

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

CAMPUS SCENE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

VOLUME LIII SUMMER/FALL 2012

THIS HEROIC LIFE

Celebrating Harold Smith—the man, the WWII hero, the educator





CHANCELLOR'S

Dr. Tom Rakes, *UT Martin Chancellor* CORNER

>>> We are preparing for an exciting and productive 2012-2013 academic year as we reflect on recent accomplishments. Among significant news items about the university, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission released comparison data showing that UT Martin students are graduating at the second highest rate among public universities in Tennessee. Additionally, student survey data shows that our students rated UT Martin highest in student satisfaction.

Graduates in the highly regarded professional programs of nursing and engineering ranked number one in licensure pass rates among all public institutions in the state. These student-driven indicators reflect what the Princeton Review reported earlier this year when UT Martin was listed as one of only two public universities in Tennessee as a “Best Value” institution.

Facility enhancements continue, as our \$3.2 million external lighting project will be completed in time for the beginning of fall classes. Students and faculty will move into the newly renovated Fine Arts Building in December and into the newly expanded classroom space at the UT Martin Ripley Center in January 2013.

In late June, Andrew Wilson was appointed vice chancellor for university advancement following a national search. Andy previously served as associate vice president for university advancement at Tennessee Technological University. With more than two decades of experience, Andy has demonstrated successful programming and management of philanthropic and alumni relations.

Andy succeeds Len Solomons who is moving into a two-year appointment as a part-time major gifts officer. We are grateful to Len for her service and successful leadership throughout the Campaign for Tennessee.

I am honored to serve as your chancellor and experience the on-going excitement, growth, and capacity-building opportunities for our students, employees, alumni, and stakeholders. The University of Tennessee at Martin provides a competitive value for those we serve as part of one of the most stable, safe learning environments in Tennessee.

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This issue of Campus Scene celebrates the Morrill Act—150 years of land grant institutions.



On the Cover: Harold Smith is pictured in the cockpit of a Navy dive-bomber during World War II. He returned from the war a true American hero and dedicated a major portion of his professional life to the University of Tennessee at Martin. (Photo courtesy of Harold Smith)

90.3 FM
The Hawk

the big picture



BEST IN THE NATION

WUTM received the Abraham & Borst Award for Best Overall Radio Station in the nation at the 2012 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference in New York City. WUTM also earned an IBS Platinum Award for the second consecutive year, the highest peer-review level award given annually by the organization.

2011-12 WUTM staff members, clockwise from top left: Benita Evans, program director; Josh Lemons, sports/remote director; Chad Brewer, support and development; Bethany Meeks, news director; Joel Flowers, production director; and Tiffany Logan, business and traffic director. Not pictured: Mark Hall, assistant sports/remote director.



(at a glance)>>>



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT>>> **Dr. John J. Schommer**
Professor of Mathematics and Statistics



Dr. John J. Schommer, professor of mathematics and statistics, has served as UT Martin Faculty Senate president and has been a member of the UT Board of Trustees.

Dr. John J. Schommer is dedicated to helping serve the community of Weakley County. In 2009, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission awarded Schommer with the Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award for his work with Habitat for Humanity.

In Weakley County, it takes approximately one year to complete a house since most of the construction takes place on Saturdays. In his time volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Schommer has helped build 10 houses. Currently, he is the treasurer of the Weakley County affiliate of Habitat for Humanity and the advisor for the UT Martin student chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

Schommer said that he got involved with the organization after receiving several UT Martin campus-wide emails about Habitat for Humanity projects. "It wasn't until I actually got out there, did I think, 'Wow! This is actually kind of fun and so unlike what I do throughout the week.' So, I got hooked on it."

**CAMPUS
SCENE**
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Published semiannually by
The University of Tennessee at Martin
Martin, Tenn. 38238

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The University of Tennessee System

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Original story ideas, photo ideas and manuscripts may be used at the editor's discretion. Photos and submitted works cannot be returned. Magazine stories are reviewed before publication. Some interviews are conducted via email and other electronic means. Campus Scene is not a news magazine.

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731-881-7615.

34,000 copies printed by Publication Printers,
Denver, Colo.

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NEW LIGHTING CELEBRATED WITH OFFICIAL CEREMONY>>>

UT Martin began a new chapter in its own history on April 17, 2012, when it officially powered on new lighting fixtures with a ceremony dubbed the "Illumination Celebration." Nearly 42 years after the installation of the campus's 345 old "lollipop" style lampposts, 665 new energy-efficient, antique-style, lampposts were installed and lit for the first time. The event marked the high point of the \$3.2 million campus lighting project. Each new light is 75 percent more energy efficient than old lamps and will produce more light while covering previously unlit areas on the periphery of the campus, increasing campus safety.



(noteworthy)>>>

GRADUATION 2012

UT PRESIDENT URGES GRADUATES TO "SAVOR THIS MOMENT" >>>

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro advised UT Martin graduates to "savor this moment" as they prepared to receive degrees during the university's spring commencement exercises May 5 at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The UT president both delivered the commencement address and conferred degrees during the larger of two annual UT Martin commencement events.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, welcomed the audience and presided over the event. He recognized the university's 2012 Outstanding Faculty Award recipients and acknowledged the families, friends and supporters of the graduates in attendance. In turn, he asked graduates to stand and applaud those who supported them through their college experience.



(From top): Dr. DiPietro and Chancellor Tom Rakes at UT Martin's 2012 Spring Commencement ceremony; 2012 UT Martin graduates.



UT MARTIN STUDENTS RAISE MONEY FOR ST.

JUDE>>> UT Martin hosted its first letter-writing campaign for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital last October and raised \$26,468 for the institution. More than 400 students participated in the campaign and collectively mailed more than 4,000 letters. The board of student directors announced the final total on March 29. Pictured from left to right are Lindsey Jackson, volunteer;

Amber Thompson, volunteer; Katie Snider, entertainment chair; Natalie Medling, public relations chair; Valerie Winters, advocacy chair; Judy Rayburn, faculty adviser and director of UT Martin Admissions; Amy Dysinger, executive director; Laura McFall, logistics chair; Neil Allen, morale chair; Tori Taylor, recruitment chair; and Teresa Fowler, fundraising chair.

UT MARTIN SALUTES AGRICULTURE>>> UT Martin students and faculty organized the university's second annual Agriculture Awareness Day, March 27, on campus. Monsanto, Tennessee Farmers' Cooperative, Tennessee Farm Bureau and other vendors participated with interactive displays where students learned about the agriculture industry during a trade-show-like portion of the day. Tennessee Tractor, LLC, provided tractors and other farming equipment. Later, a program celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1862 that established land-grant institutions in the United States, including the University of Tennessee System. Student organizations involved included Collegiate FFA, Collegiate 4-H, Alpha Gamma Rho and Sigma Alpha.



(l-r) Dr. Tim Burcham, professor and interim chair, Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; Chris Martin, agriculture major from Flintville and Agriculture Awareness Day coordinator; Elizabeth Pafford, agriculture major from Humboldt; and Dr. Jerry Gresham, professor and interim dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

(noteworthy)>>>



UT MARTIN RANKS FIRST IN STUDENT SATISFACTION AMONG TENNESSEE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES>>>

UT Martin ranks first in the state among public universities for student satisfaction for the second consecutive cycle in the 2011-12 Tennessee Higher Education Fact Book, published by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The results are based on spring 2009 and 2011 surveys in which students responded to the question, "How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this college?" UT Martin received 91.9 and 91.2 percent ratings, respectively, which indicate "good" or "excellent" responses.

The survey data is drawn from alternate-year data included in the National Survey of Student Engagement, known as NSSE. The student survey is required by THEC for all Tennessee public universities.

BELOVED WORKER RETIRES>>> Signs and decorations were placed in the Skyhawk Cafe on Friday, May 4, in honor of Doris Edwards, who retired spring semester. She served UT Martin students in dining services since 1973.



WEBSITE PROMOTES WEAKLEY COUNTY>>>

A website is now available that promotes Weakley County as a retirement destination, a project of the Weakley County Economic Development Board.

Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations, and Dr. Nick Dunagan, chancellor emeritus, were key people in developing the site and related information. Also involved was Trevor Ruszkowski, UT Martin Office of University Relations, who donated his photographic skills in taking many of the site's photos.

UT Martin is a major selling point of the marketing effort, which will benefit Weakley County and the region. Access the site by pointing your Web browser to www.retiretenn.com/.



(athletics)>>> A YEAR OF CHAMPIONS

By Joe Lofaro

Success was everything but elusive at UT Martin this year as five women's teams – soccer, volleyball, basketball, tennis and softball – advanced to the championship of their respective tournaments. Soccer, basketball and softball won their conference tournaments, and all advanced to the first round of their respective NCAA tournaments.

“To my knowledge UT Martin has never had such success in advancing to the championship game of our conference tournaments or in winning championships,” UT Martin athletics director Phil Dane said. “I’m confident we will see more of this success in the future and in our men’s sports as well.”

Seven players, from basketball, soccer and softball – **Taylor Hall, Brooke Robertson, Melissa Govea, Katie Imperiale, Jenny Bain, Erica Duke and Chelsea Jones** – have experienced all of the championship fever.

Soccer’s Robertson came to UT Martin from a high school that flirted with championships, but never won while she was a team member. Softball’s Bain, Duke and Jones helped the Skyhawks advance to the OVC Tournament and then win five consecutive games to earn a berth in the regional tournament at Louisville.

Their junior season in 2011 was difficult, as the team finished third in the regular season but made an early exit from the OVC Tournament. However, this past season was the high point for the trio as it won the regular season and then claimed the OVC Tournament title in front of their home crowd to advance to the NCAA Regional at No. 2 national seed Alabama (the eventual national champion).

The Skyhawk basketball team won the OVC regular season and once again beat Tennessee Tech in the OVC Tournament to advance to the NCAA party during Hall’s senior year. This time around the Skyhawks were sent to Chicago, where they were the No. 15 seed and had to play UT Martin alumna Pat Head Summitt and the No. 2 seeded Tennessee Lady Vols.

“There are tons of positives for our players,” UT Martin head basketball coach Kevin McMillan said. “We have probably established that we have come back. We marked off that novelty, now we have to figure out how we are going to win a game.”

Regardless of the sport – basketball, softball or soccer – if the Skyhawks win a game in the NCAA Tournament it will be as iconic as Brandi Chastain ripping her jersey off after scoring the game-winning goal in the 1999 Women’s World Cup. <<<



(From top) The women's basketball team displays the OVC Championship plaque; the women's soccer team celebrates its OVC win; women's softball coach Donley Canary congratulates his team on the OVC win

(athletics)>>>


SKYHAWK
UPDATE


(l to r) Jodie Tiley, Dan Tobik and Jenny Bain were honored as UT Martin athletes of the year; members of the UT Martin golf team include (front, from left) Scott Carpenter, volunteer coach; Taylor Deming, Tyler Shellnut, Brendon Caballero, John Michael Sisinni, Clay Harbin, head coach Jerry Carpenter, (back row, from left) Adam Clark, Christopher Schwartz, Austin Smith, Graham Sleigh and Barton Hamilton.

>>> **Dan Tobik**, a relief pitcher on the UT Martin baseball team, **was the recipient of the Bob Carroll Male Athlete of the Year honor**, while softball shortstop **Jenny Bain** and tennis player **Jodie Tiley** were named **co-winners of the Bettye Giles Female Athlete of the Year**. Volleyball player **Jenna Miller** was the recipient of the **Outstanding Sportsmanship Award**.

>>> The **UT Martin golf team** was the recipient of the **2011-12 Team Sportsmanship Award**, given by the Ohio Valley Conference. Voted on by the student-athletes and coaches of the respective sports, the team awards are bestowed upon the conference squads deemed to have best exhibited the standards of sportsmanship and ethical behavior as outlined by the OVC and NCAA. Included in the evaluation are the conduct of student-athletes, coaches, staff, administrators and fans.

>>> UT Martin softball players, senior **Chelsea Jones** and junior **Leah Taylor**, were named to the **National Fastpitch Coaches Association 2012 NFCA Division I All-Region team**, honoring student-athletes from the association's 10 regions. A total of 263 players representing 129 different institutions comprise this season's regional teams, including first and second teams for each region. **Taylor was also named the 2012 Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year**, while **Jones was tabbed the 2012 OVC Pitcher of the Year**, as voted on by the league's head softball coaches and sports information directors. Murray State's Casey Castile earned OVC Freshman of the Year accolades, while **UT Martin's Donley Canary** was named **OVC Coach of the Year**.

>>> **Brendon Caballero**, a UT Martin freshman, **was named to the Ohio Valley Conference's Golf All-Newcomer team**. The Brentwood native is the first UT Martin golfer selected to the all-newcomer team since 2009 when Matt Stephens was named to the squad. Caballero is the fourth UT Martin golfer named to the OVC's All-Newcomer team since its inception in 2006.

>>> Baseball player **Jordan Owen** was voted to the **Ohio Valley Conference league's second team**, while **Sonny Mastromatteo** and **Nico Zych** were named to the **All-OVC Freshman squad**. This marks the second time that Owen has posted all-conference accolades, as he also was a second teamer in 2010. Mastromatteo and Zych are the seventh and eighth players in UT Martin history to claim All-Freshman honors.

>>> **Leah Taylor**, an outfielder on the UT Martin softball team, **was named to the Capital One Academic All-America first team**. Taylor, a junior marketing major with a 3.96 GPA, was the 2012 Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year. The Brownsville native led UT Martin to the OVC championship and a 39-22 record. With 64 stolen bases, she ranks third in school history.

>>> **UT Martin student-athletes earned a record best 3.0 Grade-Point Average for the spring 2012 semester**. The 3.0 GPA was above the all-campus average of 2.71. More than 130 student-athletes made the spring semester Chancellor's Honor Roll, and 177 of the 287 student-athletes made a 3.0 GPA or higher. The Office of Intercollegiate Athletics reported that 41 student-athletes made a perfect 4.0 GPA.



(From top): Chelsea Jones (left) and Leah Taylor headlined the 2012 Ohio Valley Conference softball postseason awards; Brendon Caballero was named to the Ohio Valley Conference's Golf All-Newcomer team; baseball players Jordan Owen, Sonny Mastromatteo and Nico Zych were honored with Ohio Valley Conference awards; Leah Taylor was also named to the Capital One Academic All-America first team.



<<<(a standing ovation)

2012 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES ANNOUNCED

By Joe Lofaro

Four former student-athletes will be inducted into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame during the 2012 Homecoming Festivities: **Nicole Davis** (softball); **Tessa Fields** (women's basketball); **Larry Washington** (football) and **Tom Wride** (men's tennis).

The Letterwinners Breakfast and the Hall of Fame Induction are set for 7:30 a.m. in the Elam Center Concourse. For more information or tickets, call (731) 881-7660.

Davis played softball for head coach Donley Canary from 2002-05. She was named All-Ohio Valley Conference three consecutive years (2003-2005) and OVC All-Tournament in 2004. She ranks in the top 10 in most all career offensive statistics categories, including games played, at bats, hits, doubles, RBIs, total bases, slugging percentage, walks, extra base hits, home runs, victories, games started, ERA, winning percentage, strikeouts, saves and appearances.

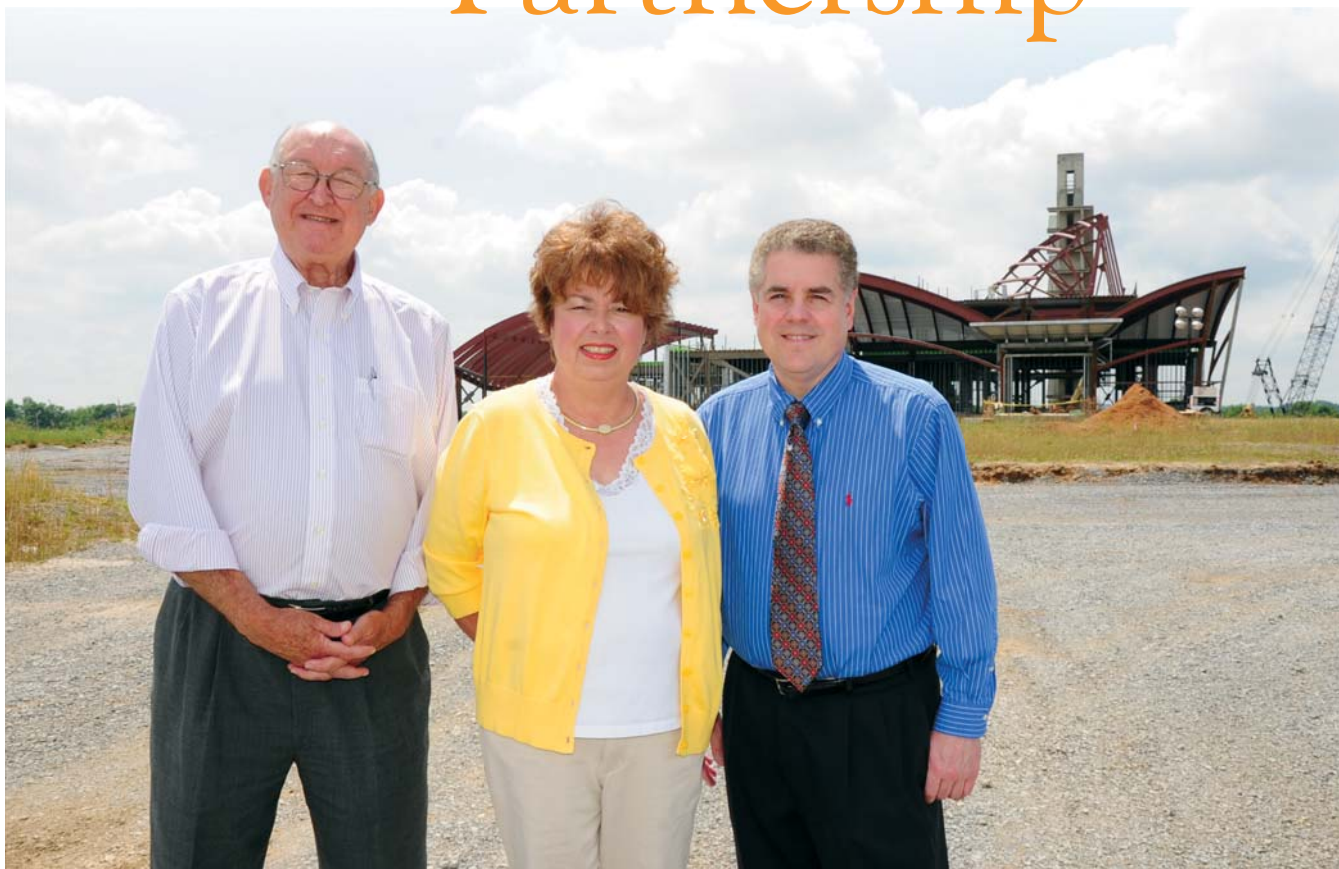
Fields played women's basketball from 1997-99 for co-head coaches Gary Van Atta and Kim Van Atta. She helped UT Martin reach the OVC Tournament championship game both years. Her senior season she helped the Skyhawks claim a berth in the WNIT and upset Ole Miss. Fields was also named All-OVC and OVC All-Tournament in 1998. She still holds the career single-season record for free throws made (150) and the career single-season record for assists (161).

Washington played football from 1974-76 for head coaches Bob Carroll and George MacIntyre. He rushed more than 1,700 yards, still among the top 10 in UT Martin history. He had three of the top eight all-time best single-game rushing performances. He was named to the All-Gulf South Conference team in 1976. After UT Martin, Washington helped the Edmonton Eskimos (part of the Canadian Football League) reach the Grey Cup (CFL's equivalent to the Super Bowl) in 1977 and won in 1978.

Wride played tennis from 1998-2001 for head coach Dennis Taylor. He was named to the All-OVC team his freshman and senior seasons, in addition to being named to the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll four consecutive years. His most impressive victories occurred in 2000, when he defeated Vanderbilt's No. 1 player Eddie Coats, and in 2001, when he defeated Mark Parsons, the No. 1 player at Tennessee and among the top-10 players in the nation.

(university advancement)>>>

Discovery in a Partnership



Discovery Park of America benefactor Bob Kirkland, Elam Trustees Betty Smith and Al Creswell.

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently received \$312,500 from the Kathleen Elam Endowment that will be used to establish the Elam/Discovery Park Quasi-Endowment.

The Elam gift will be used to fund student internships and faculty stipends for UT Martin students and faculty working and conducting research at Discovery Park of America (DPA).

"This is a true partnership between UT Martin and DPA," Elam Trustee and niece of Tom and Kathleen Elam Betty Smith said. "It is appropriate for the Elam Endowment to be used for faculty and students. Education and lifelong learning are missions of both UT Martin and Discovery Park."

Al Creswell is also an Elam Trustee. He facilitated the gift and serves on the DPA Board of Directors.

Discovery Park of America, currently under construction in Union City, will focus on nature, science, technology, history and art. Discovery Park's mission is to enhance the educational experiences of children and adults and to inspire them to see beyond their current level of knowledge.

The Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation is Discovery Park's principal benefactor. The Kirklands are long-time supporters of educational pursuits in the area, and they share in the vision

and mission of Discovery Park. Kirkland has said, "We anticipate this as just the beginning of a productive and long-term relationship between the university and Discovery Park."

Though the partnership between the two entities is only now official, students and staff at UT Martin have already benefitted from the educational complex.

In the spring of 2011, 11 geology students were able to travel to Kansas to participate in a paleontological dig in which they uncovered three unique prehistoric fossils to be displayed in Discovery Park. The trip was financed by the Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation.

"One of the two fish we found . . . we think is a record-size fish," said Dr. Michael Gibson, UT Martin professor of geology, who led the trip. "And forever the students will be a part of the process of having discovered and prepared these unique fossil finds."

A video crew of communications students accompanied the geology students on the trip and on the followup trip to Colorado in March 2012, where they documented the fossil prep process. Their work may appear in Discovery Park upon its opening.

"Robert and I are delighted with the results achieved by the UTM students and Dr. Gibson on their search for fossils," said Jenny Kirkland, president of the Kirkland Foundation. "Their project is a good example of the educational benefits that Discovery Park will bring to this region."

Several UT Martin professors, including Gibson, have been directly involved in planning some of DPA's wide variety of future exhibits, and the park has already fostered student internships.

Recent communications graduate, Katie Hamilton, of Fayetteville, completed an internship during her last semester within Discovery Park public relations. She managed social media for the educational complex and worked on a photo timeline of construction that is planned to be part of a display in the museum.

"I was so excited about the project. It's just such a cool project to be going on in West Tennessee," Hamilton said.

Jennifer Wildes, from Brighton, also served as an intern during the summer of 2011 prior to graduating from UT Martin with her B.A. degree last year. As a history major with a minor in art history, Wildes cataloged artifacts for Discovery Park that had been donated, loaned or purchased from individuals as well from the Obion County Museum. As a result of this real-world, hands-on experience, she was hired by DPA as their new collections manager. <<<

IN HONOR OF...

A group of former students came together to recognize Dr. Gary Steinke. These former communications students have established the Gary Steinke Scholarship in honor of the longtime professor. They have given and raised more than \$20,500 toward their goal of a \$25,000 endowment. The announcement was made as a surprise to Steinke during the Department of Communications Awards Luncheon on April 24.

"He loved to tell new students the story of how he walked in and discovered a student using a turntable as a pizza buffet or how one student spilled cola on the studio board and fried it," David Parker ('86) said. "You knew when he was teaching a radio production class. Piles of reel-to-reel tapes were atop his desk, and he was hunched over his personal reel-to-reel machine listening for bad edits."

"Dr. Steinke inspires his students to move beyond their limiting beliefs and to think bigger," said Terry Goulder ('85). "For many of us, he was the first person we met 'in the business.' He didn't frighten us away. He said, 'Come on in, the water's fine.' Sometimes that's all you need to get the ball rolling for a young person to begin the journey and open the door to a dream."

To make a gift to the Steinke Scholarship or for more information, call 731-881-7620. <<<



(Front row l to r): Alice Higdon, Terry Goulder, Dr. Gary Steinke, David Parker and Martina Tracy Cole. (Back row l-r): Bud Grimes, Mike Vaughn, Stan Bell, Joan Escue Vaughn, Dr. Robert Nanney, Nick Martin and Dr. Richard Robinson.



This Heroic Life

by Bud Grimes



Harold Smith's World War II leather flight jacket still fits him. So do the words "American Hero" as Smith, 93, recalls a time when the world was at war. His actions as a World War II dive-bomber pilot earned the highest commendations and the country's gratitude as he and others risked everything to preserve freedom and end the war in the Pacific.

Only in recent years has Smith, longtime dean for the UT Martin School of Agriculture and Home Economics, talked in detail about his World War II experiences. He agreed to tell his story in December 2011 shortly after Dottie, his wife of 64 years, passed away. Known affectionately as "Dean Smith," his remarkable memory recalls a transformation from Oklahoma farm boy to decorated Navy pilot.

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

(large picture): Dr. Harold Smith today, wearing his World War II flight jacket, recalls a time when the world was at war; (inset picture): Harold Smith, taken Nov. 19, 1943, when he graduated as a naval aviator from the U.S. Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla.



(l-r): The Japanese battleship Ise burns after heavy bombing from USS Hancock planes. Smith was awarded a Navy Cross for dropping a bomb down the smokestack of the ship; a display case in the Smith home includes Smith's Navy Cross and Gold Star and Navy Air Medal and two Gold Stars.

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

Smith finished high school in 1936 and enrolled at Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University) to study animal husbandry and continue his high school wrestling career. He eventually focused on his studies and a specific interest in sheep, which led to participation in major livestock shows. One large show during his senior year took Smith and a friend on a boxcar journey from Stillwater, Okla., to Ft. Worth, Texas, and back as they tended the show sheep. After finishing his undergraduate degree, he received a scholarship to pursue a master's degree at the University of Illinois.

Smith completed his master's degree before World War II began and started his doctoral work in early 1942. After Pearl Harbor, he registered for the draft in Grady County, Okla., recalling, "They were really hurting to meet their quota, so they put their finger on me, and I decided I didn't want to go into the infantry." Someone suggested the Navy Air Corps, to which he remembered responding, "my goodness, I'm not a flier." He added, "By that time, I was ready

to get about in anything, and I had no particular desire to fly, but I went one day, and at the end of the day they (the recruiters) said, "You are now in the United States Navy."

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

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

The pilots were sent from carrier training to Air Group 6 in California, squadrons reformed in San Francisco, and they trained on the new SB2C Helldiver carrier-based, dive-bomber aircraft produced for the U.S. Navy. They then traveled by ship to the South Pacific, where the carrier USS Hancock (the Fightin' Hanna) was waiting to take them aboard. "And from then on, for a little better than a year

and a half, it was ‘go, go, go,’” he remembered. “We didn’t waste much time.”

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

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

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

During strikes, dive-bomber pilots threw bags of tinfoil from their planes to attract radar attention and draw away anti-aircraft fire. The pilots flew in four-plane formations, peeled off and dove straight down from about 10,000 feet, he said, using dive brakes to slow down to about 400 miles per hour. Precision pullouts were critical as dives sometimes created up to 9Gs of gravity. (During one practice dive, he’d seen a large screwdriver floating around that had been inadvertently left aboard by a mechanic.) Planes not executing a straight pullout could lose a wing. Japanese battleships and cruisers were solidly built, and carrier decks had up to three inches of



(From top): Smith (top right) stands with other officers, aircraft mechanics and crewmen in his section of Bombing 6; Smith was among the pilots and planes flying as Air Group 6 flew over the USS Missouri during the Japanese signing of the surrender pact on V-J Day in 1945.

armor, so the bombers carried 2,000-pound, armor-piercing bombs. Smith credited extensive, continuous training for preparing the pilots to do their jobs.

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

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

Smith said that few Japanese aircraft remained toward the end of the war because of U.S. airfield attacks. Several weeks after the atomic bombs were dropped, the Japanese

fleet pulled into Tokyo and Kure harbors, and U.S. Naval forces carried out two large strikes over several days. His and other air groups sank several battleships and cruisers, causing severe damage to the Japanese Navy.

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

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

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

His Navy Crosses were awarded for successful 1945 attacks on Japanese battleships. Dive-bombing planes had a rear-gunner who manned machine guns to protect the plane and also served as the radio person, photographer and performed other duties during missions. His gunner, on two different strikes, photographed two direct bomb hits by Smith’s plane to two Japanese battleships, one of which was the Japanese battleship Ise, where he scored a direct hit as it went down the ship’s smokestack. “We had a good squadron of men (Bombing Six),” he said, giving credit to others involved in the strike.

After the war, Smith entered the active reserves and returned to the University of Illinois to complete his doctorate. He then taught at Auburn University from 1947-48, after which he accepted a position at UT Knoxville. In 1967, he came to UT Martin Branch as Department of Agriculture head and superintendent of the Martin Experi-



Smith judging hogs at a local FFA hog show

ment Station. He was then named School of Agriculture dean and later dean of the School of Agriculture and Home Economics before retiring in 1987. On Dec. 13, 2011, the Harold J. Smith Conference Room in UT Martin's Brehm Hall was dedicated in his honor and features photos from his World War II experience.

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

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



Harold and Dottie Smith



Smith pictured around 1953 when he came to Martin to teach upper-division animal sciences courses



Making a Difference

by Tiffany Carpenter

Making a Difference in UT and Her Community

From a young age, Monice Moore Hagler knew she wanted to make a difference in her community. Growing up in Memphis, she watched her parents, both college graduates, have professional careers while volunteering their time to make a difference in their community. It was an image that resonates with her still today.

“As a child, I watched my parents and how active they were in the community,” recounts Hagler. “They were always very involved. I’m a second generation college graduate, both of my parents graduated from college, and my mom went on to get her master’s degree. They grew up in families where their parents never finished high school, and they wanted to make a better life for their kids and others in their community.”

“My mom was very involved in the community, and taught us that it’s a part of who you are supposed to be. You need to have your professional career, but also be an active volunteer.”

After graduating from UT Martin with a bachelor’s degree (’75), Hagler, a native Memphian, returned to her roots in Memphis to earn a master’s degree from the UT Health Science Center and a law degree from the University of Memphis.

“Memphis has always been my home,” she says. “My family is here, and I always knew I wanted to come back and be a part as an active volunteer in my community.”

Hagler spent 12 years working as an attorney for the city of Memphis, representing the mayor and city council and all divisions of city government, providing legal opinions, and addressing lawsuits. She got her start as an assistant city attorney before being promoted to deputy city attorney and then to city attorney, where she supervised a staff of about 25 lawyers.

“It really was a great opportunity to get a wide range of experience in government legal issues, and it gave me the opportunity to really be involved in the community professionally,” says Hagler.

Now in private practice, Hagler focuses on real estate, land use, government relations and economic development, handling everything from residential and commercial

closings to representing multi-family developers involved in comprehensive development efforts.

Although she left the Martin campus, the University of Tennessee is still very much a part of her daily life. Since leaving campus, she’s been an active member of the Memphis/Shelby County Chapter of the UT Alumni Association and served as chair of the Women’s Council.

“Working with the Women’s Council was wonderful. It gave me the opportunity to travel the state to meet women who were alums and even women who had never attended UT but were supporters of the university. I really enjoyed putting on the professional development programs, seeing parts of the state I had never seen, and making friends with women from different backgrounds and professions. It was an experience I truly treasured,” says Hagler.

In 2008, she was appointed to the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees by then Gov. Phil Bredesen.

“It has been a truly amazing experience,” says Hagler. “I had no idea the breadth of things we would be involved in and all the things and people it takes to run a university. It’s given me a chance to see firsthand UT’s impact on the state and develop an understanding of how important UT is to Memphis and the entire state. As a representative for the Memphis area, part of my job is to make sure the rest of the board and Tennessee understands how important the Health Science Center is to the overall scheme of things.”

When she’s not volunteering her time to improve her alma mater, Hagler enjoys being involved in affordable housing and economic development efforts in Memphis and mentoring women in the community.

“I recently got involved with Links, Inc. of Memphis. They promote service and friendship. It gives me the opportunity to enjoy women of similar backgrounds, to work with teenage girls and even elementary school girls to be a mentor and provide them with programs for growth and development,” says Hagler. “I’m also very involved with Sisters in Motion, which is a group that promotes health and fitness for African-American women in Memphis.”

While Hagler stays very busy professionally and in the community, she wouldn’t have it any other way. <<<

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU ARE A

COLLEGE
GRADUATE

UT MARTIN Class of 2012

NOW WHAT ?

As new grads prepare to enter the real world, what are their options?
UT Martin alums share their experiences.

Volunteer • Freelance • Graduate School • Internships

by Casey Curlin Scarbrough

Although the time is often celebrated with much needed sleep, a much-needed party or sometimes a much-needed moment with a bar of chocolate, multiple years of learning, personal growth and ever-changing stress levels don't just lead up to that last exam breakthrough. They lead up to the day when hundreds of scholars in a line, all dressed alike, plod slowly and politely up to a stage. The noise of thousands of friends and family in the audience fades away to each individual as they made the first step onto the platform stage, at first hoping not to be the one to trip as the hot fluorescent lights beamed down on them, and second hoping they shook with the right hand and grabbed that pretend diploma with the other.

Now what? That's what many graduates think after the ceremonial ending of their higher education career. At that point each former student has endless potential directions and paths to take.

The simplest answer is probably, get a job related to your major, and start living. But in a rocky economy finding a job isn't always simple, and others still may be craving something other than a headfirst dive into the job market.

The following UT Martin graduates share their stories and struggles as they have taken on different challenges.

VOLUNTEER

*John Griffin ('94) Biology teacher,
South Side High School in Jackson*



"In the process of applying for graduate school I also applied for the Peace Corps and just happened to be accepted," Griffin said. The Peace Corps, they call it "the toughest job you'll ever love." It's a roughly two-year commitment serving in a

foreign country, and takes the average American to places they would otherwise hardly know existed, but it's also a priceless investment in education and personal growth, Griffin says.

At the age of 23, Griffin went to serve 27 months in Poland, where he was assigned a position working in environmental consulting. He went through training his first three months and lived with a Polish host family that spoke no English. Because of the drastic cultural immersion he learned the Polish language fluently. "A big part of my job was environmental education. I taught classes both in Polish and in English at local high schools ... We also worked very closely with the local government to implement environmental needs and try to solve some of the environmental problems in that district," Griffin said.

"The Peace Corps has a three-prong process. One is

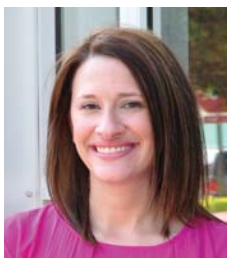
to provide a service to another country. Two is to educate people in another country about Americans. And then the third and probably most important is to come back to America and educate people here about different cultures and different societies," Griffin said.

It was tough, he confessed, echoing the Peace Corps motto, and the application/interview process a bit lengthy, but more than worth it. For one, though it is a volunteer program, housing and living expenses are covered during the entirety of one's service. Two, it just might not only open doors of opportunity but knock down entire walls. At least it did for Griffin who stayed in Poland for two years after his service was complete working as a Peace Corps trainer, translator and continuing his environmental work.

Coming back to the United States from the country where peasants live two miles outside of major cities was a reverse culture shock but worked out in the classroom. "The Peace Corps made me a better person. It made me a more understanding and flexible person. It made me a person that appreciates where I come from and the life that I have here in America," he said. "It will be the best time you could ever not only donate to your country and serve your country, but to serve yourself as well."

FREELANCE

*Jenna Wallace ('08)
Graphic Designer, Jackson*



Jenna Wallace, a 2008 UT Martin graduate, was one of those who discovered soon after graduation that the road to her dream graphic-design career was going to be a long and difficult one.

For the former visual communications major, the answer was freelance, and Jenna Wallace Creative was born. She got her start designing publications for a local church and was able to expand to others, including the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Flexible hours are a huge plus to freelance work, Wallace said, as they can accommodate an artist's hours of greatest creative inspiration, whether that be 3 p.m. or a.m.

As far as struggles go, there's the matter of self-discipline, making deadlines and an unpredictable paycheck arrival.

Wallace was hired by Blue August in January 2012, where she not only handles companies' social media strategies, but is involved in the layout of the quarterly 301 Magazine, a contemporary publication focusing on arts and culture in Jackson and West Tennessee.

"Doing the freelance and knowing how to do things has really helped me in this position," Wallace said.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

*Martina Conley ('09)
Master's in Education, Clarksville*



So, here you are, a graduate. You've got your diploma, you've got your internships under your belt, you've got a killer résumé ready to be sent to those employers you dreamed of working for all through college ... and it hits you. You don't want to do

this anymore. Some call it a "quarter-life crisis," but it's not uncommon for a recent graduate to change his or her mind about a career path, and it's not a good feeling either.

Martina Conley, from Clarksville, who graduated in December 2009 with a degree in communications, said she realized she wanted to pursue something else.

A master's in education with a major in counseling is Conley's next degree, which she hopes will help her achieve her new goal of becoming a school counselor.

Conley says she didn't have any preconceived notions about graduate school except that it would be a challenge. "Be prepared to do more work," she said. "You definitely have to want to be there. You have to want to do it."

Despite the many trials that obstruct the road to a graduate degree, Conley is more than convinced the struggle is worth it.

Internship

Katie Hamilton ('12), Public Relations Intern, Fayetteville



Many new graduates find that they need to prove their skills in the workplace before they can land that first job. They need to gain experience and show that they are dedicated to the work ... sometimes dedicated enough to do it for free.

Katie Hamilton recognized the value of an internship and as a result has been a part of the making of history. The recent University of Tennessee at Martin graduate was one of the first interns to work for Discovery Park of America,

the large educational and entertainment complex presently being constructed in Union City.

Hamilton was able to use her public relations skills learned in the classroom on a large scale by managing and developing the Discovery Park Facebook page and interacting with other Facebook users to spread news about the park and its progress.

Hamilton hopes to eventually attend law school and work in communications or public relations law, fields in which her public relations internship experience may come in handy.

ALUMNI NEWS

(the real deal)>>>

As is the case with many faculty and staff on campus, I am asked to speak with prospective students on occasion (guess they want some old guy to tell them how it used to be in the good ole' days!). I typically ask the prospective student why he or she is looking to attend UT Martin. Then I would go on to say, "If you are looking for the bright lights of a big city, you really need to think about how happy you will be here." Well, that used to be the case. But now, our campus has been outfitted with energy-saving lamp fixtures. There is a wonderful note on the campus lighting improvements on page 7. But why should you care about this?

Well, I always like to challenge alumni to be more involved. Last issue, I challenged to you thank that special person in your life who means something to you. Now I challenge you to thank your alma mater by purchasing one of our new lamps. Yes, the lamps are already paid for, so why are we asking people to buy them? Because we want to enhance the beauty of our campus by building our campus beautification endowment to allow us to landscape around our buildings, maintain the beauty of the quad, replace trees on campus and complete other projects.

Forty-one dollars a month for 36 months can be automatically charged to your credit

card through our online giving site at www.utmforever.com/giving, or you can set up a number of ways to pay for your lamp. A plaque will be attached to the lamp recognizing your contribution. This is a tax-deductible gift, but more importantly, it is an investment in one of the qualities UT Martin is best known for... the beauty and safety of our campus! I hope you will consider joining me and others by investing in this project to help make your alma mater's future brighter!

And on a final note, I hope you will plan to attend this year's homecoming. Peace, Love, and Skyhawks is the theme, and the university will unveil the newest additions to our arts collection when three bronze statues are dedicated on Saturday morning. The statues are in the likenesses of Nadine Gearin, Bettye Giles and Pat Head Summitt. It should be a very special day for our university.

Charley Deal



SEE MORE ONLINE

For the most up-to-date information, news and schedule of events, check out the alumni website at www.utmforever.com. Now you can stay connected, share news and photos and network all through utmforever.com.

(alumni notes)>>>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 6
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
ALUMNI RECEPTION

AUGUST 24
LEGACY LUNCHEON
TORCH OF PREPARATION CEREMONY

AUGUST 25
ALL VOLUNTEER DAY
VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON AND
ALUMNI AWARDS CEREMONY



SEPTEMBER 1
Tailgate Party
**BLUES AND ORANGE TAILGATE PARTY
PRIOR TO FOOTBALL GAME VS. MEMPHIS**

OCTOBER 1-7
HOMECOMING 2012



HOMECOMING 2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS>>> Join us for a weekend of **GROOVY** celebrations here on campus.

Friday, Oct. 5

- 3:30 p.m. Rope Pull Championships (Pacer Pond)
- 7 p.m. Volleyball Match (Skyhawk Fieldhouse)
- 7 p.m. Pyramid and Pep Rally (Elam Center)
- 7:30 p.m. University Choirs Dessert Evening (Martin First United Methodist Church)

Saturday, Oct. 6

- 7:30 a.m. Letterwinner's Breakfast and Hall of Fame Inductions (Elam Center Concourse)
- 10 a.m. Dedication of "Coaches" Statues area (Elam Center main entrance)
- 10:30 a.m. **QUAD CITY OPENS** featuring The Beatles-The Return
- 11 a.m. Football Team's Skyhawk Walk and Memory Lap (Quad by Meek Library)
- 11 a.m. Volleyball Match (Skyhawk Fieldhouse)
- 2 p.m. Football game vs. Eastern Illinois University (Graham Stadium)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball Reunion (Bettye Giles Field)
- 6 p.m. Young Alumni Reception (Opera House)
- 7:30 pm NPHC Step Show (Elam Center)
- 8 p.m. University Choirs Dessert Evening (Martin First United Methodist Church)

Sunday, Oct. 7

- 10 a.m. Walk in the Quad
- 10:30 a.m. Homecoming Brunch (University Center)

COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR

SKYHAWKS

Shine a light on your dedication

Your name or the name of a loved one can be forever associated with one of the new campus lighting fixtures in the campus' beautiful quadrangle when you donate \$1,500 to the UT Martin campus beautification fund. Payments can be made for up to three (3) years with automatic electronic monthly payments for \$41.60.

Funds from the Campus Beautification Fund are used for purchasing new plants, general upkeep of the quad area, and the cost of constructing new entryways to the university. All gifts are tax deductible and will allow the university to maintain the beauty alumni and students have come to expect from UT Martin.

For more information, call 731-881-7610 or email alumni@utm.edu.



TEN for TENnessee!

During this fall, you might receive a call from one of our telefund center student callers to update your information and to ask for your financial support. Please consider a gift of \$10 or more. It is easy to remember...Ten for TENnessee!



UT Martin Elam Legacy Scholarship applications are due Aug. 1. Visit www.utmforever.com for more information.

<<<(snapshots)



UT MARTIN ALUMNI HOSTS SKYHAWK SOFTBALL TEAM>>> **David H. Bryan ('80)** hosted the UT Martin Skyhawk softball team during their visit to Chattanooga for a tournament.



KOREAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETS IN SEOUL>>> A UT Martin Korean Alumni Meeting was held April 20, 2012, in Seoul, Korea. Dr. Micheal Park, UT Martin associate professor of marketing (back row – sixth from left), attended and received a Certificate of Appreciation for helping to revitalize the association. Those attending collected and donated funds for the Korean Alumni Scholarship and will have another meeting around the 2012 UT Martin Homecoming Day in Korea.

(spotlight on alums)>>>



(l to r:) Rusty, Marchell, Amy and Jordan Gardner

"FATHER MAKES THREE" AS GARDNER FAMILY MEMBERS RECEIVE DEGREES>>> Raymond "Rusty" Gardner

and his children, **Jordan** and **Amy**, all three received degrees during spring commencement exercises May 5. Next spring, wife, **Marchell**, will also receive her degree and complete the Gardner family's circle of college graduates.

The journey began more than 30 years ago when Rusty entered UT Martin in 1980. He played football, but while his career as a strong safety was a success, he struggled academically.

"I was having too much fun I guess," he recalled. "Got in trouble academically, ... sat out a little while, then never did just go back." By this time, he was married, then Jordan and Amy came along, and working replaced finishing college as a priority.

After more than 10 years in various positions, Rusty finally landed a job with Goodyear in Union City in 1998 as an area manager and later became a shift coordinator.

Rusty earned a good living, but Marchell never let him forget about his unfinished degree.

In February 2011, Rusty heard in the news that the company was "intending to shut down Goodyear in Union City." Then on Sunday, July 10, the third shift reported for work but workers were told to gather their belongings and leave.

"... My wife called me, said that FedEx had just dropped off a certified letter, and she read it to me, and they told me that I no longer had a job at Goodyear. That's the way they actually let me know," he said. The Gardners considered transferring, but they saw this as an opportunity for Rusty to complete his degree, so he enrolled in fall 2011.

Marchell first came to UT Martin in 1978 where she's taken classes periodically for 30 years. A licensed practical nurse, she has worked in health care since 1983.

For Jordan and Amy, seeing their parents taking classes was a new experience. Rusty and Marchell had to make some adjustments as well, especially when the couple took classes together.

While his other family members were already accustomed to college, Rusty was adjusting to classes in which he was often the oldest student. He began to see more non-traditional students in his second semester; many of them former Goodyear employees.

Rusty is using 25 years of management experience and his new degree to re-enter the job market. Jordan, who received a degree in health and human performance, is seeking his first full-time position, and Amy plans to enter Middle Tennessee State University's MBA program. Meanwhile, Marchell's walk across the commencement stage is on schedule for May 2013.



RAINES DESIGN WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD>>> Raines Design, a creative marketing company and print production studio based in Jackson, received the prestigious Emerging Business of the Year Award from the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce. Chosen from dozens of regional applicants, this honor recognizes Raines Design as one of the fastest growing and most successful new businesses in West Tennessee.

Owner **Stephanie Riley ('03)** started Raines Design in 2010 to provide turnkey marketing and branding solutions from the creative process to final product. A Union City native, Riley's business features community-focused initiatives to help small-business owners and nonprofit organizations.

"We are thrilled to be honored by the Jackson Area Chamber for this award," Riley said. "This award recognizes our team's hard work and dedication to exceeding our clients' expectations. We look forward to being part of the Jackson business community for many years to come."

CLASSROOM DEDICATED TO MATT BARNES>>>

Rod, Dolly Jane and Linda Barnes (pictured l to r), all of Selmer, join Dr. Jerry Gresham, interim dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, in unveiling a nameplate for the **Matthew Hurst Barnes** Classroom in Brehm Hall. The classroom was dedicated March 17 in memory of Matt, an agricultural business major, who died April 5, 2002, in a traffic accident near Martin. The classroom is located in the Brehm Hall expansion, officially opened in fall 2009. While at UT Martin, Barnes received the Aspiring Leader Award from the UT Martin Undergraduate Alumni Council. Family and friends established the Matthew Hurst Barnes All-American Scholarship Endowment in his memory.



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION FAMILIES>>>

Two Weakley County families with strong University of Tennessee ties won national honors during January's 93rd Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Honolulu, Hawaii. **Andy (UTK '04, UTM '07)** and **Ellie Holt (UTK '04)** won the Excellence in Agriculture Award, and **Ben ('99)** and **Jennifer ('99) Moore** received the Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award. Both families received new trucks courtesy of General Motors in March at Taylor Automotive in Martin.

(Back row, l to r) are Dr. Tim Burcham, Dr. Jerry Gresham, Andy Holt; daughter Libby Holt; Ellie Holt; Jennifer Moore; Ben Moore; and Dr. Jerald Ogg. (Foreground, l to r) Andrew and Josie Holt, and Tate and Tyler Moore (not pictured is the third Moore son, Miller).

(spotlight on alums)>>>



Five UT Martin alums on the summit of Mt. Hood in 2009 from l to r - Bill Parnell, Teddy Masi, Jerry Bauer, Brian Richie and Rob Rickerson. (submitted photo)

ALUMNI CLIMB TO NEW HEIGHTS>>> UT Martin and Sigma Phi Epsilon alums, **Jerry Bauer ('02)**, **Teddy Masi ('02)**, **Brian Richie ('03)** and **Bill Parnell ('02)**, began backpacking together during their freshman year at the university. Although they've been through many changes since graduation, the group always finds time to reunite for mountain adventures.

During their undergraduate years, they began taking multiple day backpacking trips in the Appalachians of East Tennessee. After graduation, they moved to different parts of the country but did not let distance stop them from having adventures together. In 2007, they traveled to Colorado and successfully climbed three "fourteeners" (peaks higher than 14,000 feet). In 2009, Bauer, Masi, Richie and Parnell were joined by **Rob Rickerson ('03)** to climb 11,249-foot Mt. Hood, Oregon's highest point.

In May 2011, Bauer, Masi and Richie set out on their most ambitious trip to date – to climb California's 14,179-foot Mt. Shasta. This was a two-day climb with more than 7,000 feet of elevation gain from trailhead to summit. They each trained for several months through a combination of running, biking and climbing stairs.

The hard work finally paid off at 11:54 a.m. PDT on May 22, 2011, as the friends stood together on Shasta's summit – the second highest point in the Cascade Range. On the descent, Masi injured his knee. True to their Sig Ep brotherhood, Bauer and Richie divided and carried Masi's gear, and the three were able to safely return to the trailhead together.

These friends are living – and climbing – proof that bonds formed at UT Martin are not only rewarding, but lifelong.

PARKER COMPLETES NAVY TRAINING PROGRAM>>>

Navy Seaman **Aljaleh V. Parker ('09)** recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. The eight-week program involves a variety of training exercises, including classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness. The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives

recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a sailor. Parker is the niece of Teretha M. Fowler of Lexington.

MURAL ARTISTS RETURN TO UT MARTIN>>> Warneta Alexander Conner ('69) and Carolyn Pettigrew Clifton ('69)

literally left their mark at UT Martin. These close college friends, sorority sisters and fellow education graduates created the initial painting of a mural that's remained in place for more than four decades on an entryway wall to the university's historic Communications Building. Some additions to the art were made later by others, but the original drawing remains.

Conner and Clifton were inspired to draw the mural by then education art professor, Thel Taylor, who asked them to take on this creative task.

"We went back, and drew it out on paper, and got to work and worked on this mural for spring break while everyone else was

having a good time," Warneta remembered. "Carolyn and I were working on this day and night, and then came back in the summer and finished it."

The building, once the university's cafeteria, houses production facilities for Public Broadcasting Service station WLJT-DT and also includes instructional space for the university's Department of Communications.

Warneta taught abused and neglected children and juvenile delinquents for six years at Tennessee Preparatory School in Nashville, before finishing her career in her husband's CPA firm in Brentwood. Carolyn taught art, grades 1-12, in a Birmingham, Ala., public school, retiring in 2004.

(l to r:) Carolyn Pettigrew Clifton and Warneta Alexander Conner



(class notes)>>>



REMEMBERING TENNESSEE SPIRIT>>> Tennessee's volunteer spirit was honored during UT Martin's annual Memorial Day Commemoration held May 25 at the entrance to the Hall-Moody Administration Building. **Maj. Kevin Brandon ('99)**, of Medina, was the guest speaker and reminded the audience of sacrifices Tennesseans have made in service to America.

"We don't have to look far in Tennessee to see soldiers and families that are committed to serving this great country," Brandon said.

Brandon, who served two tours of duty in Iraq, recognized the 913th Engineer Co. in Union City and the 230th Engineer Battalion in Trenton, both currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He added that the 212th Engineer Co. in Paris and Camden and the 251st MP Co. in Lexington, Bolivar and Savannah would deploy overseas next year.

"Most of these young men and women have deployed before, some three or four times," he said. "Understand that our soldiers are committed to serving this great nation. All of them have freely volunteered to enlist or re-enlist during a time of war. Our soldiers are a reflection of the resilience of the United States."

In March 2003, Brandon said, "Tennesseans were some of the first units to cross into Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom." He added, "At the close of December 2011, nearly 21,000 Tennessee Guardsmen had deployed for the war on terror, in addition to the thousands of men and women from Tennessee that volunteered to serve in the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps."

As he closed, Brandon said, "Tennesseans have always demonstrated their volunteer spirit through their actions by deploying whenever and wherever they are needed. And many of these servicemen have made the ultimate sacrifice."

The ceremony ended with a gun salute by the university's Department of Public Safety and the playing of "Taps" by Staff Sgt. Charles Sadler of the Army National Guard.

1947

G. Curtis Shearon ('47, '53) received his original degree from UT Martin Junior College before returning in 1951 for the opening of the new four-year agricultural degree program. He worked as a UT agricultural extension agent in Henry and Madison counties until his retirement in 1989. Shearon's first wife, **Bonnie Griffeth Shearon ('52)**, passed away after 52 years of marriage. The couple has two children: David Shearon, 57, and Sally Shearon Johnson, 55. Shearon has since married Dorothy Ragon Milstead, and the couple now lives in Hardeman County. Shearon was part of the first class to graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

1957

Jerry K. Riddick ('57) lives in Dyersburg and retired from Dyersburg City Schools after 11 years of service. His wife of 54 years, Joyce Lee Riddick, passed away in 2011. Riddick was instrumental in starting the first baseball program at the University of Tennessee at Martin Branch in 1957 and was the original first-baseman. Riddick has one son, Ken, and three grandchildren: Lucas, 16, Kyndal, 14, and Jordyn, 7.

1973

David Aubry Darnell, a UT Martin faculty member from 1973-83, lives in Adolphus, Ky. Darnell instructed approximately 800 students during 10 years in machine shop, welding and foundry and taught a variety of upper-division mechanical engineering courses. He was also the adviser to the Society of MFG Engineers. Darnell retired in 2000 from the Nashville Aerospace Corp., where he was head of

tool engineering, checking and new technologies in design engineering. He would like to hear from any former students or associates. Email: DRNLL74@aol.com

1974

Dan Morris ('74) retired in April from the Jackson Sun as a columnist, reporter and writer after more than 37 years of service.

1975

Betty Murphree Allen ('75) lives in Humboldt, and currently works as the office manager for Jostens in Jackson. She is a retired school counselor and has two children: Justin, 33, and Blake, 30. Her husband, **Sidney L. Allen ('75)**, is deceased. During her time at UT Martin, Allen was the academic adviser for the Delta Mu chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha and the president of the Martin area alumni chapter of ZTA. She has also served as president of the advisory board of the Gibson County Carl Perkins Center and as president of the Junior Auxiliary of Humboldt. Email: bmallen51@bellsouth.net

1976



Lucindia Chance ('76), who received her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from UT Martin, has been

named dean of Augusta State University's College of Education, effective July 1, 2012. Chance has been serving as a professor emeritus in educational leadership at Georgia Southern University and is a

(we want to know)>>>

Please fill out the information below and mail it to us or go to utmforever.com and let us know what you have been up to or update your address if it has changed.

Full Name (include maiden name, if applicable): _____
 Years Attended: _____ through _____ School/College of: _____
 Degree(s): _____ Major: _____
 Home Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____
 Occupation: _____ Business Name or Employer: _____
 Business Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Your Email Address: _____
 Would you like your Email address published in Campus Scene? Yes No

Full Name of Spouse: _____
 Did your spouse attend UT Martin? Yes No
 Years Attended: _____ through _____ School/College of: _____
 Degree(s): _____ Major: _____
 Occupation: _____ Business Name of Employer: _____
 Business Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Spouse's Email Address: _____

Names and Ages of Children: _____

Additional News (honors, promotions, etc.): _____

List your current hobbies: _____

Would you consider taking an active leadership role in UT Martin alumni activities? Yes No

Would you like this information published in Campus Scene? Yes No

If you know anyone who may be interested in UT Martin and is a high school junior or senior, please give us his or her name and address.

Enclose a recent color headshot photo, if possible. No low-resolution digital photos, please! Photographs cannot be returned to you. Every effort will be made to use all color headshots submitted. However, space considerations and/or photo quality may prevent us from using submitted photos in some instances.

Fill out, clip and return this form to:
 UT Alumni Association – Martin Office
 Dunagan Alumni Center
 1900 Alumni Way
 Martin, TN 38238
alumni@utm.edu

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(class notes)>>>

previous dean of their college of education. Chance has also been a dean at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, and spent 10 years with the University of Memphis.

1980



Dale Allen ('80) has joined the law firm of Adams and Reese in the Nashville office. He has more than 25 years

of experience in governmental relations and transportation law and serves on the board of and as general counsel for Averitt Express, Inc., a transportation and logistics company based in Cookeville. Allen also represents such clients as FirstFleet, Inc.; FirstExpress, Inc.; Volunteer Express, Inc.; the Tennessee Trucking Association and Enterprise Rent-A-Car of Tennessee.

1985

Dr. Reginald R. Williams Sr. ('85) is the principal at Kirby High School in Memphis. Williams has served as a teacher and coach at both the middle and high school levels and as the assistant principal at both Elmore Park Middle and Central High schools. He began his teaching career in 1986 and has devoted 24 years of service to students in the Memphis school system. He has delivered keynote speeches and taught lectures and workshops in a variety of academic areas. Email: williamsr3@mchsh12.net

1987

Joey Edwards ('87, '95) recently graduated from Leadership Memphis, a prestigious program that has been shaping leaders in the Memphis community since

1979. The nine-month program seeks to build a better city by forming better leaders. The program focuses on a broad array of community issues through the lens of three core values: diversity and inclusion, collaboration and civic engagement.

1992

Jason D. Nelson ('92) lives in Atwood. Email: jasdnels@ut.utm.edu

1994

Marcy Ingram ('94, '96) recently graduated from Leadership Memphis. (See class note for Joey Edwards ('87) for a description of the program.)

Sandy Tarkington ('94) has been named public relations manager of First Citizens National Bank in Dyersburg. She also serves locally as president of the American Business Women's Association and as vice chair of the American Red Cross. Tarkington and her husband, Robert, have three children: Anna, Becca and Trey.

1997



Jason Beck ('97) and his wife, Jennifer, live in Columbia, S.C. They are happy to announce the birth of their first

daughter, Hannah Grace Beck, in March 2012. The couple also has three sons.

1998

Tammy Pennington Reed ('98) and her husband, **Mike W. Reed ('01)** live in Adams. Mike is a structural engineer at K&S Engineering. The couple has two

children, Kyle, 5, and Jill, born October 2011. Tammy's email: treed00@charter.net. Mike's email: reedmichael@earthlink.net

Shon Johnson ('98) lives in Paris, and is an attorney at the Law Office of Shon Johnson. He and his wife, Carrie, have one child, Alex, born in September 2011. Email: sjohnson@shonjohnsonlaw.com

Andrew L. Douglas ('98) lives in Dubuque, Iowa, with his wife **Amy Rochell Douglas ('99)**. Andrew currently works in investment management with the Dubuque Bank and Trust. The couple has three children: Sophie, 7, Lydia, 3, and Samuel, 1. Andrew's email: Andrew.Douglas@mchsi.com. Amy's email: Amy.Douglas@mchsi.com

2000

Sherry Bell Surette ('00) earned her bachelor's degree from UT Martin in agronomy. She previously served as the conservation biology program coordinator at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and as state plant materials specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Science. She is now the head of the Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center in Raymond, Miss.

2001

Ruth Nutter Stevenson ('01), an expatriate living in Shenzhen, China, released her first book in February, titled "This is China." A non-fictional work, based on unique cultural experiences in Shenzhen that challenge an American's western norms, "This is China" captures

(in memory) >>>

the essence of cross-cultural exclusion and embrace through personal anecdotes and photography. Ruth holds a Master of Education degree with emphasis in curriculum, instruction and assessment, is a professional English tutor, and enjoys being the owner of a business that promotes traveling to learn.

2002

Dr. Sally Utech ('02) has been named interim associate director of the Hall Center for the Humanities at the University of Kansas. Utech will be responsible for program development, fundraising and the daily operations of the Hall Center. Utech is also the grant development and management specialist for the Hall Center's Humanities Grant Development Office. She received a doctorate in history from Kansas University in 2010. She has worked with the Hall Center since 2008.

2005

April M. Powers Davidson ('05) and her husband, Donnie Davidson, live in Dresden. April works as a registered nurse and earned her Master of Science in Nursing degree from Murray State University in May 2012. The couple has three children: Jacob, 18, Caleb, 16, and Isaac, 12. Email: ddavidson@crunet.com

2006

Brian Wood ('06) earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He is one of four engineers at the Nashville engineering and architecture firm Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon, Inc., to have achieved professional credential designations. Wood's designation as a structural engineer allows him to obtain licensure in

states that require an SE license to practice structural engineering. He has been associated with the industrial and buildings division at Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon, Inc., since 2009.

2007



Alex Atkins ('07)

a former All-American offensive lineman at UT Martin, was hired by the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga as the offensive line coach. Atkins was a four-year starter and team captain (2003-06) for the Skyhawks.

2008

William H. Freeman ('08) lives in Huntsville, Ala., with his wife, Katie Freeman Riggs. William is a structural engineer for the Boeing Co., and Katie works with CAS Inc. as a budget analyst. Email: free-willman@gmail.com

2009

Jason Tippitt ('09) is the new communications associate for Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, Mass., America's oldest theological seminary and first graduate school. He is also pursuing a Master of Arts in Theological Studies on a part-time basis with an emphasis in interfaith relations and social justice. Email: jasonrtippitt@gmail.com

Dr. Maurice Field ('59), a former UT Martin faculty member, passed away Aug. 17, 2011.

Cathey Sue Bradford Frazier ('77), of Goodlettsville, passed away March 25, 2012.

Jo Glasgow, a graduate of the University of Tennessee Junior College from Union City, passed away April 1, 2012.

Mark Linahan ('88), of Bartlett, passed away March 10, 2012.

Mike Pearson, a former UT Martin staff member from Martin, passed away Feb. 23, 2012.

Jack Pflueger, a former UT Martin staff member from Dresden, passed away March 10, 2012.

Norman Spencer ('57), of Medina, passed away Jan. 7, 2012.

Tim White ('92), of Milan, passed away April 30, 2012.



Dr. Richard Chesteen

a longtime political science professor and one-time gubernatorial candidate, died May 1, 2012, at his Union City home. He was 72.

Chesteen joined the UT Martin faculty in 1969, taught political science until he retired in December 2007 and completed a post-retirement teaching assignment in December 2009. He was named history

(in memory) >>>

and political science department chair in 1986 and also served as president of the Tennessee Political Science Association, the Tennessee County Services Association and the UT Martin Faculty Senate. He received a University of Tennessee Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award in 1991.

"Dr. Chesteen has a broad-based following of former students, faculty and lifelong friends within the region and beyond," said Chancellor Tom Rakes. "Richard's contributions stem from a balance of political knowledge, scholarship and firsthand experience."

In 1991, Chesteen announced that he would seek the Democratic nomination for the 1994 Tennessee governor's race. At the time, he was serving as an Obion County commissioner, a post he held from 1982-1994.

"You can't tell the story of post-1970 UT Martin without talking about the influence Richard Chesteen had on generations of public service-minded students," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "He epitomized 'the campus that cares,' and I was proud to see that as both his student and colleague."

Active in community service, Chesteen worked for many years on behalf of mentally retarded citizens in Obion County. He was an early proponent of community-based treatment and defended the rights of group homes to be located in existing neighborhoods. His community service was recognized in April 2001 when he received a Love Community Service Award from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Chesteen held degrees from Delta State University and the University of Mississippi

and previously taught at Mississippi Delta Junior College. Survivors include his wife, Gloria, and two children.

Gifts in his memory can be made to the Richard Chesteen Endowment for Government Internships by contacting the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7629.



Elmer Counce, a former soil science professor, passed away on March 13, 2012, at the age of 90. Now, future

generations will benefit from his legacy as the Elmer Counce Memorial Scholarship was established in his memory.

Counce retired in 1988 from the UT Martin Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources as Professor Emeritus of Soil Science. Scholarship awards will go to plant and soil science students who also exhibit good citizenship, a quality exemplified by Counce throughout his personal and professional life.

"I laugh when I say this, but it's true. Elmer Counce was the Billy Graham of soils," said Anthony Haynes, University of Tennessee associate vice president and director of state relations and a former Counce student.

"Mr. Counce and others laid the foundation for the success of our department today," said Dr. Tim Burcham, UT Martin agricultural engineering professor and interim chair, UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources.

Counce met his wife, Marilucille, during their UTJC days. They were married for 65 years and have one son, Ben, five

grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Counce taught all agronomy classes and introduced the university's first forestry class. He served as the soils team coach and trained teams that placed in national competition for 10 years.

Counce won the UT Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award and many Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation awards for service to Tennessee agriculture. He was also recognized as a Fellow of the Soil Conservation Society of America in the 1980s.

"He challenged us in the classroom, and he was tough but fair. He called his tests 'sod busters,'" said Mike Johnson, one-time soils team member. "When you got a good grade in his class, you had to earn it. He was one of the finest men I've ever known."

Haynes, also a member of Counce's soil judging team, added, "Elmer connected the dots between the critical importance of the soil, food security and global political stability. Those of us who benefitted from his knowledge and talent can show our gratitude by supporting this scholarship."

Contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7629 to make a gift or for more information about the scholarship.

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All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admissions without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. Eligibility and other terms and conditions of employment benefits at The University are governed by laws and regulations of the State of Tennessee, and this non-discrimination statement is intended to be consistent with those laws and regulations. In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The University affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the University. Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), ADA (disability), Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), Gooch Hall, Room 240E, Martin, TN 38238, telephone (731)881-7847 (V/TTY available) or (731) 881-7202. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity. E05-0425-00-007-13

<<<(one last thought)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT>>> Neil Allen, Health and Human Performance

Memphis

When Neil Allen's nephew, Josiah, was diagnosed with brain cancer at six months old and admitted to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Allen immediately signed up to participate in the St. Jude Half Marathon. In 2011, he single-handedly raised \$9,450 for the hospital and hopes to exceed that amount in 2012.

**>>> I want to cause
a chain reaction.**

“ I'm trying to pay St. Jude back. My main goal is to get a dollar from every person I talk to about St. Jude. Everyone has an extra dollar lying around. That's less than one cup of coffee,” he says. “It's a chain reaction for change. Small sacrifices can make big differences.” ”



Neil and his nephew Josiah at UT Martin's Up All Night event to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Follow Neil's progress on his blog at www.gojosiahgo.blogspot.com or on his St. Jude Heroes page at <http://heroes.stjude.org/gojgo>.

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