Nursing Program Receives National Ranking

Nursejournal.org has included the UT Martin nursing program as one of America’s Best Nursing Schools for the Eastern Region for 2015. The UT Martin program is ranked number 31, making it the second-highest ranked program in Tennessee, just ahead of Austin Peay State University at number 32 and the University of Memphis at number 35. Middle Tennessee State University took the top Tennessee slot.

Nursejournal.org is a social community website exclusively for nurses and health-care professionals and aims to provide educational resources for those interested in the career field. This is the first year the website has released a rankings list.

According to the website, 1,189 nursing programs were evaluated for the top-100 list. Each institution was scored in five categories: quality, affordability, convenience, satisfaction and value. Items such as NCLEX pass rates, program accreditations, graduation and retention rates, financial aid and total costs, and overall professor ratings were taken into account.

“It is always an honor for our program to be recognized, and this recognition highlights not only the integrity of our program, but also the value of public education,” said Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor and chair, Department of Nursing. “UT Martin nursing students are some of the most well-rounded, competent and adaptable graduates because of the variety of clinical experiences they obtain during our unique requirement of three years of clinical rotations.”

For more information on the nursing program, contact the department at 731-881-7131 or by email at nursing@utm.edu.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE – UT Martin nursing students Rhiannon Forrester and Taylor Swaim, both juniors from Martin, are pictured working in the university’s hands-on nursing laboratory. UT Martin’s student nurses are required to complete three years of clinical training before graduation, which sets them apart in the field.
Dr. Trisha Capansky, assistant professor, UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, and Dr. Connie Eigenmann, professor, Fort Hays State University, have a collaborative book chapter titled “Ugandan Cellular and Internet Usage: Changing Health Care and Education Needs” included in the upcoming spring edition of “Electronic Communication in Developing Countries: Explanatory Theory.” The chapter examines the changes occurring in Uganda’s population as the country continues to increase usage of information and communication technologies. Capansky and Eigenmann focus on how mobile phone and Internet access are instrumental in spreading health-care information and awareness in the country. They also worked with African students from Berea College in Kentucky and the Kuchanga Foundation of Minnesota to help determine how the development of communications networks influences other aspects of African life, such as agriculture, economic development and education.

Beth Walker, a writing consultant at the Hortense Parrish Writing Center, has recently published several works in a number of journals and textbooks. Walker’s articles on writing instruction will appear in California State University Fullerton’s 2014 teacher’s annual “Pupil: A Sourcebook for Teachers: Rhetoric and Composition” and the new paperback textbook “Practical Composition: Exercises for the English Classroom from Working Instructors” by McFarland Publishers. She has also written a chapter on the work of Natalie Goldberg in the latest volume of the hardback Salem Press series “Critical Insights: American Creative Nonfiction.” Two of Walker’s works will appear soon in the October edition of the peer-reviewed journal “The Atrium: A Journal of Academic Voices” and in the November issue of Routledge’s Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Literature series, “New Perspectives on Detective Fiction: Mystery Magnified.” Walker has also written a flash fiction titled “Just Hanging Around,” which appears in the current issue of “Storm Cellar,” a quarterly print and online journal of creative writing.

Dr. Nathan Howard, associate professor of history, presented a paper titled “Sacred Spectacle in the Lives of Gorgonia and Macrina” on Aug. 12 at the 15th International Conference on Patristic Studies at Oxford University, United Kingdom. This conference, held every four years at Oxford, brings together diverse scholars of early Christian studies from around the world.

Dr. Glenda Rakes, professor, Department of Educational Studies, co-authored a study titled “Teaching Online: Discovering Teacher Concerns,” published in the Journal of Research on Technology in Education. The research was prompted by the results of a survey published by Blackboard in 2013 reporting that K-12 teachers have a lack of interest in teaching online and are reluctant to pursue online instructional opportunities. Dr. Karee Dunn, assistant professor of educational psychology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, co-authored the study.

Don’t Forget!

All student worker positions (including workstudy) for the 2016-17 academic year must be submitted via PerfectForms before Sept. 15, even if they are already filled. Requests for additional position funding must also be submitted by that date. Contact Jennifer Hays at jhays@utm.edu or by phone at 731-881-7657 for assistance.
NEW FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF WELCOMED – New UT Martin faculty and administrative staff members were welcomed to the university at a dinner held Sept. 1 in the Dunagan Alumni Center. Pictured are (l-r, front row) Dr. Claire Dempsey, Educational Studies; Dr. Keith Dooley, Family and Consumer Sciences; Nathan Morgan, University Relations; Veronica Williams, Athletics (Administration); Leland Smith, Management, Marketing and Political Science; Shannon Perry, Student Affairs; Dr. Norma Gerrell, Educational Studies; Phillip Taylor, International Programs and International Admissions; Meghan Lupole, International Programs and International Admissions; Dr. Claire Landis, Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; Dr. Melanie Bruce, Management, Marketing and Political Science; Dr. Hyonson Hwang, Biological Sciences; (second row) Dr. Elizabeth Stratton, Educational Studies; Henrietta Giles, Communications; Dr. Robert Smith, interim chancellor; Ann Payne, Bursar’s Office; Dr. David Carithers, English and Modern Foreign Languages; Dr. Lindsay Anderson, Behavioral Sciences; Frederick Mooney, Student Affairs; Dr. Kathleen Ericson, Computer Science; Dr. Brad Buttrey, Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; Dr. Ross Pruitt, Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; Adam Clemons, Paul Meek Library; Dr. Daniel Piccolo, Music; Dr. Alexander Kofman, Biological Sciences; Hannah Stewart, University Relations; Cindy West, College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences; Dr. Verna Baron, Chemistry and Physics; Dr. Van Nguyen, Chemistry and Physics; (third row) Jared Anderson, Alumni Relations; Whitney Metz, Development; Lt. Col. J.R. Howard, Military Science and Leadership; and Capt. David Hadzima, Military Science and Leadership. New members unable to attend were Stephanie Anderson, Graduate Studies; Charles Covington, Athletics (Administration); Peter Dalton, Athletics (Track); Kevin Shell, Visual and Theatre Arts; Rachel Stephens, Student Affairs; Amanda Waldon, Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; and Jaclynn Yocum, Athletics (Volleyball).

NOTEWORTHY VISIT – Tenth District State Sen. Todd Gardenhire (R-Chattanooga) and District 23 State Rep. John Forgety (R-Athens) visited the UT Martin Parsons Center last week to see the impact the center has on the region and the state. Pictured (l-r) are Gardenhire; Jim Ayers; Janet Ayers; Ronnie Yeiser, student ambassador from Hohenwald; Shelby French, student ambassador from Lexington; Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT president; Jessica Brownyard, student ambassador from Parsons; Cary Haggard Bivens, student ambassador from Parsons; Dr. Kelli Deere, director, UT Martin Parsons Center; Forgety; and Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor.
Dr. Crystal Wolski Whitlow, retired associate professor, Department of Educational Studies, died Saturday, Sept. 5, at Henry County Medical Center. She was 64. A memorial service will be held at 5:30 p.m., Sept. 12, at the Tennessean Golf Club’s main lodge, located in Springville near Paris Landing State Park.

Whitlow came to the university in fall 2001 with teaching experience in both regular and special education. She held degrees from Eastern Michigan University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Memphis. Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

University Relations is seeking students with interesting stories to appear in website testimonials. Stories may also be repurposed for recruitment or feature material. Students must be in good academic standing, be willing and able to appear in a short video segment, and be second-semester freshmen or above. If you would like to nominate a student, please send his or her name, student ID number and a brief idea of his or her story to Hannah Stewart at hstewa14@utm.edu.

Submit your questions to the Suggestion Box link at www.utm.edu.

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