibility in his schedule to take on more projects.

He is currently working as the contractor on the Robertson County Habitat for Humanity's build project, which is slated for formal kick-off on Friday in Springfield. He is a current member of the Robertson County Chamber of Commerce and Robertson County Industrial Board. And he is also a graduate of Leadership Robertson County, past president of the Robertson County Builders Association and a former director of the Middle Tennessee Homebuilders Association.

Burnett lives in Springfield with his wife Martie and their two children, ages 7 and 4. The couple has been married for 10 years.
Fall Garden Seminar set for Saturday at UTM

The Martin Beautiful Committee is pleased to announce its Fall Garden Seminar on Saturday in the Watkins Auditorium of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Boling Center.

The Fall Seminar will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by noon.

The speakers are Dr. Paula Gale and Dr. Wesley Totten, both University of Tennessee at Martin professors in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources.

They will discuss soil conditions, including soil testing and the UTM compost program. Dr. Gale graduated from the University of Arkansas and Dr. Totten received his doctorate from Clemson University.

UT Martin only Tennessee University named to degree-value ranking

The University of Tennessee at Martin was named among 100 colleges and universities nationwide as most likely to earn top honors on President Barack Obama’s upcoming value scorecard.

UT Martin appears at number 70 on the list and is the only Tennessee college or university listed.

The ranking was released by AffordableCollegesOnline.org, which provides information about affordable higher education options and financial aid information.

The complete rankings can be viewed at http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/spotlight/obama-affordable-college-scorecard/.

"The president voiced his desire to rank colleges by the value they offer students," said AC Online founder Dan Schuessler in a news release. "With President Obama's system still in the planning stages, we decided to create our own rankings based on quantifiable value and affordability metrics."

AC Online used value metrics to determine the rankings, including net price, student loan default rate, four- and six-year graduation rates, student services and starting salaries for graduates. Each was weighted according to how deeply they illustrate cost savings and career success.

"We’re pleased for this additional recognition as a university that provides high value for the investment in a college degree," said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor, "This independent ranking further assures that students attending UT Martin are receiving the most for their educational dollars."

Earlier this summer, AC Online ranked UT Martin fifth out of 54 colleges in most affordable online-degree programs. In August, AC Online ranked the university’s online MBA program third among the nation’s best online MBA programs.
UT Martin event aims to prevent suicide

By COURTNEY PEARSON
Special to The Press

As Suicide Awareness Week came to a close, students from all over the University of Tennessee at Martin campus gathered in front of the University Center Friday afternoon in order to talk about an overwhelmingly prevalent issue in the United States today: suicide prevention.

"Suicide prevention is everyone's business; it's not a secret to keep," said John'Na Webster, UTM's Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

The event captured the attention of all in attendance as Webster continued with painfully simple advice to help prevent suicide.

"One way to give hope is just a friendly smile and a 'hello,'" Webster said.

"Hope" was a consistent word used during the event that showed just how important positivity and encouragement can be for a person struggling with suicidal thoughts.

"Let's do something nice for somebody every day; let's make it a goal to smile at someone and bring that hope," said Clinical Coordinator at Student Health and Counseling Services, Jenifer Hart.

Martin alderman David Sudberry was also present at the event.

"Depression is like a pebble in your shoe that won't come out. Anytime that you have signs of depression that last more than a week or two, you need to talk to somebody," Sudberry said.

Sudberry spoke out about service members and the prevalence of suicidal thoughts among them.

"There's a lot of suicide among veterans. You need to thank a veteran every day; thank a police officer every day. Be positive and uplifting because someday you'll need that," Sudberry said.

Patrick Chadwick, father of a victim to suicide, shared his story in public for the first time. Chadwick challenged the audience to listen to one another.

"Have it in your heart to listen—just listen to somebody. You never know.

Fall Garden Seminar set for Saturday at UTM

The Martin Beautiful Committee is pleased to announce its Fall Garden Seminar on Saturday in the Watkins Auditorium of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Boling Center.

The Fall Seminar will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by noon.

The speakers are Dr. Paula Gale and Dr. Wesley Totten, both University of Tennessee at Martin professors in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources.

They will discuss soil conditions, including soil testing and the UTM compost program. Dr. Gale graduated from the University of Arkansas and Dr. Totten received his doctorate from Clemson University.

In the second session starting at 10:30, Martin native John Watkins will talk about landscaping plants at the new Discovery Park of America in Union City where he is now horticulturist. Previously he was landscape designer and installer for Rolling Hills Nursery in Murray, Ky. His parents are Dr. Phil and Pat Watkins.

During the intermission between sessions Martin Beautiful will give away door prizes.

Vendors for the morning outside the Boling Center will be Peach Grove Nursery of Martin, Biggs Nursery of Greenfield, Soleil Garden Center of Union City.

The event is free and everyone is welcome.

For more information about the occasion and Martin Beautiful, consult martinbeautiful.org.
Inco Ag Irrigation donates system

More than 100 University of Tennessee at Martin students this semester will be among the first to add hands-on irrigation management to their education program as the first class to work with a new center pivot irrigation system donated by Inco Ag Irrigation and Reinke Manufacturing.

The new irrigation system was recently installed at UTM's agricultural, geoscience and natural resources teaching farm, directly north of campus. Covering a swath of 47 acres and delivering up to 325 gallons of water per minute, the 747-foot Reinke Electrotagator II system was donated in part by Inco Ag Irrigation, a Reinke dealership in Union City and Brownsville, and Nebraska-based Reinke Manufacturing. Additional partners, Inco Well Services and National Pump, donated the well drilling and pump, and CAM Electric donated all of the wiring equipment and electrical installation.

"We are proud to offer this hands-on learning opportunity to the students of UTM in partnership with Reinke," said Chuck Doss, Inco Ag Irrigation and Inco Well Services co-owner. "We've long held a good relationship with the university, and we are honored to be able to help teach the next generation of farmers how to increase yields and efficiently irrigate with the latest in touch screen control and GPS irrigation technology."

With installation complete, the university is offering an introduction to precision agriculture class for the first time this fall, with plans to integrate the Reinke center pivot into lessons. Areas of study will include irrigation effectiveness, GPS automation, equipment maintenance and economics of operation.

"Our entire faculty is excited to get as many students working around the pivot as possible," said Wesley Totten, UTM associate professor of plant science. "Expanding on our existing precision agriculture class is something we have wanted to do, but didn't expect it to happen so soon. We're very thankful and gracious to Inco Ag Irrigation and to Reinke for making that happen."

The role of irrigation on U.S. farms has significantly expanded in recent years, due to demand for increased yields and persistent drought conditions in key agricultural states. As the region's only irrigation dealer with in-house well services, Inco Ag Irrigation employs four teams to setup pivots for itself and other dealerships. In 2012, the company installed more than 300 systems in 15 states. Inco Ag Irrigation is owned by Chuck Doss and Richie Cash.

Fall Garden Seminar set in Martin

The Martin Beautiful Committee recently announced its Fall Garden Seminar will be held Saturday in the Watkins Auditorium of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Boling Center beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding by noon.

The speakers will be Dr. Paula Gale and Dr. Wesley Totten, both UTM professors in the department of agriculture, geosciences and natural resources. They will discuss soil conditions, including soil testing and the UTM compost program. Dr. Gale graduated from the University of Arkansas and Dr. Totten received his doctorate from Clemson University in South Carolina.

In the second session, starting at 10:30 a.m., Martin native John Watkins will talk about landscaping plants at the new Discovery Park of America in Union City, where he is now horticulturist. Previously, he was landscape designer and installer for Rolling Hills Nursery in Murray, Ky. His parents are Dr. Phil and Pat Watkins.

During the intermission, Martin Beautiful will give away door prizes.

Vendors for the morning outside the Boling Center will be Peach Grove Nursery of Martin, Biggs Nursery of Greenfield and Soleil Garden Center of Union City.

The event is free and everyone is welcome.

For more information about the occasion and Martin Beautiful, visit martinbeautiful.org.
UTM continues to rank in master's level top tier

The 2014 edition of America's Best Colleges, compiled by U.S. News & World Report, continues to rank the University of Tennessee at Martin in the top tier for southern master’s level universities.

UT Martin tied for 46th place among both public and private institutions and is 18th among southern regional public universities. The rankings rate colleges and universities using information gathered from multiple sources.

Colleges are ranked against their peers using information submitted in a survey completed by the institutions and other sources. Categories used to determine the rankings and to measure academic quality include peer assessment, average freshman retention rates and graduation rates, and faculty and financial resources.

“UT Martin maintains a strong reputation in this region and beyond as reflected in the new U.S. News rankings,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. “We’re recognized for offering high-quality academics at an excellent value, and UT Martin continues to have the highest graduation rate among public universities in Middle and West Tennessee.”

The university also released preliminary fall enrollment numbers showing a 4 percent decline from 7,751 students last fall to 7,423 for the current fall semester.

Enrollment declines occurred among dual enrollment and returning undergraduate students, the latter resulting from three years of record-setting UT Martin graduating classes.

Increases occurred among out-of-state students, transfers, sophomores and returning graduate students. Enrollment also increased at off-campus centers and for online students.

University only one in state named to degree-value ranking

The University of Tennessee at Martin was named among 100 colleges and universities nationwide as most likely to earn top honors on President Obama’s upcoming value scorecard.

UT Martin appears at number 70 on the list and is the only Tennessee college or university listed.

The ranking was recently released by AffordableCollegesOnline.org, which provides information about affordable higher education options and financial aid information.

The complete rankings can be viewed at http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/spotlight/obama-affordable-college-scorecard/.

“The president voiced his desire to rank colleges by the value they offer students,” said AC Online founder Dan Schuessler in a news release. “With President Obama’s system still in the planning stages, we decided to create our own rankings based on quantifiable value and affordability metrics.”

AC Online used value metrics to determine the rankings, including net price, student loan default rate, four- and six-year graduation rates, student services and starting salaries for graduates.

Each was weighted according to how deeply they illustrate cost savings and career success.

AC Online compiled the list of schools meeting these criteria using data sets produced by the National Center for Educational Statistics, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, the Carnegie Classification and PayScale.com.

“We’re pleased for this additional recognition as a university that provides high value for the investment in a college degree,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. “This independent ranking further assures that students attending UT Martin are receiving the most for their educational dollars.”

Earlier this summer, AC Online ranked UT Martin fifth out of 54 colleges in most affordable online-degree programs. In August, AC Online ranked the university’s online MBA program third among the nation’s best online MBA programs.
NEW YORK—In the decade Sarah Tetley has worked with college students, she's seen a change in care packages sent from home.

The box of homemade goodies "is something of a lost art," says Tetley, director of the First Year Experience program at Webster University in St. Louis. "And it's sad, because there's nothing like seeing a student get excited about a package from home."

The change is partly because parents are more in touch with kids, thanks to cell phones, than they used to be: "They don't send as many care packages because they just talked to them," Tetley said.

But it's also due to a rise in commercially prepared options—not just generic gift baskets, but care packages designed specifically for college kids. And those parents who do pack their own care packages are apt to skip homemade brownies in favor of laundry pods, and get their "ty" via text.

THE PREMADE CARE PACKAGE

GourmetGiftBaskets.com "started to see a trend emerge a few years ago" with more orders sent to campus addresses, according to spokesman Chuck Casto. So the New Hampshire-based company introduced products like the "Exam Cram Care Package," which includes microwave popcorn, cookies, candy, chips and pretzels. They've sold thousands of them, with sales up 75 percent this year over last.

Many colleges also offer in-house care package programs. At Connecticut College, parents can order the $35 "Birthday Bash," with a cake or cupcakes, or "Health Nut," with fresh fruit, rice cakes and yogurt smoothies, $25. The packages are made in a dining hall for same-day pickup.

Minimus.biz also offers a "College Student Care Package of the Month," with themed packages like the Dorm Laundry Kit and the Dorm Medicine Chest.

Andy Fortson, 27, co-founded CoedSupply.com after looking online for something to send to a brother in the Marines and a cousin at Penn State. "I was pretty appalled by the options," he said. "They were overpriced and full of junk food."

So he and a friend launched a hipper alternative last year with a monthly mix of health-food snacks, personal care items (like Old Spice or a new fragrance from Rihanna) and entertainment (such as CDs), ranging in price from $16.50 to $35 a month. "The response has been overwhelming," Fortson said. "We're already shipping to colleges in 45 states."

Kelley Garland, a sophomore at Providence College in Rhode Island, saw a post about CoedSupply.com on her school's Facebook page, asked her mom to sign her up, and says she loves "having that little surprise at the beginning of every month."

---

FROM HOME, WITH LOVE: CLIPPINGS, COOKIES AND CONDOMS

Parents who do send care packages say socks, laundry pods (premeasured detergent packs) and cookies are staples. But they also say it's not so much about sending necessities as it is a message of love, from home.

"There's no way I can send him a copy of 'I'll Love You Forever,' even though that is what I feel like reading right now," joked Jill Troderman of Soquel, Calif., referring to the classic children's book about parental devotion.

But she did send her son at the University of Washington socks, a flannel throw and homemade chocolate-chip cookies. She figured he could share the cookies with friends since he's a "bit of a health nut ... he doesn't want to gain the freshman 15." (For the record, researchers say it's a myth that college students gain 15 pounds their first year—it's more like three or five pounds.)

Laura Kessler tries to send monthly care packages to her two sons, but she "can't bake to save her soul," so instead sends things like Nutella and trinkets. Asked to name a favorite item from one of mom's packages, son Brian Kessler, a sophomore at the University of Dayton, posted on Facebook, "Gonna have to go with Silly String."

Dori Wile's daughter was raised in Texas but is now getting a master's degree at Chatham University in Pittsburgh, so she wants "anything unique to Texas." Wile sends condiments from the regional Whataburger chain, Mexican spices, and pictures: "The kids today don't print out photographs. This way they have something to put on their fridge."

Twentieth-century college kids often received envelopes stuffed with newspaper clippings from home, but today's parents email links to articles of interest. Still, one mom snail-mails the local police blotter to her son if a kid they know gets arrested, writing on the clipping, "Don't let this happen to you!"

And Inez Caspi of Bellevue, Wash., sends to her son at Claremont McKenna College in California "articles on safety or drinking or use of cell phones," along with columns about playing bridge, one of his favorite pastimes, and "an occasional comic strip, usually mocking moms."

Some moms send condoms. Mary Kay Russell of the Chicago area has sent her three college-age sons "a Costco-sized box of prophylactics."
Parents of kids at Baylor University, a Christian school in Texas, have different priorities: They hold parent meetings around the country to assemble care packages together, and they tuck Scripture verses in with the toothbrushes and snacks.

SAYING THANKS BY TEXT, POST OR VINE

When it comes to saying thank-you for the effort, acknowledgements are often by text ("Thx" or "ty") or pictures posted online. "I've even seen a student taking a Vine using all the things inside the care package, saying 'Look what my mom bought me!'" said Tetley, referring to the app for six-second videos.

Jackie Parker sent her daughter, a freshman at the University of Missouri at Columbia, a Starbucks gift card two weeks ago and was happy to get back, via text, "a picture of her drink and cake."

Julie Davis sends her son Sam black-and-white cookies—a New York City specialty—from a Manhattan bakery because it's something he can't get at the University of Colorado in Boulder. "The kids are so independent these days, they have access to everything, and it makes it harder to find something to send them," she said. She knows he's received the package when she gets his one-word text: "Amazing."

Kate Sutherland posted a picture on Instagram and Facebook when her mom sent a "make-your-own party kit with princess stuff and decorations" for her 22nd birthday last spring—one of many care packages she received as a student at the University of Tennessee-Martin.

"My friends thought it was really neat—I think everyone got a little jealous," Sutherland said. "You really don't see the homemade care packages that much anymore because it's so easy to get on the Internet and ship something."

Longtime 8th District U.S. Rep. Ed Jones left many lasting marks on Tennessee's and the nation's agriculture. For his accomplishments, the late congressman was honored in 2011, as he became only the 13th member of the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame.

On October 4, the University of Tennessee at Martin will honor this achievement with a reception and banquet as part of 2013 Homecoming Week. A reception is set for 5 p.m. in the Paul Meek Library where a replica of the congressman's office is maintained and his congressional papers are held. A dinner and program will follow in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center. Retired U.S. Rep. John Tanner, who succeeded Jones, is the keynote speaker.

The event is open to the public at a cost of $25 per person. The reservation deadline is September 27. Donations can also be made to the Ed Jones Gift Fund, which supports the university's Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series. Registrations and donations can be made through the UT Martin Office of Development, 329 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238, or call 731-881-7620. Gifts to the lecture series fund can also be made online at www.utmforever.com/jones.

The original Ed Jones Distinguished Lecturer Series began in 1989 at the university as Tennessee Sen. Al Gore Jr. participated as the first lecturer. Jones actively supported the series until it ended in 1995. A lead gift of $12,500 in June from Farm Credit Mid-America was the first step toward endowing the lecture series, which will now also carry the congressman's late wife's name.

The event is open to the public at a cost of $25 per person. The reservation deadline is September 27. Donations can also be made to the Ed Jones Gift Fund, which supports the university's Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series. Registrations and donations can be made through the UT Martin Office of Development, 329 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238, or call 731-881-7620. Gifts to the lecture series fund can also be made online at www.utmforever.com/jones.

FATHER'S MATTER — This week's spotlight shines on Michael Spaulding and his son, Cade, who is in the fourth grade. When Cade's dad isn't teaching in a UTM classroom, there's a good chance that he is spending time with his family. Spaulding enjoys teaching at the university level, but what he enjoys most is spending time being a dad to Cade and his four-year-old little brother. On this particular afternoon, he was with Cade at his football practice while his wife was at their younger son's soccer practice. Spaulding has the right idea about the importance of a father's presence in his children's lives. The Martin Housing Authority recognizes Mr. Spaulding for demonstrating his commitment to his children and his family because fathers matter.

KIWANIS SPEAKER — UT Martin Visual and Theatre Arts Department chair Doug Cook recently spoke to the Martin Kiwanis Club about the newly-renovated Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus. Learn more about the Kiwanis club at martinkiwanisclub.org or check out their Facebook page.
UT Martin hosts 3rd Annual FCA Sports Extravaganza

The third annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes and University of Tennessee at Martin sports extravaganza was recently held on the UT Martin campus on Saturday, August 17.

The half-day event allowed for children in kindergarten through ninth grade to choose any UT Martin sport and receive instructions from the coaches and student athletes of their respective sports. In addition to receiving athletic instruction and a free t-shirt, UT Martin FCA members shared devotional and inspirational talks to the 335 participants at no charge.

Participants were able to choose from the sports of football, men’s and women’s basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, rodeo, equestrian, golf and volleyball. The event closed with a meal provided by MTD by on "It’s a blessing to work with a staff and a community of volunteers who are willing to donate their time to this event," said UT Martin director of athletics Phil Dane. "Over 300 young people were introduced to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes ministry, and we hope a seed was planted by Taino’s testimony that will cause some of them to follow his advice for their lives."

Over 320 children from all over West Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky enjoyed a day of individual sports clinics from each UTM athletic program, as well as hearing testimonies from UT Martin student athletes and members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes," said Todd Hampton, chairman of the Martin FCA leadership board of directors. "It took many selfless individuals and businesses to put on such an event. In addition to all the coaches, staff, and administrators at UTM, the MTD cook team provided lunch to the campers. Pepsi Mid-America provided the drinks, and many local businesses and individuals made donations of time and money to ensure the camp’s success. As the campers left, each received an FCA T-shirt and Bible.

HOMECOMING — Students at the University of Tennessee at Martin dressed up for the fun and festivities at last year’s homecoming events. Homecoming 2013 kicks off Sept. 30 and goes through Oct. 6. The theme is "A Roarin’ Good Time."

UTM Reed Center offers course

The UT Martin Reed Center is offering a course for small business owners on banking, financing and lending options Oct. 15.

The course will be held at the Reed Center and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), located at 406 S. Lindell St.

Registration is required for the course. For more information or registration, call 731-587-7333, or visit www.utm.edu/reed or www.tsvbdc.org.
‘A Roarin’ Good Time’
Schedule of events set for UT Martin’s Homecoming

The University of Tennessee at Martin, led by the office of alumni relations, will take alumni, friends and students back in time when it celebrates Homecoming 2013 with its theme “A Roarin’ Good Time” Sept. 30 to Oct. 6.

While the social and cultural features known as the Roaring Twenties began in the big cities such as Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, Paris and London, memories have always been made in Martin on the UT Martin campus.

Homecoming 2013 will be celebrated with Quad City’s live music, reunion tents, demonstration areas, petting farm, carnival games and fellowship as a focal point from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Oct. 5 in the Quad. A new feature this year is a 250-foot zip line through Quad City.

Adding to the festivities for current UT Martin students, alumni and friends is the football game, an Ohio Valley Conference tilt between UT Martin and perennial foe Jacksonville State, at 2 p.m. Oct. 5 at Hardy M. Graham Stadium. The game is surrounded by traditional homecoming activities that include rope pull, the pyramid building competition and the Greek Step Show.

The following is a complete schedule of events:

**Monday, Sept. 30**
4 p.m. — Rope pull, by Pacer Pond

**Tuesday, Oct. 1**
4 p.m. — Rope pull, by Pacer Pond
7 p.m. — Lip sync show, northwest corner of Elam Center

**Wednesday, Oct. 2**
4 p.m. — Rope pull, by Pacer Pond

**Thursday, Oct. 3**
4 p.m. — Rope pull, by Pacer Pond
7 p.m. — Public Relations Student Society of America’s Womanless Beauty Revue, Boling University Center, Watkins Auditorium

**Friday, Oct. 4**
3 p.m. — Rhodes Golf Center dedication
3:30 p.m. — Rope pull championships, by Pacer Pond
5 p.m. — Ed Jones Agricultural Hall of Fame Reception and Dinner, Boling University Center, Duncan Ballroom
7 p.m. — Volleyball match vs. Jacksonville State, Skyhawk Fieldhouse
7 p.m. — Soccer match vs. Tennessee Tech, Skyhawk Soccer Field
7 p.m. — Pyramid and pep rally, Elam Center ($2 per person charge)
7:30 p.m. — University Choirs Dessert Evening, Fine Arts Building

**Saturday, Oct. 5**
7:30 a.m. — Letterwinner’s Breakfast and Hall of Fame Inductions, Elam Center concourse
10 a.m. — Sorority Lodge dedication, 247 West Peach St.
10:30 a.m. — Quad City Rally, Elam Center
11 a.m. — Football team’s Skyhawk Walk, Quad near Paul Meek Library
2 p.m. — Football game vs. Jacksonville State, Hardy M. Graham Stadium
5 p.m. — Campus Recreation former employee reunion, Student Recreation Center
5:30 p.m. — Black Alumni Reception, Boling University Center, Duncan Ballroom
5:30 p.m. — Softball Reunion, Bettye Giles Field
7 p.m. — Young Alumni Reception, Opera House
7 p.m. — NPHC Greek Step Show, Elam Center
7:30 p.m. — University Choirs Dessert Evening, Fine Arts Building

**Sunday, Oct. 6**
10 a.m. — Walk in the Quad
10:30 a.m. — Homecoming Brunch, Boling University Center
Chip Pinion joins county's planning commission

Written by Scott Broden The Daily News Journal
Sep. 23

About Chip Pinion

Public position: Rutherford County Regional Planning Commissioner
Career: a systems control supervisor for Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation who oversees the utility grid and sends out repair crews to restore power for customers; has worked with utility since 2006
Age: 36
Education: graduated from Union City High School in West Tennessee and earned an engineering degree from University of Tennessee at Martin
Family: wife, Mandy Vaughn Pinion; daughter, 8-year-old Paige; son, 5-month-old Tryson; father, a former member of the Tennessee House of Representatives, serving constituents from Union City and Obion County in West Tennessee
Community involvement: has served as assistant girls basketball coach at Middle Tennessee Christian School and Riverdale High; attends Fosterville Church of Christ

MURFREESBORO — Chip Pinion hopes to carry on the public service lessons he learned from his father as the newest member of the Rutherford County Regional Planning Commission.

"I really enjoy helping people, and that's the way I was raised," said Pinion, a Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation electrical engineering manager whose father, Phillip Pinion, served in the Tennessee House of Representatives as a Democrat for 20 years for Union City and Obion County constituents in West Tennessee. "I wanted to give back something to Rutherford County."

The Rutherford County Commission recently confirmed adding Chip Pinion to the planning commission based on the nomination of Mayor Ernest Burgess, who is a Republican.

The new planning commissioner joins a governing body that has authority over construction plans for areas outside the cities of the fast-growing county, such as past approval of the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro on Vails Road of Bradyville Pike.

The planning commissioners also provide recommendations for rezoning requests for land-use development rights for the county commission, which has final authority on zoning, such as when the never-built Bible Park USA was debated and tied into a lawsuit in 2008.

Burgess said he learned about Pinion being a good candidate based on the recommendation of long-time Planning Commissioner Craig Lynch.

The mayor noted that he also talked to the 36-year-old Pinion before nominating him to serve on the planning commission.
“He’s a competent young engineer that I think will be an asset to the planning commission,” Burgess said. “We had a good discussion. I think he’s very mature for his age, and I look forward to him working with us.”

The mayor said he also talked to fellow Planning Commissioner and County Commissioner Will Jordan, who also serves on the utility board that employs Pinion.

Pinion accepted a four-year term for a seat that Lynch had occupied. Lynch decided to apply for seat vacated by former Planning Commissioner Richie Bolin and complete the final two-years for that term.

Contact Scott Broden at 615-278-5158 or sbroden@dnj.com. Follow him on Twitter @ScottBroden.
UTM nursing professor plays extra in ABC's 'Nashville'

TV ROLE — Dr. Julie Floyd, a nursing professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, plays an extra in ABC's 'Nashville.' Floyd has been a nursing instructor at UT Martin since 1998.

Dr. Julie Floyd has always been professional and conservative. She has been instructing nursing courses at the University of Tennessee at Martin since 1998. She has taught courses in health assessment, issues in nursing and mental health nursing and trends. Her length of tenure and her course load both suggest professional and conservative.

When a good friend of Floyd's called and urged her to send her bio and picture to 'Nashville,' the television show, because the show was looking for professional and conservative nurse extras, she promptly did so.

Floyd was out of her office during spring break and missed a call from the show's casting director.

"Fortunately, the casting director called back on a Friday in June to see if I would play a 'real nurse' on the show. The caller said he would send me an email on Monday with the details, what to wear and what time to be there," she said.

Floyd left Weakley County for Nashville about 4:30 a.m. July 23, a Tuesday, for her casting call.

"There was no need to set an alarm for 4:30 because I was up most of the night filled with anticipation and excitement," she said.

She arrived at one of Vanderbilt's central parking garages about 7:50 a.m. and followed the signs. She didn't have to wait too long and a van pulled up. She climbed in and introduced herself to a man named Justin who drove her to "base camp," where all the actors' trailers, wardrobe, make-up, etc., were located.

"I was excited," Floyd said. "I felt like I was on the set of a movie. I was close — I was on the set of 'Nashville.'"

Once at base camp, a large parking lot with one security guard at the helm, Floyd was instructed to fill out an I-9 tax form since she was getting paid for her efforts and time.

"Of course, the money wasn't the issue. I mean, I would have done it for free to get a glimpse of Deacon — who, incidentally, is not as attractive as my husband," she said.

After Floyd filled out the appropriate paperwork, Justin instructed her to go sit on the back of the wardrobe trailer and wait.

"Justin looks like he needs a cup, no a gallon, of coffee — make that espresso," she said.

As she sat in wardrobe waiting, Floyd saw Kimberly Williams-Paisley, singer Brad Paisley's wife, who plays Peggy, and Connie Britton, who plays Rayna. Both actresses were nice and smiled and waved at Floyd, who had already been instructed not to approach the celebrities or take pictures of them. Floyd also met a belly double, or a stand-in, and
another extra.
Not long after Britton entered the lot, the wardrobe lady came out and gave Floyd and others instructions.
"She told us to go change in the bathroom and let her know so she can approve," Floyd said. "Scrubs for me, street clothes for the man visitor and a hospital gown for the belly double."
Floyd and the others were then chauffeured, in a van, to the set at Vanderbilt Medical Center.
"They pull me outside on the rooftop overlooking the city, including the Batman building (AT&T building)," Floyd said. "Another nurse from the Vanderbilt ER joins me and we are instructed to sit on a bench."
For more than an hour, the crew worked on setting the scene for Rayna and Lamar, Rayna's father.
"It was blazing hot. So much for make-up and hair," Floyd said.
All of a sudden the noise grew louder. The crew started talking on their radios. Floyd heard, "They are on their way."
Once everyone was in place, the actors were on the rooftop for more than an hour doing a 30-second shoot. "All the lighting, all the extras ... for a few seconds of the show," Floyd said. "You may catch a glimpse of the back of my head for this scene."
Floyd said she was able to watch a scene with Rayna on life-support while Teddy, her character's husband, and Lamar discussed her prognosis.
"The extras were told to walk up and down the hall like we were patients and nurses in the hospital. We stayed on this scene for hours and finally we were told we could eat," Floyd said. "We got to eat what

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

### Nurse

**From Page 1**

they called lunch at 5:30 p.m.

The last scene of the day involved the character Juliette, Teddy and Rayna's older daughter, in the lobby of the hospital.

"Again, the extras were walking in the background," she said. "I was able to leave around 11 p.m."

Floyd said she had fun, but it was an exhausting day. Her only regret or disappointment was Deacon not being in any of the scenes they filmed.

"I realize this opportunity was something I will only do once in a lifetime," she said. "This day was only eight minutes of the first episode for the season. It made me realize how grate-

### UT Martin offers Holocaust travel study experience

The University of Tennessee at Martin will be offering a spring history course that includes a trip May 12-25 to Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland.

The travel study is a cooperative venture between UT Martin and Rhodes College.

The tour is an undergraduate course credit for three hours, and pre-departure meetings will be held during the spring semester.

Students will travel to Berlin and Dresden, Germany, Prague, Czech Republic and Cracow and Warsaw, Poland.

The tour will visit Holocaust memorials, former concentration and death camps, Jewish ghettos, national historic sites, museums, churches and other cultural landmarks.

The tour faculty will include: Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, department of history at UT Martin, and Dr. Stephen R. Haynes, department of religious studies professor at Rhodes College.

For more information, contact Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls at accarls@utm.edu.
Fans who watch the season premiere of ABC's "Nashville" this week may catch a glimpse of University of Tennessee at Martin nursing professor Julie Floyd.

Floyd has instructed nursing courses at UTM since 1998. A good friend of hers called and urged her to send her bio and picture to "Nashville" because the show was looking for "professional and conservative" extras to play nurses, according to a news release.

Floyd was out of her office during spring break and missed a call from the show's casting director.

"Fortunately the casting director called back on a Friday in June to see if I would play a 'real nurse' on the show," Floyd said in the release. "The caller said he would send me an email on Monday with the details, what to wear and what time to be there."

Floyd left Weakley County for Nashville about 4:30 a.m. July 23 for her casting call.

"There was no need to set an alarm for 4:30 because I was up most of the night filled with anticipation and excitement," she said.

She arrived at Vanderbilt's central parking garage about 7:50 a.m. and followed the signs. She didn't have to wait too long before a van pulled up. She climbed in and introduced herself to Justin, who drove her to "base camp" where all the actors' trailers, wardrobe, make-up, etc. are located.

"I was excited," Floyd said.

See EXTRA, Page A5

Extra

Continued from Page A3

"I felt like I was on the set of a movie. I was close — I was on the set of 'Nashville.'"

Once at base camp, a large parking lot with one security guard at the helm, Floyd was instructed to fill out an I-9 tax form since she was getting paid for her efforts and time.

"Of course, the money wasn't the issue — I mean I would have done it for free to get a glimpse of Deacon (played by Charles Esten) — who incidentally is not as attractive as my husband." As she sat in the wardrobe trailer waiting, Floyd saw Kimberly Williams-Paisley, wife of Brad Paisley, who plays Peggy on the show, and Connie Britton, who stars as Rayna. Floyd said both actresses were nice and smiled and waved at her. She had already been instructed not to approach the celebrities or take pictures of them.

Not long after Britton entered the lot, a woman gave Floyd and other extras instructions on wardrobe.

"She told us to go change in the bathroom and let her know so she can approve," Floyd said. "Scrubs for me; street clothes for the man visitor and a hospital gown for the belly double."

Floyd and the others were then chauffeured, in a van, to the set at Vanderbilt hospital. "They pull me outside on the rooftop overlooking the city, including the Batman Building (AT&T Building)," Floyd said. "Another nurse from the Vanderbilt ER joins me and we are instructed to sit on a bench."

For more than an hour the crew worked on setting the scene for the characters of Rayna and Lamar (Rayna's father). "It was blazing hot, so much for make-up and hair," Floyd said.

All of a sudden the noise grew louder. The crew started talking on their radios. Floyd heard, "They are on their way."

Once everyone was in place, the actors were on the rooftop for more than an hour to shoot a 30-second scene.

"All the lighting, all the extras... for a few seconds of the show," Floyd said. "You may catch a glimpse of the back of my head for this scene."

Floyd said she was able to watch a scene with Rayna on life-support while Teddy (her husband) and Lamar discussed her prognosis.

"The extras were told to walk up and down the hall like we were patients and nurses in the hospital. We stayed on this scene for hours, and finally we were told we could eat," Floyd said. "We got to eat what they called lunch at 5:30 p.m."

The last scene of the day involved Juliette, Teddy and Rayna's older daughter in the lobby of the hospital.

"Again, the extras were walking in the background," Floyd said. "I was able to leave around 11 p.m."

Floyd said she had fun, but it was an exhausting day. Her only regret or disappointment was Deacon was not in any of the scenes they filmed.

"I realize this opportunity was something I will only do once in a lifetime," she said. "This day was only eight minutes of the first episode for the season. It made me realize how grateful I am to be a real nurse and not a Hollywood extra."

The season premiere of "Nashville" airs at 9 p.m. Wednesday, which is also Floyd's birthday.
Jones to be remembered

Longtime 8th District U.S. Rep. Ed Jones left many lasting marks on Tennessee’s and the nation’s agriculture. For his accomplishments, the late congressman was honored in 2011, as he became only the 13th member of the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame.

On Oct. 4, the University of Tennessee at Martin will honor this achievement with a reception and banquet as part of 2013 Homecoming Week. A reception is set for 5 p.m. in the Paul Meek Library where a replica of the congressman’s office is maintained and his congressional papers are held. A dinner and program will follow in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center. Retired U.S. Rep. John Tanner, who succeeded Jones, is the keynote speaker.

The event is open to the public at a cost of $25 per person. The reservation deadline is Friday. Donations can also be made to the Ed Jones Gift Fund, which supports the university’s Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series. Registrations and donations can be made through the UT Martin Office of Development, 329 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238 or call (731) 881-7620. Gifts to the lecture series fund can also be made online at www.utmforever.com/jones.

Jones, a Yorkville native, earned a two-year degree in 1932 from UT Junior College, predecessor to UT Martin, and a bachelor’s degree in 1934 from UT Knoxville. During his career, he served as a state dairy inspector, an agricultural agent for the Illinois Central Railroad, a farm radio host and was appointed Tennessee commissioner of agriculture under Gov. Gordon Browning. He is probably best known for his service from 1969-89 as U.S. representative, and he remained active in his family’s farm throughout his career.

While in Congress, Jones was a senior member of the House Committee on Agriculture during a time of change in the agriculture industry and the institutions that supported it. Notable events that occurred during his career were the Farm Strike and Tractorcade to Washington, D.C., the financial struggles of the Farm Credit System, the regulation of the futures market, and the transition of the soil and water conservation programs.

Local Professor Lands Job As Extra on "Nashville"

By Laura Bannon
By lbannon@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Sep 24, 2013 at 8:07 PM CDT
(Story Updated: Sep 24, 2013 at 7:41 PM CDT)

MARTIN, Tenn. – A UT Martin nursing professor made a special cameo on the season premiere of ABC’s hit show “Nashville” Wednesday.

It was never a dream for Dr. Julie Floyd to be in the spotlight or to ever be on television. She is a professor, and says she enjoys working with her students and caring for others.

“I have always loved to take care of people and that’s really the reason why I wanted to be a nurse because I’ve helped take care of my grandmother,” Dr. Floyd said. “I’ve just had a calling to do that.”

All it took was a phone call from a “Nashville” producer asking her to be an extra to change Dr. Floyd’s mind.

Dr. Floyd says since the start of the show in 2012, she has been an avid viewer and watched religiously.

“I was very excited I really didn’t know what I was expecting because I’ve never been on TV before,” Dr Floyd said. 

In the casting email it was requested for applicants that were “professional and conservative nurses” Dr Floyd said she believes producers asked for real nurses because the first eight minutes of the premiere starts in a hospital.

Dr. Floyd is hard to find in the scene, but she promises it was her in the background working with patients.

“I was not star struck at all,” Dr. Floyd said. “The actors and actresses were super nice and down-to-earth I had a fun day [and it’s] a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

In the end, Dr. Floyd said it was an exciting adventure and something she will always remember. The experience though, isn’t enough to make her want to go into acting. Nursing is where her heart is.

“It does feel good, but honestly the feeling of being on the show doesn’t compare to taking care of a family or a patient it just doesn’t,” Dr. Floyd said. “I mean it, I am sincere when I say that having a light bulb go off for a student and having them understand something.”
Kiwanis Speaker

University of Tennessee at Martin Athletic Director, Phil Dane, spoke to the Martin Kiwanis Club on Wednesday, August 7th, about the new football press box and grandstand project.

UT Martin REED Center offers ‘So You Want to Start a Business’ Seminar

Landy Fuqua, the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneur and Economic Development (REED) Center and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center certified business counselor, will host a seminar designed for individuals who are just getting started and have never before owned or operated a small business.

Topics included in this session include a discussion of successful business ownership traits; assessment of the business idea; and some of the “mechanics” of establishing a business, such as forms of business ownership, insurance, business planning and obtaining financing. Sources for information gathering, research and available databases are also discussed.

The meeting, “So You Want to Start a Business,” is set from 5:00-7:00 p.m., Monday, October 7, at the McKenzie City Hall Conference Room.

To make reservations, which are required, call McKenzie City Hall at 731-352-2292. This seminar is free of charge.

Fuqua has been with the REED Center for six years and attained director designation in 2011. She has more than 20 years experience as the owner and operator of two small businesses in Northwest Tennessee. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she is currently earning her M.B.A.

UT Martin REED Center offers small businesses banking course

The UT Martin Reed Center is offering a course for small business owners on banking, financing, and lending options on Tuesday, October 15, 2013. The course will be held at the Reed Center and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), located at 406 S. Lindell Street in Martin. Registration is required for the course.

For more information or registration, call 731-587-7333, or visit www.utm.edu/reed or www.tsbdc.org.
Dr. Julie Floyd

Dr. Julie Floyd has always been professional and conservative. She has been instructing nursing courses at the University of Tennessee at Martin since 1998. She has taught courses on health assessment, issues in nursing and mental health nursing and trends. Her length of tenure and her course load both suggest professional and conservative.

When a good friend of Floyd’s called and urged her to send her bio and picture to “Nashville,” the television show, because the show was looking for professional and conservative nurse extras, she promptly did so.

Floyd was out of her office during spring break and missed a call from the show’s casting director.

“Fortunately the casting director called back on a Friday in June to see if I would play a “real nurse” on the show. The caller said he would send me an email on Monday with the details, what to wear and what time to be there.”

Floyd left Weakley County for Nashville about 4:30 in the morning on Tuesday, July 23, for her casting call. “There was no need to set an alarm for 4:30 because I was up most of the night filled with anticipation and excitement,” she said.

She arrived at one of at Vanderbilt’s central parking garage, about 7:50 a.m., and followed the signs. She didn’t have to wait too long and a van pulled up. She climbed in and introduced herself to Justin who drove her to “base camp” where all the actors’ trailers, wardrobe, make-up, etc., were located. “I was excited,” Floyd said. “I felt like I was on the set of a movie. I was close - I was on the set of ‘Nashville.’”

Once at base camp, a large parking lot with one security guard at the helm, Floyd was instructed to fill out an I-9 tax form since she was getting paid for her efforts and time.

“How many, the money wasn’t the issue - I mean I would have done it for free to get a glimpse of Deacon - who incidentally is not as attractive as my husband.”

After Floyd filled out the appropriate paper work, Justin instructed her to go sit on the back of the wardrobe trailer and wait. “Justin looks like he needs a cup, no a gallon of coffee... make that espresso.”

As she sat in wardrobe waiting, Floyd sees Peggy, Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Brad’s wife, and Rayna, Connie Britton. Both actresses were nice and smiled and waved at Floyd, who had already been instructed not to approach the celebrities or take pictures of them. Floyd also met a belly double or a stand in and another extra.

Not long after Britton entered the lot, the wardrobe lady came out and gave Floyd and others instructions. “She told us to go change in the bathroom and let her know so she can approve,” Floyd said. “Scrubs for me, street clothes for the man visitor and a hospital gown for the belly double.”

Floyd and the others were then chauffeured, in a van, to the set at Vanderbilt hospital. “They pull me outside on the rooftop overlooking the city, including the Batman Building (AT&T Building),” Floyd said. “Another nurse from the Vanderbilt ER joins me and we are instructed to sit on a bench.”

For more than an hour the crew worked on setting the scene for Rayna and Lamar (Rayna’s father). “It was blazing hot, so much for make-up and hair,” Floyd said.

All of a sudden the noise grew louder. The crew started talking on their radios. Floyd heard, “they are on their way.” Once every one was in place, the actors were on the rooftop for more than an hour doing a 30-second shoot.

“All the lighting, all the extras... for a few seconds of the show,” Floyd said. “You may catch a glimpse of the back of my head for this scene.”

Floyd said she was able to watch a scene with Rayna on life-support while Teddly (her husband) and Lamas discussed her prognosis. “The extras were told to walk up and down the hall like we were patients and nurses in the hospital. We stayed on this scene for hours and finally we were told we could eat,” Floyd said. “We got to eat what they called lunch at 5:30 p.m.”

The last scene of the day involved Juliette, Teddly and Rayna’s older daughter in the lobby of the hospital. “Again, the extras were walking in the background. “I was able to leave around 11 p.m.”

Floyd said she had fun, but it was an exhausting day. Her only regret or disappointment was Deacon was not in any of the scenes they filmed.

“I realize this opportunity was something I will only do once in a lifetime,” she said. “This day was only eight minutes of the first episode for the season. It made me realize how grateful I am to be a real nurse and not a Hollywood extra.”

The season premier of “Nashville” is Wednesday, September 25, at 8:00 p.m. on ABC (WBBJ-Jackson).

By the way, Floyd’s birthday is Wednesday, Sept. 25. “There is no greater blessing than to be able to truly care for people and not just entertain them,” she said.
Courtney Jackson of Bradford is a new lst grade intervention teacher at Stigall Primary School. A 2008 graduate of Bradford High School, she went on to obtain a degree in education at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Her goals are to mold and shape her students into model citizens, be the best educator she can be for her students, create a positive, nurturing environment for all her students to achieve their maximum potential and to motivate and inspire her students to be lifelong learners.

When asked about her inspiration to teach, Jackson said, "During my educational years, I have had a handful of teachers that I will forever remember. I will remember these teachers because they believed and instilled in me that I could do whatever I set my mind to. These teachers inspired me to get where I am at today."

She went on to add, "As a teacher I will do the same for my students." She sees her biggest challenge in reaching every student's maximal potential to excel.

UT Martin Presents ECHO 360 Webinar on Active Learning Online

Active learning online is a buzz phrase for getting faculty lectures to students before they come to class, so the class can be an engagement center for students asking about lectures they've already heard, and presumably studied. University of Tennessee at Martin instructional technology designer Harriette Spiegel is involved in an ECHO 360 webinar open to all, free, this Thursday at 1 p.m. It is targeted specifically to supporting STEM classrooms.

The Echo 360 webinar is open to all this Thursday, September 26, at 1 p.m. Register for the webinar, that demonstrates how the University of Tennessee at Martin is expanding STEM instruction to students in rural areas, at this URL.
UT Martin nursing professor plays nurse extra on TV show

Sometimes life imitates art.

This time, art is imitating life.

Dr. Julie Floyd has been instructing nursing courses at the University of Tennessee at Martin since 1998. She has taught courses on health assessment, issues in nursing and mental health nursing and trends.

When a good friend of Dr. Floyd’s called and urged her to send her biographical picture to the television show “Nashville” — because the show was looking for professional and conservative nurse extras — she promptly did so.

Dr. Floyd was out of her office during spring break and missed a call from the show’s casting director.

“Fortunately, the casting director called back on a Friday in June to see if I would play a ‘real nurse’ on the show. The caller said he would send me an email on Monday with the details, what to wear and what time to be there,” she said.

Dr. Floyd left Weakley County for Nashville about 4:30 a.m. July 23, a Tuesday, for her casting call.

“There was no need to set an alarm for 4:30 because I was up most of the night filled with anticipation and excitement,” she said.

She arrived at one of Vanderbilt’s central parking garages about 7:50 a.m. and followed the signs.

She didn’t have to wait too long and a van pulled up. She climbed in and introduced herself to a man named Justin who drove her to “base camp,” where all the actors’ trailers, wardrobe, makeup, etc., were located.

“I was excited,” Dr. Floyd said. “I felt like I was on the set of a movie. I was close — I was on the set of ‘Nashville’.”

Once at base camp, a large parking lot with one security guard at the helm, Dr. Floyd was instructed to fill out an I-9 tax form since she was getting paid for her efforts and time.

“Of course, the money wasn’t the issue. I mean, I would have done it for free to get to see a glimpse of Deacon — who, incidentally, is not as attractive as my husband,” she said.

After Dr. Floyd filled out the appropriate paperwork, Justin instructed her to go sit on the back of the wardrobe trailer and wait.

“Justin looks like he needs a cup, no a gallon, of coffee — make that espresso,” she said.

As she sat in wardrobe waiting, Dr. Floyd saw Kimberly Williams-Paisley, singer Brad Paisley’s wife, who plays Peggy, and Connie Britton, who plays Rayna.

Both actresses were nice and smiled and waved at Dr. Floyd, who had already been instructed not to approach the celebrities or take pictures of them. She also met a belly double, or a stand-in, and another extra.

Not long after Britton entered the lot, the wardrobe lady came out and gave Dr. Floyd and others instructions.

“She told us to go change in the bathroom and let her know so she can approve,” Dr. Floyd said. “Scrubs for me, street clothes for the man visitor and a hospital gown for the belly double.”

Dr. Floyd and the others were then chauffeured, in a van, to the set at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

“They pull me outside on the rooftop overlooking the city, including the Batman building (AT&T building),” she said.

“Another nurse from Vanderbilt ER joins me and we are instructed to sit on a bench.”

For more than an hour, the crew worked on setting the scene for Rayna and Lamar, Rayna’s father.

“It was blazing hot. So much for make-up and hair,” Dr. Floyd said.

All of a sudden the noise grew louder. The crew started talking on their radios.

Dr. Floyd heard, “They are on their way.”

Once everyone was in place, the actors were on the rooftop for more than an hour doing a 30-second shoot. “All the lighting, all the extras — for a few seconds of the show,” Dr. Floyd said. “You may catch a glimpse of the back of my head for this scene.”

Dr. Floyd said she was able to watch a scene with Rayna on life-support while Teddy, her character’s husband, and Lamar discussed her prognosis.

“The extras were told to walk up and down the hallway like we were patients and nurses in the hospital. We stayed on this scene for hours and finally we were told we could eat,” Dr. Floyd said. “We got to eat what they called lunch at 5:30 p.m.”

The last scene of the day involved the character Juliette, Teddy and Rayna’s older daughter, in the lobby of the hospital.

“Again, the extras were walking in the background,” she said. “I was able to leave around 11 p.m.”

Dr. Floyd said she had fun, but it was an exhausting day. Her only regret or disappointment was Deacon not being in any of the scenes they filmed.

“I realize this opportunity was something I will only do once in a lifetime,” she said. “This day was only eight minutes of the first episode for the season. It made me realize how grateful I am to be a real nurse and not a Hollywood extra.”

The season premier of “Nashville” is tonight at 8 on ABC (WBBJ-Jackson). Incidentally, today is also Dr. Floyd’s birthday.

“There is no greater blessing than to be able to truly care for people and not just entertain them,” she added.
Homecoming set on UTM campus

The University of Tennessee at Martin, led by the office of alumni relations, will take alumni, friends and students back in time when it celebrates Homecoming 2013. Events will run Monday through Oct. 6 and the theme will be "A Roarin' Good Time."

Homecoming 2013 will be celebrated with Quad City's live music, reunion tents, demonstration areas, petting farm, carnival games and fellowship as a focal point Oct. 5 in the Quad.

A new feature this year is a 250-foot zip line through Quad City.

Adding to the festivities will be the football game, an Ohio Valley Conference tilt between UT Martin and perennial conference foe Jacksonville State, at 2 p.m. Oct. 5 at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

The complete schedule of events includes:

**Monday**
- 4 p.m. — Rope pull, by Pacer Pond

**Tuesday**
- 4 p.m. — Rope pull, by Pacer Pond
- 7 p.m. — Lip sync show, northwest corner of Elam Center

Oct. 2
- 4 p.m. — Rope pull, by Pacer Pond

Oct. 3
- 4 p.m. — Rope pull, by Pacer Pond
- 7 p.m. — Public Relations Student Society of America's Womanless Beauty Revue, Boling University Center, Watkins Auditorium

Oct. 4
- 3 p.m. — Rhodes Golf Center dedication
- 3:30 p.m. — Rope pull championships, by Pacer Pond
- 5 p.m. — Ed Jones Agricultural Hall of Fame Reception and Dinner, Boling University Center, Duncan Ballroom
- 7 p.m. — Volleyball match vs. Jacksonville State, Skyhawk Fieldhouse
- 7 p.m. — Soccer match vs. Tennessee Tech, Skyhawk Soccer Field
- 7 p.m. — Pyramid and pep rally, Elam Center ($2 per person charge)
- 7:30 p.m. — University Choirs Dessert Evening, Fine Arts Building

Oct. 5
- 7:30 a.m. — Letterwinners Breakfast and Hall of Fame Inductions, Elam Center concourse
- 10 a.m. — Sorority Lodge dedication, 247 West Peach St.
- 10:30 a.m. — Quad City
- 11 a.m. — Football team's Skyhawk Walk, Quad near Paul Meek Library
- 2 p.m. — Football game vs. Jacksonville State, Hardy M. Graham Stadium
- 5 p.m. — Campus Recreation former employee reunion, Student Recreation Center
- 5:30 p.m. — Black Alumni Reception, Boling University Center, Duncan Ballroom
- 5:30 p.m. — Softball Reunion, Bettye Giles Field
- 7 p.m. — Young Alumni Reception, Opera House
- 7 p.m. — NPHC Greek Step Show, Elam Center
- 7:30 p.m. — University Choirs Dessert Evening, Fine Arts Building

Oct. 6
- 10 a.m. — Walk in the Quad
- 10:30 a.m. — Homecoming Brunch, Boling University Center.

Ed Jones tribute
Oct. 4 at UTM

Congressional pages and staff members of the late Tennessee U.S. Rep. Ed Jones are invited to an event honoring the longtime congressman Oct. 4 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Jones will be honored by the university for his induction in 2011 as only the 13th member of the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame.

A reception is set for 5 p.m. in the Paul Meek Library, where a replica of the congressman's office is maintained and his congressional papers are held. A dinner and program will follow in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center. Retired U.S. Rep. John Tanner, who succeeded Jones, is the keynote speaker. Pages and other staff members who worked with Jones are encouraged to register and attend the event.

The event is open to the public at a cost of $25 per person. The reservation deadline is this Friday. Donations can also be made to the Ed Jones Gift Fund, which supports the university's Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series.

Registrations and donations can be made through the UT Martin Office of Development, 329 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238, or call (731) 881-7620. Gifts to the lecture series fund can also be made online at www.utmforever.com/jones.
HELPING OTHERS –
Top: University of Tennessee at Martin graduate student Jenna Miller (left) talks with Lifeline Blood Services employee John McCarley as she donates blood during the 2013 Blood Battle at UTM's Boling University Center on Tuesday. Center: The Lifeline bloodmobile remained on the UTM campus through Wednesday. Bottom: UT Martin freshman Destinee Ellison (right) is helped by Lifeline Blood Services employee Vickie Cooper as she donates blood during the 2013 Blood Battle. Last year UTM collected 394 units of blood, and over the past 18 years has contributed 6,177 units of blood through the Blood Battle. (Photos by Nathan Morgan/UTM University Relations)
Japanese diplomat visits UT Martin

Motohiko Kato, a consulate general of Japan stationed in Nashville, spoke to students and faculty Wednesday morning at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Kato has been a diplomat for Japan for 30 years and has been on the post in Nashville for about 10 months. He spoke for about an hour. The title of his presentation was “New Challenges for Peace and Security in East Asia: Perspectives from the U.S.-Japan Partnership.”

The Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville has jurisdiction over five states in the South – Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Diplomat Visit — Motohiko Kato speaks to students Wednesday morning at the University of Tennessee at Martin. (Photo by Raffe Lazarian)
Honored Graduates at UT-Martin Homecoming

September 26th, 2013 - By Charles Choate

Two alumni and two friends will be honored as part of the UT Martin Homecoming activities for September 30 thru Oct. 6.

The award recipients will be recognized during the homecoming game against Jacksonville State at 2:00 on October 5th, at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

This year’s award recipients are:

Cade Cowan, Outstanding Young Alumni Award, given in recognition of outstanding achievement in his chosen profession (the recipient must not be more than 40 years of age);

Dr. Renee Bailey Iacona, Outstanding Alumni Award, given to an alumnus or alumna in recognition of outstanding achievement in his/her chosen profession;

Jim and Janet Ayers, Chancellor’s Award for University Service, given in recognition of outstanding service to UT Martin.

Cowan is a 1994, summa cum laude graduate of UT Martin.

A native of Gordonsville, he attended UT Martin as a University Scholar majoring in economics in the School of Business.

Additionally, he served as Student Government Association (SGA) president, vice president of Kappa Alpha Order, and perhaps most memorably donned the Pacer Pete mascot uniform for two years.

At graduation he was awarded the Paul and Martha Meek Achievement Award.

Currently, Cowan is a managing partner of the leadership development practice for Pivot Leadership, a consulting firm that equips senior leaders of Fortune 100 companies to more effectively execute their organizational strategies.
During his career, he’s worked in 31 countries on five continents with leaders from companies such as Microsoft, Walmart, Johnson & Johnson, Aetna and HP.

In addition to his degree from UT Martin, Cowan holds a master’s degree in organizational and social psychology from Columbia University in New York.

Iacona graduated from UT Martin in 1991, with a bachelor’s degree in biology as a University Scholars graduate. At UT Martin, she served as a resident assistant, biology laboratory instructor, held many leadership positions for Alpha Delta Pi and was awarded the Greek Woman of the Year Award by Panhellenic in her senior year.

After UT Martin, Iacona pursued degrees at Vanderbilt University where she received her doctorate in pathology in 1998 and a master’s degree in public health in 1999.

Iacona currently lives outside Philadelphia, where she lives with her husband, Nick Iacona. She has worked at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals since 2001, and now serves as the head of the alliance and operations office for the global biometrics function.

For Alpha Delta Pi, Iacona has continued to serve the organization since graduation from UT Martin and now serves on the Grand Council as the international vice president of alumnae membership overseeing the strategic development of the more than 220,000 alumnae members. For UT Martin, she has started a leadership endowment scholarship and is currently serving on the steering committee for building the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority lodge at UT Martin.

Because of their commitment and vision, Jim and Janet Ayers convinced the Tennessee Legislature to approve a $200,000 annual recurring state appropriation for the establishment of operation of the UT Martin Parsons Center. The Ayers also made a leadership gift of $1 million to construct the UT Martin Parsons Center.

Ayers, a native of Parsons, established the Ayers Foundation Scholarship Program in 1999, which provides up to $4,000 for four years to any Decatur County area student in need, who meets the entrance requirements and attends any Tennessee college or university, community college or state-operated technical school. Ayers’ wife, Janet, is foundation president.

Jim Ayers, the owner and chairman of the board of FirstBank, served as the honorary co-chair of The Campaign for Tennessee (UT Martin) in 2010, was a member of the UT Foundation Board and the UT Martin Campaign Steering Committee, and is a former member of the UT Development Council. His gifts to The Campaign for Tennessee largely support the UT Martin Parsons Center and the UT Martin Ayers Scholars.
The reconstruction of Hardy M. Graham Stadium on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus has been delayed until Dec. 2014, one year after the original plans called for the overhaul of the stadium.

The Graham Stadium facelift was approved by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees on June 20 and has the full support of the UT Martin administration. However, recent planning developments have dictated that the construction start date be postponed.

“We all want to see this project move forward as quickly as possible but given all the limitations and recent planning developments, this delay makes sense to me,” UT Martin director of athletics Phil Dane said.

The overhaul of Graham Stadium will transform the venue into one of the finest Football Championship Subdivision facilities in the nation and will meet all requirements to allow UT Martin to host a playoff game. The entire west side of the stadium will be replaced with new bleacher seating and a four-story building that will total approximately 21,000 square feet. The building will stretch 50 yards, from 25-yard line to 25-yard line.

Included in the building is a floor level that will include a renovated visiting locker room, referee locker rooms and a concession stand amongst other game management space.

The new bleacher seating will extend closer to the field (directly behind UT Martin’s bench), eliminating the current walkway. The entrance to each seat will now be located through tunnels from the back side of the bleachers.

The second level will be used by the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. The area will include a hospitality and event management program operated through the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. The area will also serve as an academic support function throughout the calendar school year.

The club level is located on the third floor. On football game days, the 2,637 square feet area will house donors, offering a unique perspective of the game while in the climate-controlled suite. This level also includes the Chancellor’s box and will also serve as a fresh location for banquets.

The fourth tier of the building is a state-of-the-art press box facility. This floor includes nine spots designated for use by the visiting athletics director, visiting radio and coaching staff, television production, print media/sports information staff, public address/scoreboard operator, home coaching staff, home radio and WUTM radio. The area will be highlighted by a working media area (711 square feet) which can seat up to 28 members, more than half of what the current press box holds.

“The renovation being planned will be a major boost for our students, athletes, faculty, staff and community partners who enjoy football and a range of other events that will be served in this multipurpose structure,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

The project is scheduled to be completed in time for the beginning of the 2015 Skyhawk football season. UT Martin’s home opener is tentatively set for Sept. 19, 2015 against Central Arkansas.
Pinnacle Financial Partners names Smith to board

Pinnacle Financial Partners has elected Reese Smith III, president of Henry & Smith Contractors Inc., to its board.

Smith is a native Tennessean and has operated his Nashville-based real estate development and home-building firm since graduating from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1970.

He joins 11 other business and community leaders on Pinnacle’s board. Smith was one of Pinnacle’s founders and an original director, serving on the board from 2000 to 2009.

Smith serves as a senior life director of the National Association of Home Builders, is a member of the Home Builders Association of Tennessee Hall of Fame and serves on the executive committee of the Southern League of Professional Baseball.

In addition to Pinnacle, Smith’s banking governance experience includes serving as a board member of First Union National Bank of Nashville from 1996 to 1999. He was a founder and director of Brentwood National Bank from its inception in 1991 to 1996.
A well-known Nashville historian has donated more than 1,000 postcards from his personal collection to the Paul Meek Library.

Ridley Wills the second, reportedly has a collection of more than 28,000 unduplicated postcards, with his donation to the Martin library representing photos of Martin, Greenfield, Dresden and Gleason.

The donation also included his entire collection of Lake County cards, with many highlighting Reelfoot Lake.

Wills said he began collecting as a child, storing the cards in shoeboxes at his mother’s home.

Sam Richardson, who is the UT-Martin head of Special Collections and Archives, said the postcards provide a snapshot of history that will now be preserved for future generations.

Wills is a Vanderbilt graduate, who’s family home became the Governor’s mansion in 1949.

His great grandfather was former U.S. Senator and U.S. Supreme Court Judge Howell Jackson, of Henry County.

http://www.wcmt.com/huge-postcard-donation-to-utm/