Crockett County Make-Up Session

Unfortunately last spring the Crockett County Session was canceled due to the spring floods in the area. But, fortunately that gave us an excuse to have a make-up session/mini-reunion for the Class of 2011!

We started out the session in Alamo at the Gibson Electric Membership Corporation. We heard many great speakers from TVA, GEMC, and the TN Dept. of ECD. We then visited ABB, Recycle Aerosol and Returns Distribution Specialists, and Green Frog Village. We ended a great day with a dinner at Green Frog Village and a reception at Frank McMeen’s Ms. Ollie’s in Jackson, TN.

The next day we ventured to Milan, TN where we heard topics on gas and technology for the leader today. We ended our day with Dr. Blake Brown who gave us tour around the UT Research and Educational Center in Milan, TN in high class transportation. It was a great make-up session and we thank all of those in Gibson and Crockett Counties that made the session possible.

WestStar Calendar

- Sept 9, 2011 - Soybean Festival Luncheon. Hosted by Martin Mayor Randy Brundige. Martin, TN
- September 13. - WestStar Board of Trustees Strategic Planning Session
- October 1, 2011 - UTM Skyhawks Football game - WestStar Night. Pre-game reception hosted by Jason Brigance
- October 1, 2011 RECRUITMENT BEGINS FOR 2012!!
- October 27 - WestStar Reunion Pickwick Landing Inn, Pickwick, TN

Please contact Virginia Grimes for information and details of the calendar events.

Recruitment begins October 1st!

Email weststar@utm.edu with you recommendations.

Have you received your 2011-2012 WestStar Alumni Directory? If not, you might not be current on your WestStar Alumni Association dues. Send checks to WestStar Leadership Program.

“What is success? I think it is a mixture of having a flair for the thing that you are doing; knowing that it is not enough, that you have got to have hard work and a certain sense of purpose.”

Margaret Thatcher
Alumni Updates

Tina Morris, ’03—New job as Finance and Public Relations Manager for Jason Crabb Ministries in Nashville, TN. (tina@jasoncrabb.com)

Youlanda Jones-Wilcox ’05 - New job as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Dyersburg State Community College. (ywilcox@dssc.edu)

Brad Thompson ’05 - New job as team member and economic development leader with OneConsulting

Melissa Cox-Rayner ’10 - New job as Business Development Consultant, Memphis Region for the State of Tennessee. (melissa.rayner@tn.gov)

Jai Templeton ’99 - New job as Deputy Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. (jai.templeton@tn.gov)

Jeff Bolton ’07 - New job as Director of FastTrack Programs with the State of Tennessee. (jeff.bolton@tn.gov)

Lisa Todd ’06 - New job as Executive Director of Lauderdale County Chamber. (stodd@lauderdalecountyn.org)

Frankie McCord ’97 - New job as Executive Director of Ripley Downtown Development Corporation. (developripley@yahoo.com)

Recently Retired— Tony Harden, ’98; Al Campell, ’90; Ralph Barnett,’92

We grieve with....the family of Michael Ewoldt,’01 who died on July 26, 2011 at the age of 67.

Alumni Achievements

Beth Pippin ’05 - Congratulations to Beth Pippin, Executive Director of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce has graduated from the Institute of Organization Management with the completion of 96 hours of course instruction in nonprofit management. IOM is a 501 (c) (3) affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and is the premier nonprofit professional development program for nonprofit professionals.

Pat Riley ’02 - Congratulation to Pat Riley, Gibson County Utility District Director. Riley has been named to the 2011-2012 Tennessee Gas Association Board of Directors. TGA is a natural gas state association with just under 400 members, 10,000 employees and 1.2 million customers.

We would love to hear from you! Have you recently been promoted, accepted a new job, received an award or recognition, enjoyed a new milestone in your life such as a birth or marriage? Let us share your good news with the WestStar community.

Email jjohn253@utm.edu with your news to be added in the next newsletter.
Lee Ann James is CEO of E.W. James & Sons Supermarkets, an independent regional grocery chain founded by her grandfather in 1934 and headquartered in Union City, Tennessee. Lee Ann grew up working in the family business, which now has 25 stores located in West Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

Lee Ann received her B.S. in Business from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville in 1992. After graduation, she went to work for Kroger in their manager training program. In 1994, Lee Ann moved to the northeast where she pursued a career in commercial real estate. While employed by Jones Lang LaSalle and Cushman and Wakefield, she represented such clients as Federal Express, AT&T and Lucent Technologies.

In 1998, Lee Ann's roots began pulling her home. She returned to the family business to manage a store in Huntingdon, Tenn. She then moved into the Information Technology area of the company while completing a MBA from Vanderbilt University’s Owen Graduate School of Management. The Women Grocers of America awarded Lee Ann their Mary Macey Scholarship to support her graduate school studies.

Lee Ann is active in her local community. She is a member of the First United Methodist Church, Past President of the Obion County Chamber of Commerce, 2007 graduate of West Star Class, West Star Board of Trustees and a 2006 graduate of the Leadership of Obion County.

Within the grocery industry, Lee Ann is a member of the National Grocers Association (NGA) and The Food Marketing Institute (FMI) of which she serves on the board. Lee Ann was recognized by the NGA as the 2005 Woman of the Year for her leadership within the company and the industry at large. Recently, was honored as one of the top 62 women in the supermarket industry by Progressive Grocer, a trade magazine.

Under Lee Ann’s leadership, E.W. James & Sons has experienced growth and continues to remain a competitive force in the grocery industry.

Lee Ann’s hobbies include skiing, hiking and travel. She also holds a private pilot’s license, and is a licensed real estate agent. She is also sole owner of 3G Development Company, LLC which owns and manages commercial and residential rental properties.