

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

CAMPUS SCENE

A L U M N I M A G A Z I N E

VOLUME LIV SUMMER/FALL 2013



HYDRATREK

IS ONLY PART OF THE
ROSE FAMILY STORY



CHANCELLOR'S

Dr. Tom Rakes, *UT Martin Chancellor* CORNER

>>>UT Martin experienced a banner year during 2012-13. Accomplishments span across three major areas including Learning, Discovery and Connectivity. For this edition of the Campus Scene, I am focusing upon academic quality along with our progress and plans involving UT Martin's outstanding facilities.

This past year more students graduated than ever in the history of the university. Approximately 1,372 students received their degrees, which represents a 9.8 percent increase in the number of graduates over the previous year. This brings our total number of graduates to more than 41,000 worldwide. Your university has the highest graduation rates of any public institution in the state west of the Tennessee River.

Quality academics and value have been recognized. We are proud to again be included among the nation's 100 Best College Buys, as well as only one of two public universities in Tennessee to be listed as a Best Value College by The Princeton Review for 2013. Again this year, U.S. News listed UT Martin among the top-20 best public Southern, master's-level universities. Our MBA program was rated as a top-10 online graduate program for 2013. UT Martin now has more than 400 courses available online.

In addition to outstanding faculty and staff, the learning environment both on and off campus continues to improve with the August 16 move-in for the newly expanded Fine Arts Building that offers an additional 52,000 feet of space housing the departments of music and visual and theater arts. This upscale project was completed at a cost of \$14 million with classes beginning in the building this fall. Additional instructional space was completed at the Ripley Center with plans under way to add a new wing to the UT Martin Parsons Center. The addition will provide space to accommodate students in one of the state's top Bachelor of Science degree programs in nursing.

Since 2008, the university, along with state, donor, and student support, expended \$62.5 million in capital improvements and maintenance projects. Upcoming projects include a \$35 million expansion of the Johnson EPS Building and construction of a Phase II of the Fine Arts Building to add a state-of-the-art concert facility at a projected cost of \$10 million. This fall we anticipate breaking ground for four new sorority lodges to be located on the south side of campus. We are also preparing to complete inside renovation of the newly constructed Rhodes Golf Center and begin fundraising to support the renovation of Graham Stadium, including new seating and a four-story multipurpose structure housing additional classroom and service areas, a club level and press box. The projected cost of this facility is \$6.5 million.

Improvements in student engagement and a new donor-supported program, the McWherter Institute for Collaboration, Communications, and Innovation, are set to begin this fall along with numerous ongoing student services programs including the First-Year Initiative, Student Success Center, and implementation of the nationally recognized Leadership Challenge.

There is always something new and exciting at UT Martin. We invite you to experience UT Martin as a safe, thriving university.

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On the Cover: Paul Rose, of the Rose family of companies, with the model XT66 Hydrotrek in background.

the big picture



CONGRATULATIONS!

Ten UT Martin students were accepted to veterinary school for fall semester 2013, a record for the university. Nine of the future veterinarians gathered last spring to note the accomplishment at the university's Agricultural and Natural Resources Teaching Complex:

l to r: Amber Futrell, Jordan Pack, Hannah Denton, Cayce Wood, Sarah Hoppers, Martin Sander, Matt Chesnut, Lucas Lacher, Jessica Phelps.



(at a glance)>>>



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT>>> **Dr. Chris Karmosky**
Assistant Professor of Meteorology

Dr. Karmosky teaches courses in UT Martin's meteorology concentration. The concentration was created in 2010 and remains the only one of its kind in Tennessee.

Originally from Eastern Maryland, Karmosky obtained his Ph.D. from Penn State in the summer of 2012 and joined the UT Martin faculty shortly after.

"I wanted to be at a school that was smaller, that focused on teaching, and the meteorology concentration is still really new here. So I was excited to have the opportunity to get in close to the ground level," Karmosky said of his decision to come to UT Martin.

He went on to say that his interest in meteorology and the weather has existed since childhood.

"One of my earliest memories is being six years old and writing out a weather forecast for my family. ... I've been excited about weather ever since," he said.

UT Martin also boasts its own instrumentation as the campus has its own weather station for students to learn and work with.

"It's pretty cool," Karmosky said, explaining that the station measures the on-campus temperature, humidity, wind direction and speed, air pressure and precipitation, and updates every 10 minutes to its own website, www.tnmesonet.org.

Students in the concentration also have access to computer software that processes satellite imagery and weather data, as well as remote sensing software, and Karmosky added that they will be as prepared as any student in the country for going to graduate school.

"We've had students intern with the National Weather Service and different TV stations in Nashville, Paducah and Memphis. Because we also have a strong geographic component, students will have the opportunity to get involved in careers with emergency management," he said.

**CAMPUS
SCENE**
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Dr. Joe DiPietro, President
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Dr. Thomas Rakes, Chancellor
The University of Tennessee at Martin

Andy Wilson
Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

Charley Deal
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations

Rob Hopgood
Interim *Campus Scene* Editor

Nathan Morgan
Coordinator of Photographic Services

Editorial Contributions
Erin Chesnut, Elizabeth Davis; Charley Deal;
Bud Grimes; Joe Lofaro; Tom Rakes;
Casey Curlin Scarbrough; Carmen Wagster

Design and Layout
Rob Hopgood

Photo Contributions
Bud Grimes; Tyler Holmes; Joe Lofaro; Miami Marlins;
Nathan Morgan; Rose family of companies;
Trevor Ruskowski; Casey Curlin Scarbrough;
UT Martin Athletics

Copy Editors
Bud Grimes, Joe Lofaro

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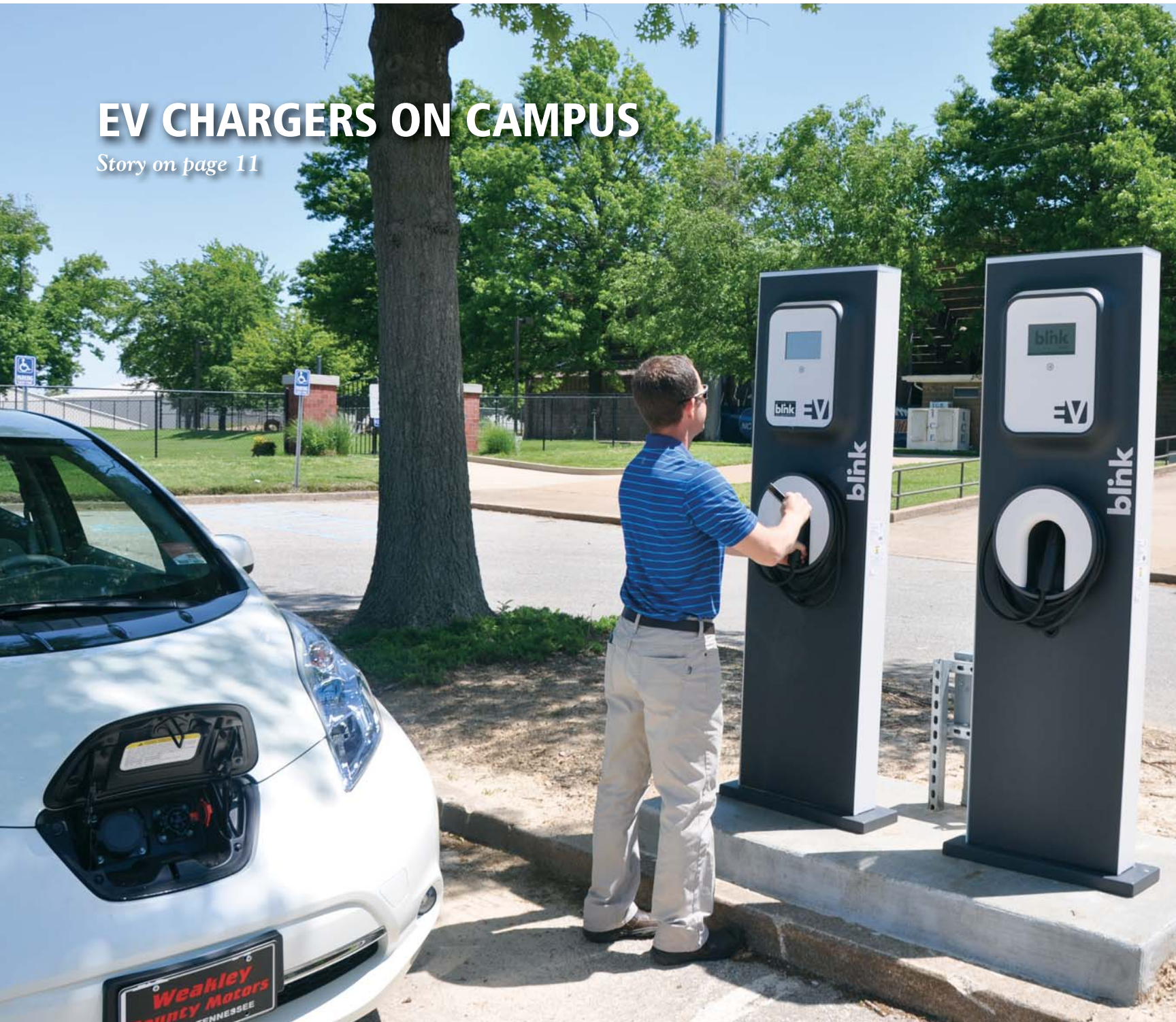
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EV CHARGERS ON CAMPUS

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(noteworthy)>>>



UT MARTIN ANGLER CLAIMS BASSMASTER ANGLER OF THE YEAR, WINS BASS PRO SHOPS SOUTHERN OPEN >>>

Grayson Smith (above right), who graduated spring semester with an engineering degree from UT Martin, wrapped up the coveted Bassmaster Angler of the Year honor when he won the 2013 Bass Pro Shops Southern Open #3, May 16-18, on Logan Martin Lake in Pell City, Ala.

Smith wrapped up the three-tournament trail with his first-place finish on Logan Martin Lake, a sixth-place finish on Douglas Lake in Dandridge, Tenn., and a 12th-place outing early in the year on Lake Tohopekaliga in Kissimmee, Fla.

Smith, from Clarksville, caught more than 61 pounds of fish and finished in the money in all three tournaments. He won a Triton boat, valued at \$25,000, for his effort in the Bass Pro Shops Southern Open #3.

Smith's recent success has him thinking more and more about a professional fishing career. "I started thinking about turning pro a year ago, but the recent success helps me," he said. "I am able to attract more sponsors with the recent wins."

For now, Smith will keep his day job at DBS & Associates, a Clarksville engineering firm. "I have to do both right now," he said.

"Champions are able to consistently go out and make adjustments," Smith said. "That's what I am struggling with right now. When the fish are not biting I want to move to the next spot. The winners are not the ones that pull up on their first spots."

Smith calls fishing a head game. "I need to learn how not to freak out when the fish aren't biting."

For the Rossview High School alumnus, fishing is all mental, even more so than golf, and Smith should know. He played golf all four years at Rossview High School.

Smith was back in the boat less than 10 days after winning the Southern Open with his partner **Dylan Powley** (above left), of Paris, as the duo finished 31st in the Collegiate Bass Championship on Pickwick Lake in Florence, Ala.

However, Smith and Powley were just one of three UT Martin duos to compete in the tournament. **Alex Derry**, of Bradford, and **Ryan Lackey**, of Parsons, finished the two-day tournament in 18th place. Derry and Lackey caught five fish weighing in at 32.71 pounds.

Hayden Smith, of Dickson, and Zach Morphis, of Cordova, also competed in the tournament, which included 168 two-man teams.

The UT Martin bass fishing team is 10th in the current Cabela's ACA School of the Year standings. The complete college standings can be found at <http://www.collegiatebasschampionship.com/>.



Officials unveil the rendering by TLM Associates for the 10,000-square-foot addition that will house the UT Martin Parsons Center's expanded BSN program. Pictured (l to r) are Frank McMeen, president, West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation; Harbert Alexander Jr., foundation board chair and president, Bank of Jackson; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam; and Robert Caldwell, foundation board member and CPA.

UT MARTIN EXPANDS BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM TO PARSONS CENTER BEGINNING FALL 2014 >>>

UT Martin will offer a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing (BSN) program at the Parsons Center in Decatur County beginning in fall 2014.

The Parsons Center will have openings for up to 30 students annually for the program, with 20 slots designated for traditional students and 10 slots for licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Graduates of the BSN program will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and obtain licensure as registered nurses (RNs).

"Health-care providers are frequently in need of registered nurses," said Chancellor Tom Rakes, UT Martin. "Having this program extended to our Parsons Center will provide new opportunities for students who live in that region and for the employers needing to hire registered nurses."

Initial funding for the program was included in the budget proposed by Gov. Bill Haslam and approved this year by the General Assembly. The \$1 million appropriation will be used to build a 10,000-square-foot addition to the current facility. The addition will include classrooms, a skills laboratory and a high-fidelity computerized simulation laboratory.

The expansion plans received an added boost when the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation made a \$1 million commitment to the project.

"The simulation laboratory operates like similar labs for driving and flying," said Jeannie Walker, a registered nurse and the center's nursing program coordinator. "We can simulate real health issues for our students so they can practice assessment and nursing interventions under the direct supervision of our instructors."

Walker said students will be attracted to the BSN program for a number of reasons.

"From the perspective of a student or current LPN, having this degree means better pay, leadership potential with an employer and the ability to continue to graduate school at a later date," she said. "From an employer perspective, having bachelor's prepared registered nurses generally means better patient outcomes. With current health-care trends toward pay for performance, it is essential for employers to hire BSN-prepared nurses."

Currently, there are approximately 120 students enrolled in the BSN program at the Martin campus. The program works with health-care facilities across the region to provide three years of clinical experience for its students. Similar programs at other facilities offer only two years of clinical experience. The program offering at Parsons will extend the same experience to students enrolled there.

For more information, contact Jeannie Walker, Parsons Center nursing program coordinator, at 731-847-3880 or jwalke98@utm.edu, or Dr. Kelli Deere, Parsons Center director, at 731-847-3880 or kdeere@utm.edu.

(noteworthy)>>>



RIBBON CUT FOR RIPLEY CENTER EXPANSION >>> Officials gathered Feb. 7 in Ripley to officially open the UT Martin Ripley Center's 8,000-square-foot expansion. On hand for the event were (l to r): Jon Pavletic, Ripley mayor; Craig Fitzhugh, 82nd District state representative; **Lowe Finney ('98)**, 27th District state senator; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; (foreground holding ribbon) Mykle Johnson, Ripley Center director; **Anthony Haynes ('88)**, University of Tennessee vice president of government relations and advocacy; **Dr. Jerald Ogg ('76)**, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; and Rod Schuh, Lauderdale County mayor.

UT MARTIN NAMES THREE NEW COLLEGE DEANS >>>

Three new deans have joined UT Martin for the start of the 2013-14 academic year. Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, announced the appointments in late spring.

Dr. Todd A. Winters is the new dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Winters previously served

as a professor and associate dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. He succeeds Dr. Jerry Gresham, who retired June 30.

Dr. Ross N. Dickens is the new dean of the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. Dickens, most recently a professor and chair of the University of South Alabama Department of Economics and Finance

since 2004, follows Dr. Ernie Moser who is returning to full-time teaching.

Dr. R. Mark Kelley is the new dean of the College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences.

Kelley, previously a professor and chair of the Department of Health Sciences at Western Illinois University, succeeds Dr. Mary Lee Hall, who also retired June 30.



EV CHARGERS ON UT MARTIN CAMPUS MAKE IT EASY TO CHARGE UP FOR ELECTRIC, HYBRID-ELECTRIC DRIVERS>>> Dr. Stan Dunagan (UTM '93, UTK '98) (pictured) pulled his Nissan Leaf up to the pump for a charge. He grabbed his book bag and made the short trek over to the local barber. After his haircut, he walked across the street for a quick lunch.

After all that, Dunagan returned to his office on the west side of campus and taught class before he walked over to the football stadium parking lot to take his car off the charger and drive home. His car was fully charged and good for at least 100 miles.

Dunagan, who teaches geology in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, can charge his car on campus now thanks to UT Martin's commitment to be green. The university installed two electric vehicle (EV) chargers in the Hardy Graham Stadium football parking lot.

"Persons driving all electric or hybrid-electric cars can come to the university and for a small fee, charge up," Dunagan said.

Dunagan, the oldest son of chancellor emeritus Nick Dunagan, said it cost him about \$20 to keep his car charged at home in April. His recent charge was going to cost him about \$3.

UT Martin and ECotality, the EV charger folks, will split

the modest revenues, Dunagan said. As for paying for the charge, it was as simple as paying for gasoline at the pump. All Dunagan had to do was swipe his credit card.

UT Martin is the second university to install chargers on its campus. The first was the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

In addition to the two universities, several Cracker Barrel Old Country Store locations in Tennessee have installed EV chargers. Drivers can make a circle around Nashville, Manchester, Crossville, Harriman, Farragut, Athens, Cleveland and East Ridge and stop at a Cracker Barrel for lunch and while eating a scrumptious bowl of chicken and dumplings they can get a charge.

In addition to UT Martin and select Cracker Barrel locations, Dunagan can also charge his car at home.

"This is a great commuter car," Dunagan said about his Nissan Leaf. "If we are going to Nashville, Memphis or the beach we are taking the mini-van."

As of March 2013, there were 16,256 public charging points in the United States. President Barak Obama has called for one million plug-in electric cars on the road by 2015.

With the increase in electric cars, drivers will want more EV chargers. Walgreens, McDonalds and select shopping malls in the U.S. already offer the EV chargers.

(noteworthy)>>>



VINTAGE POSTCARDS FIND NEW HOME IN PAUL MEEK LIBRARY>>>

Postcards seem headed the way of film cameras in these changing times, but the images that both capture can be part of history. Portions of a vintage postcard collection now have a new home, thanks to a gift made to UT Martin's Paul Meek Library.

Ridley Wills II (pictured), well-known Nashville historian and former senior vice president of the National Life and Accident Insurance Co., gave the library more than 1,000 postcards from his personal collection of some 28,000 unduplicated Tennessee cards.

The gift includes all of his Weakley County postcards, which covers cards featuring photos and information from Gleason, Dresden, Greenfield and Martin. The donation also includes all of his Lake County cards, many of which highlight Reelfoot Lake. Friend Tom Pulliam, also of Nashville and a UT Martin alumnus, connected him with the university.

Wills' passion for postcards had humble beginnings.

"Well, when I was a boy, I collected Tennessee postcards, and I kept them in a shoebox at my mother's house," he said. "And after I came back from the Navy after college to Nashville, I wanted to take pictures of old Nashville buildings, and I thought at first that I would use a camera to do it." He quickly realized that most of the buildings he wanted to photograph were no longer there.

"So I thought about that childhood postcard collection," he said. "I went to my mother's house and found a postcard dated 1908 (still one of his most valued cards) showing Jacob McGavock

Dickinson, Justice Howard Lurton of the United States Supreme Court and President William Howard Taft in front of Belle Meade Plantation. And I said, 'This is wonderful. I wonder if there are any more of these?'"

From there, his postcard collecting began in earnest. Early on, he collected cards from tourist homes and flea markets. "Then more recently, I've gotten them off the Internet," he said, adding, "I still collect some, but I'm giving more away than I'm collecting."

Today, thousands of postcards and decades later, he's returning his collection to the areas portrayed. Museums and libraries are the main recipients of his generous gifts, noting "it's been fun to get them back to where they belong."

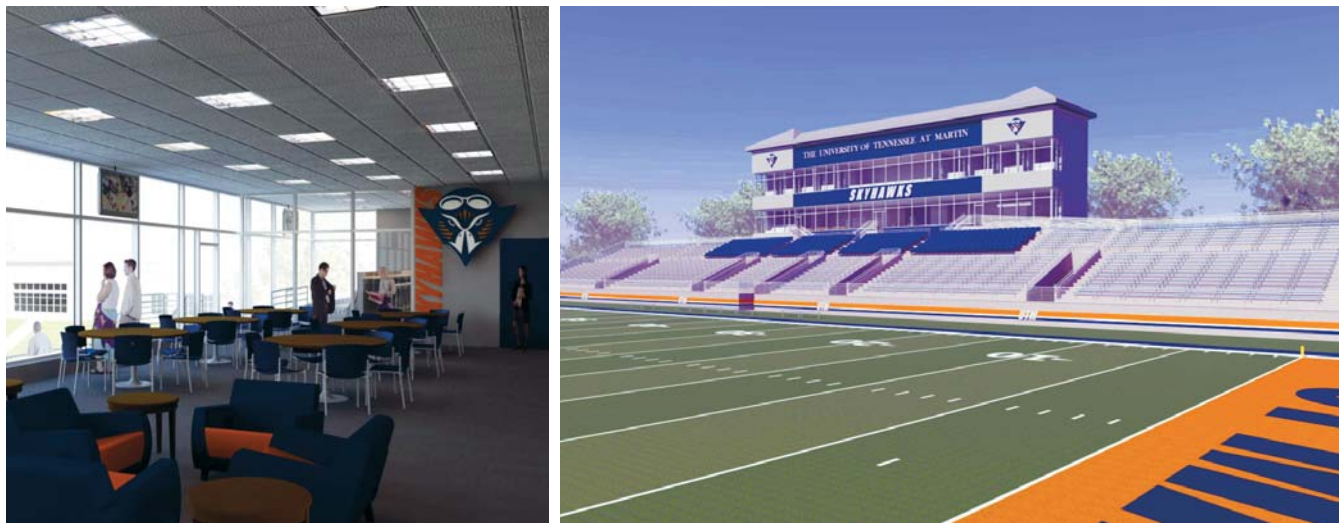
A Vanderbilt University graduate, Wills has given back to the Nashville community in many ways since leaving the insurance company. He has served on boards, raised money for charitable organizations and written 18 books, several copies of which he's donated to the Meek Library.

His own family is steeped in Nashville and state history, starting with his family home that became the Tennessee governor's mansion in 1949. A West Tennessee tie includes his great grandfather, Howell E. Jackson, a U.S. Supreme Court judge who was born in Henry County and was elected U.S. senator from Tennessee in 1881.

While the number of postcards donated to UT Martin is impressive, he's quick to put the gift in perspective. "Well if I've got that many Martin cards, you can imagine how many cards I've got (from) places like Memphis," he said, laughing.

(athletics)>>>

By Ryne Rickman



l to r: Interior rendering of the hospitality/club-level multipurpose room; rendering of the new pressbox and stands from the field.

>>> HARDY GRAHAM STADIUM SET TO RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT UPGRADE. UT Martin fans who decide to take in a home Skyhawk football game in the future may seem lost. That's because Hardy M. Graham Stadium will look totally different thanks to a \$6.5 million renovation project that will transform the stadium to one of the finest Football Championship Subdivision facilities in the nation.

The modifications have been endorsed by the chancellor and by several campus groups. The project – spearheaded by Fleming Associates out of Memphis – is fully designed and was approved June 20 at the UT Board of Trustees meeting in Knoxville.

For UT Martin athletics director Phil Dane, the football press box project is the latest in a long line of recent athletics renovations, including the resurfacing of tennis courts, new basketball scoreboards and bleachers in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, the Rhodes Golf Center and the Baseball-Softball Fieldhouse.

"This renovation to Hardy M. Graham Stadium will culminate a 10-year facilities improvement program that should make our student-athletes and other stakeholders very proud of how our venues compare to any Ohio Valley Conference institution," Dane said. "Nice facilities attract good student-athletes and comfortable, attractive facilities can help attract fans as long as our teams are competitive in our conference."

The entire west side of the stadium will be replaced with new bleacher seating and a four-story building featuring a club/academic support level and press box that will total approximately

21,000 square feet. The building will stretch 50 yards, from 25-yard line to 25-yard line.

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

The new bleacher seating will extend closer to the field (directly behind UT Martin's bench), eliminating the current walkway. The entrance to each seat will now be located through tunnels from the back side of the bleachers. There will be 3,560 total seats – 560 of which are premium seats that will allow for easy access to the club level on game days.

The second level will exclusively be used by the family and consumer sciences academic program. The area will serve as an academic support area throughout the calendar school year. The vast area will also be utilized for a hospitality and event management course.

"The proposed renovation will complement the current offerings in the family and consumer science department and allow for expansion into new areas important to the region," said Dr. Sue Byrd, interim chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. "The space will allow us to expand our curriculum to include a hospitality and food service management curriculum, which will train graduates to lead in management positions in the growing service industry. The new concentration would provide a broad umbrella for employment in a variety of industries, including food and beverage, conference management, event management

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(athletics)>>>

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and hotel and restaurant management. Students will benefit from the experiential learning opportunities that will allow them to be market-ready upon graduation.”

“I believe that improvements to the football stadium seating and press box are long overdue,” said Dr. Jerry D. Gresham, retired interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. “Planned improvements will not only enhance the athletic presence on campus but the academic programs as well. Few people realize that when we are recruiting new faculty to campus, the candidates assess academic and athletic facilities as an indication of the quality of the management and administration of the campus.”

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

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

Fans will get the chance to enjoy the new amenities while watching one of the most successful football programs in the Ohio Valley Conference. UT Martin finished the 2012 campaign with the best overall winning percentage in the OVC (.727, 8-3 record). The Skyhawks have also tallied a 35-20 OVC record (.636) in seven seasons under head coach Jason Simpson.

>>> UT MARTIN ANNOUNCES ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2013 INDUCTEES. A total of five former Martin coaches and student-athletes have been selected to join the exclusive UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame in 2013.

Former assistant football coaches Ross Elder (1959-73) and Jack Beeler (1965-74), former football player Lee Mayo (1965-68), former baseball player Mack Terry (1969) and former softball player **Kristin Runyan ('05)** (2003-05) comprise the Hall of Fame’s Class of 2013. The five former athletic standouts will officially be enshrined in the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame during a breakfast ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 5 during Homecoming weekend.



Clockwise from top left: volleyball’s Kasey Elswick; Skyhawk quarterback Derek Carr; from 2005, softball’s Kristin Runyan; football’s Fred Flenorl; softball’s Leah Taylor.

>>> ANNUAL UT MARTIN ATHLETICS AWARDS REVEALED AT SENIOR BANQUET. UT Martin seniors **Kasey Elswick ('13)** and **Derek Carr ('13)** brought home Athlete of the Year awards at the eighth annual Senior Athlete Night banquet held in May in the Boling University Center. Elswick earned Bettye Giles Female Athlete of the Year accolades, while Carr was named Bob Carroll Male Athlete of the Year. **Leah Taylor ('13)** (Outstanding Sportsmanship Award) and **Fred Flenorl ('13)** (Inspiration Award) also racked up the hardware that evening.

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A four-year starter for the UT Martin volleyball program, Elswick wrapped up her illustrious career by becoming the Ohio Valley Conference's all-time career leader with 2,606 digs. She also earned a spot on her third career All-OVC team this fall, a year after she set the NCAA single-season record with 852 digs on her way to honorable mention All-American accolades. In the classroom, the Louisville, Ky., native has earned two career Academic All-District awards for her 3.98 grade point average.

The Skyhawks' lead signal caller for the last three years, Carr concluded his remarkable career as the program's all-time leader with 8,428 passing yards, 665 completions and 69 touchdowns. This fall, the McKenzie native ranked in the top-10 nationally in three different passing categories and was the only player at any level of collegiate football to throw for seven touchdowns in two different games. In one of those games, he set the NCAA single-game record for passing efficiency after he went 42-for-46 for 560 yards on Oct. 5 against Murray State.

Taylor is UT Martin softball's career leader with 154 runs scored, 18 triples and 108 stolen bases in only three seasons. She was the 2012 OVC Player of the Year and Easton Fastpitch All-American after helping lead the Skyhawks to an OVC title and NCAA Tournament appearance. Off the diamond, she was named one of six OVC Scholar-Athletes, which is the highest individual honor an OVC student-athlete can receive. The Brownsville native currently carries a 3.97 grade point average and also was named an Academic All-District selection after earning Academic All-American accolades in 2012.

Earning the inaugural Inspiration Award was Flenorl, who left it all out on the field for the Skyhawk football team in 2012. On Oct. 6, the Memphis native made his career-high 10th tackle, appropriately saving a touchdown and causing a fumble on the 1-yard line. On the play, the defensive standout suffered a career-ending neck injury, but rather than sulk, he kept a smile on his face and was back on the sidelines cheering on his teammates later on in the season. For his teammates, he served as a source of strength and a reminder to not take anything for granted as the team posted an OVC-best 8-3 record.

>>> SKYHAWK HURLER TOBIK SELECTED BY LOS ANGELES ANGELS OF ANAHEIM IN 2013 MLB DRAFT. Dan Tobik ('13), a four-year member of the UT Martin baseball team from 2010-13, was chosen by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in the 39th round (1,177th overall) of the Major League Baseball Draft.



Skyhawk baseball's Dan Tobik.

With Tobik's selection, the Skyhawk baseball program has now produced MLB Draft picks in three straight years. In 2011, Trey Karlen was drafted in the 33rd round by the Washington Nationals, while Alec Mills was picked by the Kansas City Royals in the 22nd round of the 2012 MLB Draft.

Tobik now has an opportunity to carry on a family legacy of professional baseball, as his father Dave pitched in the major leagues for eight years (1978-85) with the Detroit Tigers, Texas Rangers and Seattle Mariners – who all reside in the American League.

Tobik will go down as one of the best pitchers in UT Martin baseball history. Despite spending two of his seasons as a full-time starter, the 6-4 right-hander out of Ballwin, Mo., is the Skyhawks' all-time saves leader with eight. He also ranks second in UT Martin history in career strikeouts (263) and appearances (80) while ranking third in innings pitched (275.0) and seventh in games started (30).

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(athletics)>>>


SKYHAWK
UPDATE


I to r: Skyhawk rodeo coach John Luthi; Tyler Waltz; top left: John Alley; top right: Clark Adcock; Clay Mitchell.

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Known for his ability to put batters away via the punchout, Tobik is the only Skyhawk in program history to record two top-10 strikeout seasons (71 in 2013, 67 in 2011). His 71 strikeouts this past season ranked seventh in the Ohio Valley Conference, while his strikeout-per-nine-innings ratio (10.31) was the third-best mark in the league.

Tobik's best season came as a reliever during his junior campaign in 2012. He led the OVC in opponent batting average (.212), strikeout-per-nine-innings ratio (10.80, 12th in the nation) and least home runs allowed (zero in 55 innings). He sported a 2.78 ERA (third-best in the OVC) in a career-high 27 appearances, notching three victories and five saves out of the bullpen.

Tobik also led the OVC in games started (15) and innings pitched (91.0) as a sophomore and led the league in least home runs allowed (two in 67 innings) and ranked second in ERA (3.63) as a freshman in 2010.

This past season, Tobik allowed two or fewer earned runs in six of his 12 starts. He logged at least five strikeouts in eight of those starts, including a pair of double-digit strikeout games. He fanned a career-high 12 batters in only six innings against OVC regular season champion Tennessee Tech on March 12.

Tobik's summer league performance in 2012 surely opened scouts' eyes. His team – the Wareham Gatemen – captured the championship in the Cape Cod League, the premier summer organization for collegiate players. In eight of his 14 appearances,

the hard-throwing righty recorded two or more strikeouts. In a three-game stretch from July 26 through Aug. 3, he struck out 15 batters over 5.2 innings. Overall, he fanned 39 batters in 30.1 innings for an impressive 11.6 strikeout-per-nine-innings ratio.

>>> LUTHI NAMED NATIONAL RODEO COACH OF THE YEAR BY NIRA.

The UT Martin rodeo coach John Luthi was named National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Coach of the Year in June at the 65th annual College National Finals Rodeo.

The award was voted upon by the NIRA Board of Directors, made up of the regional and student directors.

"I am very honored to get this award," Luthi said. "It's a huge honor and I praise God for the opportunity. There are a lot of great coaches in the NIRA, and I feel very blessed to be considered one of them."

It was certainly a banner year for Luthi in 2013. The UT Martin men's team accumulated 7,465 points in a span of 10 rodeos entering the postseason. The men's squad won the Ozark Region by a commanding 3,185 points and qualified for its 40th straight CNFR appearance in 2013. It was the program's 12th Ozark Region championship under the guidance of Luthi and 28th Ozark title since 1976.

Luthi brought home regional Coach of the Year honors, one of seven championship awards that UT Martin received from the Ozark Region. He also presided over the 45th annual Spring College Rodeo at UT Martin, which was named the Ozark's "Rodeo of the Year" for

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the eighth straight season. Several UT Martin cowboys earned top-10 national rankings throughout the season thanks to the tutelage of Luthi, who took over as head coach of UT Martin in 1997.

The UT Martin men's team finished 10th in the nation at the CNFR, the fifth time since 2005 that the team has closed out the year in the top-10. **Tyler Waltz** (bareback riding, sixth), **John Alley/Clark Adcock** (team roping, seventh) and **Clay Mitchell/Lane Mitchell** (team roping, 10th) also all rounded out the 2013 season ranked in the top-10 in their respective events.

>>> **MEN'S BASKETBALL ADDS DION REAL TO COACHING STAFF.**

Dion Real has joined The UT Martin men's basketball program as an assistant coach, Skyhawk head coach Jason James has announced.

Real brings nine years of high school head coaching experience to the Skyhawks, including the last five seasons as head coach of Covington High School in Northwest Tennessee. In those nine seasons, he has guided his team to four district championships and four runner-up finishes. Overall, Real compiled a 184-109 record at four different high schools, with a 92-34 mark (.730 winning percentage) against district rivals.

"I am very excited to be here at UT Martin," Real said. "I am thankful for this opportunity given by Coach James and the UT Martin staff."

Real replaces Cornelius Jackson on the Skyhawk bench, as Jackson accepted an assistant coaching job at Cleveland State University.

"When we lost Coach Jackson I wanted to replace him with a guy who is equally as smart and articulate, as well as someone who has the same loyalty that Cornelius has," James said. "I have definitely found that in Dion. I look forward to working with him this season and into the future. We are very fortunate to have him as a member of our Skyhawk family."

James was familiar with Real's impressive body of work from his past five seasons at Covington, where he chalked up a 103-60 record while capturing two consecutive district titles thanks to a 32-2 district record from 2010-12.

"Dion is a tireless worker and a very good basketball coach," James said. "His teams have always played with a sense of urgency and discipline that I am very impressed with. He is well-connected in this area which will help him a lot on the recruiting trail. The things that stick out the most with Dion are his passion for the game and his care for the student-athletes that have played for him. These are two qualities which I find very important in being a successful coach."

Real began as a head coach at Earle High School in Earle, Ark., in 2004. He led the Bulldogs to a pair of 20-win seasons and district championships, including 27 victories in the 2005-06 season alone.

Real then made stops at Cairo (Ill.) High School in 2006-07 and Dyersburg (Tenn.) High School in 2007-08 before settling in at Covington.

At Covington, Real registered at least 23 victories in four of his seasons at the helm. Under Real, the Chargers went undefeated in district play (16-0) in 2010-11. He was named the District 13-AA Coach of the Year in both 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Real has been selected as the head coach for the West Tennessee All-Star Game on three different occasions (2008, 2009, 2013). He also served as a head coach on the AAU circuit in Batesville, Ark., and Memphis before founding and directing the AAU team located in Covington in the spring of 2009.

A native of Poinsett County, Ark., Real played collegiately for four years at Lyon College under head coach Kevin Jenkins. He graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history while earning his master's degree in educational leadership in 2012 from Arkansas State University.

>>> **FORMER SKYHAWKS HUGHES, SIMS ON NFL ROSTERS.**

Former University of Tennessee at Martin football standouts **Montori Hughes ('13)** and **Quentin Sims ('13)** are adjusting to the rookie life of the National Football League.

Hughes became the first Ohio Valley Conference player selected in the 2013 NFL Draft when the Indianapolis Colts traded up to snag the defensive tackle in the fifth round (139th overall). He became the 12th player in UT Martin history to be picked in the NFL Draft and first since Fred Thomas (second round, 47th overall) was chosen by the Seattle Seahawks in 1996.

The Murfreesboro Tenn., native anchored the Skyhawk defensive line the past two seasons after transferring from the University of Tennessee. Consistently facing double and triple-teams in the trenches, Hughes tallied 72 tackles (29 solo), 15 tackles for loss, five sacks and 16 quarterback hurries over the span of 22 games.

The 6-4, 329-pound Hughes earned Phil Steele All-American and Sports Network All-American accolades after a dominant 2012 campaign. He ranked fourth in the OVC in sacks (four) and registered 8.5 tackles for loss to go along with 13 quarterback hurries on his way to first team All-OVC honors.

Last January, Hughes made a name for himself while playing amongst the nation's best collegiate players in the Senior Bowl and

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(athletics)>>>

SKYHAWK
 UPDATE

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Raycom Football All-Star Classic, both held in Alabama. He was then one of three OVC players invited to the NFL Scouting Combine in late February, ironically held in Lucas Oil Stadium – the home of the Indianapolis Colts.

Sims inked a free agent deal with the New England Patriots on July 19. Sims, who played at UT Martin from 2011-12 after transferring from Georgia Tech, had previously received a mini-camp tryout with the NFL's Atlanta Falcons in late April before joining the Patriots.

The Cincinnati, Ohio, native will go down as one of the most remarkable wideouts in Skyhawk history, earning All-OVC accolades in both seasons (first team in 2012, second team and All-Newcomer in 2011). In just 22 games over two seasons, Sims accounted for 26 touchdown receptions, breaking the previous UT Martin all-time record of 17. He rounded out his UT Martin career with 140 receptions (third in program history) and 1,804 receiving yards (sixth in program history).

Sims earned 2012 All-American status by College Sporting News and the Sports Network after one of the top single-season performances by a wide receiver in Ohio Valley Conference history. The 6-3, 202-pounder shattered the previous OVC single-season mark with 16 touchdown catches, hauling in at least one touchdown in nine of the Skyhawks' 11 contests. He piled up 1,092 receiving yards and had five games of at least 100 yards, which were both UT Martin single-season records. His 86 catches ranked as the second-highest total for a single-season in Skyhawk history.

The sure-handed Sims amassed five multi-touchdown games in his UT Martin career. That impressive list includes a five-touchdown effort against Jacksonville State on Nov. 3, 2012, which equaled an OVC single-game record. He also earned National Offensive Player of the Week accolades by College Sporting News and National Wide Receiver of the Week honors by College Football Performance Awards during his senior campaign.

>>> FORMER SKYHAWK FORWARD RICKIESHA BRYANT SIGNS WITH BG 74. In Germany former UT Martin women's basketball player **Rickiesha Bryant ('13)** has agreed to terms with BG 74 Göttingen, a second division German basketball team in Göttingen, a university town two hours north of Frankfurt.

"Three years ago I would have never thought that I would be able to play professional basketball," said Bryant. "If it wasn't for my coaches pushing me every day, I do not know where I would

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l to r: Men's Basketball Assistant Coach Dion Real with daughter, Kennedy; top center: Skyhawk football's Quentin Sims; bottom center: Skyhawk football's Montori Hughes; Skyhawk women's basketball player Rickiesha Bryant.

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be. The women's basketball staff at UT Martin has prepared me not only for professional basketball, but for the real world as well."

Bryant, who played at UT Martin from 2010-13 after transferring from East Mississippi Community College, will go down as one of the most dominant post players in recent Skyhawk history. After starting just three games in her first two years with the program, averaging 3.1 points per game, her production rose substantially in her final year.

The 2012-13 season saw Bryant set a UT Martin single-season record for highest field goal percentage (.642), converting 129 of her 201 attempts. She cracked double-figures in the scoring column on 18 different occasions – including 17 times in the final 23 games of the season.

The Miami, Fla., native mustered nine double-doubles down the stretch, all of which coming in her final 20 outings. In conference play she corralled at least a dozen rebounds eight times and averaged a double-double with 10.5 points and 10.0 rebounds per game.

In addition, she led the Ohio Valley Conference and set a single-season school record for blocks, swatting away 85 shot attempts. She turned away at least four blocks in 11 games, including flirting with a triple-double at Murray State (13 points, 15 rebounds, eight

blocks) on Feb. 23. The eight block performance tied a UT Martin single-game record which had stood since 1986.

Her final season was punctuated with a remarkable effort in the OVC Tournament. In three games, she averaged 13.7 points, 11.3 rebounds and 4.0 blocks per contest while shooting 77.6 percent from the floor (14-for-18) and 86.7 percent from the free throw line (13-for-15). She was as consistent as they come in the league tournament, coming up just one point shy in the quarterfinals of tallying three straight double-doubles en route to All-OVC Tournament honors.

Bryant leaves UT Martin as part of a core nucleus which led the Skyhawks to three-straight NCAA tournament appearances after capturing a trio of OVC Tournament championships and an outright OVC championship in 2011-12. She will join the club this fall with the season getting under way in October.

"I think it's great for Rickiesha to be rewarded for what she did last year," said UT Martin head women's basketball coach Kevin McMillan. "She has grown up a lot and developed into a well-rounded player that we look forward to following in Europe. We are very proud of her and her accomplishments as it's not only a great step for her professional career, but shows signs of where our program has come."

(university advancement)>>>



RECITAL HALL NAMED FOR BLANKENSHIPS>>>

Bill Blankenship, of Covington, is pictured with Chancellor Tom Rakes and UT President Joe DiPietro after unveiling the nameplate for the Bill and Roberta Blankenship Recital Hall in the newly expanded Fine Arts Building. The naming announcement came during All-Volunteer Day on Aug. 16 in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center. Bill and his late wife, Roberta, graduated from UT Martin in the 1950s and were the primary benefactors and champions of the All-Steinway initiative at the university. In addition to giving personally, Bill and Roberta jointly led the All-Steinway Campaign to raise the remaining additional support. The renovated Fine Arts Building was officially opened the afternoon of Aug. 16, and visitors could tour the new Bill and Roberta Blankenship Recital Hall.



REMEMBERING ED JONES – Dr. Jerry Gresham, retired interim dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, offers comments about the late Congressman Ed Jones during the presentation of a gift by Farm Credit Mid-America to help fund the Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series.

ED AND LLEW JONES DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES RECEIVES GIFT FROM FARM CREDIT MID-AMERICA>>>

Tennessee Congressman Ed Jones made many contributions to agriculture during his lifetime. Now his legacy will continue with a leadership gift by Farm Credit Mid-America to fund the Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series at UT Martin.

The \$12,500 gift announcement was made June 6 in the Paul Meek Library's Corbitt Special Collections, which houses a replica of the late congressman's office and holds his congressional papers.

The original Ed Jones Distinguished Lecturer Series began in 1989 as Tennessee Sen. Al Gore Jr. participated as the first lecturer. Jones actively supported the series until it ended in 1995. The lead gift from Farm Credit is the

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PIANO SCULPTURE UNVEILED

>>> Jim Powell (right) former chair of the UT Development Council, joins in unveiling a sculpture commemorating UT Martin's becoming an All-Steinway School in 2011. The unveiling came during the All-Volunteer Day luncheon held Aug. 16 in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center. Powell, of Limestone, who commissioned the sculpture, donated generously to UT Martin's Steinway Campaign. He also chaired the Steinway Campaign on the Knoxville campus, which was successfully completed earlier this year. Also pictured (left to right) are UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, UT President Joe DiPietro and Len Solomons, UT Martin senior director of development, who was a surprise participant in the unveiling. The sculpture will reside in the Department of Music office.

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first step toward endowing the lecture series, which will now also carry his late wife's name.

"Ed Jones was always trying to help agriculture, both the people and the industry, adapt to and change with the times," said Dr. Jim Culver, president, VVC Exploration, Inc., and a former congressional aide to Jones. "That is what he focused on with his speaker series at UTM. My hope is that we can continue that legacy."

Tim Williams, Farm Credit Mid-America regional vice president, made the gift announcement to an audience that included John Tanner, former U.S. representative for Tennessee's 8th congressional district and who succeeded Jones when he retired, and Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

"Farm Credit has a stewardship plan every year to invest money in the communities," said Williams. "We try to focus on education, and we see this distinguished lecture series as being an opportunity to educate not only people on the campus at UT Martin, but also the community as a whole."

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

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

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

Jones was selected in 2011 to become only the 13th member of the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame. The hall collection is maintained by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture at the Tennessee Agricultural Museum in Nashville.

Gifts to the lecture series fund can be made online at www.utm.edu or by calling the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.

HYDRATREK

by Bud Grimes

IS ONLY PART OF THE ROSE FAMILY STORY

The Hydratrek amphibious vehicle is designed to go anywhere. No matter where it travels, a Hydratrek's journey always begins in Covington, where the innovative vehicles are made. Hydratrek Inc. is part of the Rose family of companies, a business that has built its reputation "upon family values and a strong work ethic," words from the company mission statement. Headquartered in an historic 1940s era former Coca-Cola plant located on Highway 51, company president Paul Rose walks the talk, as honesty and integrity are his measures for success.

Paul was born and raised in Covington and has three brothers. The oldest is a dentist, while another brother is an ordained minister who graduated from medical school in fall 2012 at the age of 57. Paul, his youngest brother, Allan, and his dad have been business partners for more than 35 years.

During his high school years, Rose Iron Works was too small to provide him a summer job, so Paul worked on the farm with his grandfather (his mother's father). However, his oldest brother worked for the business, "and I'm convinced that having to work the way he did convinced

him to become something other than involved in the family business," Paul recalled.

Although neither of his parents completed high school nor encouraged him to attend college, Paul left home in 1970 to enroll in UT Martin and study engineering. When his grandfather died in the spring of his freshman year, he returned to Covington to work in the family business.

He went back to UT Martin in the fall of 1971, intending to complete his education. He worked on the yearbook staff his sophomore year and was yearbook editor his junior year under advisor Neil Graves. When Paul's wife, Nancy, earned an associate degree in nursing as part of UT Martin's second nursing graduating class in 1973, the two moved back to Covington where Paul joined his dad in the company, but he kept the desire to finish his college education.

Since then, the years have brought many changes to the business, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary. "My dad and my grandfather, his dad, formed the company in 1953, and they started out as a blacksmith shop and a repair shop," he said. "Back in that day, farmers did not own

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welders, and anything they needed fixed, they had to take it to someone that had the equipment to do it, so that's how they got their start.

"When I joined the company in '73, we had a fabrication company that fabricated ornamental iron, and most of the work that we did was to support housing construction, whether it was ornamental iron or storm windows and doors and that kind of thing. And then probably early '74, when I actually became a owner in what at the time was Rose Iron Works, we began to pursue construction, and that was kind of where my desire was."

Rose Construction became the spinoff business, and brother Allan joined the company around 1978. Rose Fabricating later became the next family enterprise with Allan as the general manager and principal owner in that company. APC Rentals became yet another part of the Rose family of companies, "And then we (Paul, Allan and their father), several years ago, began the company called Hydratrek."

Today, Rose companies employ about 140 people; the construction company part of the business is largely regional. "We have actually done some projects overseas, but they were for core clients," he said. These core-client relationships have taken the company to places such as Latvia, where the company helped to construct a combined structure for a school, recreational building and a seminary.

HYDRATREK BECOMES A ROSE FAMILY ENTERPRISE

The Hydratrek, described on the company website as "a vehicle capable of operating effectively on all terrains," has a unique story among the Rose enterprises. This part of the company involves well-known Covington attorney Houston Gordon; Coy, Allan and Paul Rose; and Bill Freeman of Nashville.

The idea for the vehicle surfaced as Paul was having lunch one day with Louis Gaither, a former business partner, who had sketched the vehicle concept on a napkin. Paul liked it, and since both men were avid outdoorsmen, "the original idea was to meet a need of the avid hunter and fisherman" for accessing hard-to-reach locations.

Then Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in late August 2005, and the partners reconsidered the market when they realized how valuable the vehicle could be in search-and-rescue and disaster relief. "And unfortunately it (the Hydratrek) wasn't ready to introduce to the market," he said. "We couldn't take it down there and say, 'Hey, let us show you what it'll do.'"

Fast-forward to today, and Paul doesn't readily recall which generation of the Hydratrek is in production, but advances and improvements have never stopped. A major turning point for the vehicle's success would be interest by "a large government contractor or supplier to government, whether it's United States or overseas." When that turning point occurs, the company can credit a strong and committed Hydratrek team that's in place, including two UT Martin alums in key positions.

Kevin Gay, Hydratrek president and CEO, attended the university between 1982-85. He oversees a 120,000-square-foot facility, which includes a fabrication unit and the Hydratrek plant. Most all of the vehicle manufacturing and assembly is completed onsite, but some componentry work is outsourced. The company currently has more than 100 Hydratreks operating in countries such as Australia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, China, Russia and Canada, with sales in other countries pending.

The vehicle is made on a standard platform, but the company responds to customized orders, which expands sales possibilities worldwide. Besides orders for the military, he added, "We've done some things with mountain search and rescue teams. We're doing some things in the oil industry, utilities industry, so we have a multitude of opportunities for specialization." Potential also exists in the recreational market, and the company has had the vehicles used by celebrities such as the Duck Dynasty cast and rock musician Ted Nugent.

Costs for individual Hydratreks can vary, Kevin said. Larger units sell for approximately \$100,000. The smaller six-wheel machines start at around \$70,000, and attachments can range from \$15,000 up to \$30,000. Oil skimming attachments can add \$40,000 to \$50,000 to the cost.

Wesley Slone, who received his engineering degree in 2006 and an MBA in 2007 from UT Martin, is Hydratrek's mechanical engineer. For him, Hydratrek is the perfect

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HYDRATREK IS ONLY PART OF THE ROSE FAMILY STORY

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opportunity as he multitasks among duties ranging from design work and process flow to ordering anything that has a drawing associated with it. “Every day is different,” Slone said. “... To be able to actually design something and see your product be finished in front of you is something that a lot of design engineers don’t get to see.”

Slone said that Hydratrek has “got tons of potential,” and Paul Rose agrees, but is he glad that the family ventured into producing the vehicle? “I’ve been asked that question, and truthfully, I’m glad we did it,” he said. “It’s been a challenge, much bigger challenge than I ever would have dreamed. ... But when you look at our values, and we talk about relationships, we have developed relationships that we never would have developed had we not done this.”

UT MARTIN AND A SPECIAL GRANDDAUGHTER

As the family business grew, Paul knew that completing his college degree represented some unfinished business, but it wasn’t a priority. The encouragement to return to school came with an unexpected visit in 2002 by Dr. Tommy Cates, executive director of UT Online and a Byars-Hall High School friend. Paul wasn’t in his office, but Tommy left his card, and they later talked about Paul’s returning to college.

After reviewing Paul’s transcript, he advised Paul that he could apply previous college credits and complete his degree in about 18 months. The longer he delayed, the more credits he’d lose, and after considering another university, he enrolled in July 2002, two weeks behind in a four-week course. He and his family were leaving the next day for a Bahamas vacation, so he purchased the books he needed and information for the online course, and the task to complete his college degree began in earnest.

“And I made the best grades I’ve ever made in my life during this next 18 months,” he said. “I holed up in the house at night doing what I needed to do and just thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and reaching a goal that I’d set 30 something years prior.” He completed a Bachelor of University Studies degree entirely online, graduating in 2004.

“There are things that are a lot more important. ...” he said of the accomplishment. “... I never gave up

the thought of getting it (the degree) done, and I am so thankful for UT Martin providing that opportunity and am especially thankful to my friend, Tommy Cates, for challenging me to do it, because had he not come by, that diploma wouldn’t be on the wall.”

Most important to Paul is his Christian faith, and that faith received its greatest test in February 2011 when his granddaughter, Lucy, was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a rare and aggressive form of brain cancer. She celebrated her fifth birthday about three weeks later in LeBoneur Children’s Hospital in Memphis and has battled the disease since. Now seven, she is cancer free after having all of the radiation and chemotherapy that she could receive the year following her diagnosis. But, challenges are ahead as she is “dealing with the physical, mental and emotional issues” that these treatments caused, Paul said.

He’s always reminded of his granddaughter as he wears a wristband proclaiming “Go, Lucy, Go,” and the website golucygo.org tells her story and raises money for the foundation that helps children and families facing this disease. Despite the challenges, his faith is unshaken and his priorities remain the same. “Without exception ... whatever I’ve accomplished that the world sees, the most important thing is my family and the faith of my family, knowing that the God that I believe in, that my grandparents believed in, is the same God that my children believe in, and they’re living their life honoring Him,” he said.

“NEVER, NEVER QUIT”

A print hangs in Paul Rose’s office that says “Never, never quit.” Allan Rose had called Paul earlier this day to say that their father, battling terminal cancer, was at Hydratrek, telling the plant manager about a new idea he had for the vehicle. Faith, vision and a strong work ethic will take a person most anywhere, and Coy Rose wants to be sure that Hydratreks continue to go places they haven’t been.

(Editor’s Note: Coy Rose, 80, founder of Rose Family of companies, passed away June 2, 2013, after the interview for this story with Paul was completed. Rose is credited for the inspiration and hard work that created this successful family business, and this story is dedicated to his memory.)



Clockwise from top left: Hydratrek model XT66; a model D2488B shows off its hill-climbing abilities; Paul Rose and mechanical engineer Wesley Slone pose with a model D2488B; Hydratrek models D2488B, XT66 and D2488B; Paul Rose poses with his UT Martin diploma; a hydratrek model D2488 demonstrates its amphibious capabilities; Wesley Slone demonstrates the operation of a model D2488.

BANKING AND UT MARTIN ENJOY A LONG ASSOCIATION

by Bud Grimes



Banking and UT Martin share some common ground – they’re both in the people business. Banks serve a critical role in the financial world and, closer to home, hold prominent positions in Tennessee’s economy. Banks continue to innovate and change in uncertain economic times, and UT Martin continues to educate those who work in the banking industry.

From the university’s Horace and Sara Dungan Chair of Excellence in Banking, led by Dr. Tom Payne, to the nationally recognized Online MBA for Banking and Financial Services Professionals, to the alumni who pursue related careers, banking and UT Martin enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship.

First Citizens National Bank and First State Bank are top financial institutions with deep Tennessee roots. They contribute to Tennessee’s economy, hire many UT Martin alumni, and both companies are led by veteran bankers who hold UT Martin degrees and are graduates of the university’s WestStar Leadership Program.

Jeff Agee and John Clark are leaders in an industry that makes a difference across the Volunteer State.

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BANKING CAREER FITS JOHN CLARK

John Clark once considered a career in dentistry. Instead, he swapped a dentist's chair for his seat today as president and CEO of First State Bank and Community First Bancshares. His vision and leadership have helped to turn a small hometown bank into a \$1.7 billion business with 500 employees and 31 full-service banking locations in more than 25 Tennessee communities.

Clark, 62, the son of two UT Knoxville graduates, attended Jackson's North Side High School, where he pursued his interests in science and math and graduated in 1969. His father worked for the UT Agricultural Extension Service, so his already strong UT ties and a small scholarship pointed him to Knoxville for his undergraduate degree. He considered attending dental school through his undergraduate years, but shortly after graduating, he decided to change directions. Teaching, was the direction he chose to pursue, which would allow him to stay on his grandparents' Weakley County farm.

Clark graduated from UT Knoxville in 1973, received a UT Martin teaching assistantship at UT Martin, and began work toward a master's degree and new plans to pursue a science-teaching career. He began his degree in fall 1973, married his wife, Janie, in 1974, and completed a master's degree in education in spring quarter 1975.

He turned his attention toward doctoral work in zoology and received a research assistantship at the University of Georgia. He began coursework in summer 1975, but his father died suddenly of a heart attack that July.

Clark came home at Christmas break in 1975, and he learned from his grandparents that the Bank of Sharon was seeking a person to replace the retiring president. Both his parents and grandparents were longtime bank shareholders, "and I'd sort of grown up going to the annual shareholder meeting." He interviewed with the bank's board members, after which the Clarks returned to Georgia. In February, the board voted to offer him the job, and he accepted. He completed the semester in late May 1976 and returned to Weakley County to become a bank trainee. "So I went from a zoology doctorate program at the University of Georgia that I had just begun to being a teller trainee at the Bank of

Sharon," he said of the 180-degree change. John and Janie continue to live on the family farm and have three children (Sam, Cissi and Codie) and five grandchildren.

Clark admits that he was on a "pretty fast track" at the bank, recalling, "I was 25 years old, and I'd had a lot of education, but nothing in banking, nothing in business really." He held most every job at the bank until bank president Russell Fisher retired at yearend in 1980, and Clark was named Bank of Sharon president and CEO in January 1981. "I know I made a lot of mistakes, but they (the board) afforded me a learn-as-you-go type of opportunity," he said.

The bank was successful through the mid-1980s and formed a bank holding company in 1986. The holding company's first expansion opportunity happened in 1987 when it made a bid to purchase City State Bank in Martin. The purchase of this larger bank was made, and the company became a two-bank holding company. Then a merger/acquisition with Weakley County Bank occurred in 1996, creating a three-bank holding company.

With a large portion of the bank's existing business in Weakley County, the bank expanded in the mid-1990s into Dyersburg, Lexington and Jackson and then into Obion County with a mortgage office and a consumer finance office in Union City. "Sort of like with the previous two merger acquisitions, we began some discussions with some of the directors/owners of the First State Bank chartered in Union City," he said, and another milestone followed as a four-bank holding company was formed, resulting in a combined \$500 million in assets.

A legal merger of the four charters occurred in 2003, with the company keeping the older Dresden charter but retaining the First State Bank name. Expansion continued, including into East Tennessee in 2008, and the bank reached \$1 billion in total assets. As for personal milestones, he completed 37 years with the company in June and has never had an employment contract.

Clark focused on the word "value" during the bank's April 2013 stockholders meeting, and he sees several ways that he and his team have added value to the First State brand. "People invest in things because they value what they're investing in, and then they hope that value increases," he said.

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BANKING AND UT MARTIN ENJOY A LONG ASSOCIATION

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He sees community banks filling an important niche in the banking world. He recalled a theme at a bank officer retreat several years ago “about the challenge of acting small while becoming big.” He started his career with a true community bank, and he grew to know individual people and their particular needs. “And the bigger the bank is, the harder it is for you to actually know your customers one-on-one and your policies and procedures and your products to be able to fit the local community,” he said. A company-wide strategy seeks to address this by recognizing the distinctive markets served by First State and hiring good local talent to serve customers in those markets.

As he considers the current economy, “pockets of weakness” remain, but he hopes that the worst of the nation’s financial crisis is likely over. Important to understand is that the crisis wasn’t caused by the average person trying to secure a loan from his or her local banker. “They (elements of the crisis) really have nothing to do with how local bankers deal with their customers. A lot of the aftermath does,” he said.

The aftermath of the financial crisis includes the July 2010 enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. The massive federal law places financial industry regulation in the hands of the government in efforts to prevent another crisis. He joins others in agreeing that another financial crisis must be avoided, “But the unintended consequence is you modify the delivery of the product systems and processes so much that you can’t deliver it.” The law’s unintended consequence for consumers seeking home mortgages are fewer options at higher prices, which cuts people out of the market, he explained.

Government regulation aside, Clark is optimistic about banking’s future for several reasons, including excellent leadership and a sound U.S. financial system in place. “The banking system in the United States is very well capitalized,” he said. “It is financially sound, and it’s not supported by the government. It’s financially sound on its own resources.”

He’s also optimistic about First State Bank’s future. “We’ve got very good ownership base,” he reported at the April shareholders meeting. “They’re committed to our company. We have very good employees, and we have great customers.”

First State celebrated the 125th anniversary of its bank charter in October 2012. “Exceeding Expectations” is a prominent company theme, and although John Clark’s dream to become a dentist took a different turn, shareholders and customers alike smile a lot these days as expectations are exceeded at this successful community bank.

FROM BASEBALL TO BANKING – JEFF AGEE HAS HIS BASES COVERED

Successful baseball players know and execute the fundamentals of the game. The same can be said for successful bankers, and Jeff Agee knows about both. The Dyersburg native and former college baseball player has risen through the ranks of First Citizens National Bank to lead the company as president and CEO. Today, he still emphasizes banking fundamentals as he prepares First Citizens teammates to reach new heights.

The son of a beautician and a barber, Agee, 52, attended Dyersburg city schools, excelled at baseball, attended Dyersburg State on a baseball scholarship and then completed his accounting degree in 1983 at UT Martin. He saw how his parents combined good business sense and people skills, inspiring him to become a certified public accountant. “As you would expect, being in the hairdressing business, they had great communications skills,” he said.

He wanted to continue his college baseball career after Dyersburg State, considered several colleges, and when a full athletic scholarship didn’t come his way, he focused on academics. UT Martin’s solid reputation in accounting and business led him to the university. “I got a very intimate education...from both schools,” he said. “And it added so much value to my accounting and banking career.”

Agee’s interest in banking began early as his family’s neighbor was longtime First Citizens president Stallings Lipford. While in college, Agee worked Christmas and summer breaks in the bank’s supply room, “and I can remember looking at all these debit and credit tickets, and I would visualize what that meant to the income statement or the balance sheet.” Lipford later offered Agee a staff accountant’s position with the bank following his graduation from UT Martin. “And 31 years later, here I am.”

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Opposite page: First Citizens National Bank president Jeff Agee and the bank’s headquarters in Dyersburg.



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Today, shareholder returns and bank regulation lead the list of challenges. “If we don’t produce shareholder return, I would not have a job. We probably would not be an independent bank, so we take care of our shareholders,” he said. “And then obviously in today’s environment, the regulatory burden is just really excessive.”

Outside the bank, community bankers are expected to be involved in the areas they serve, and expectations for Agee and his associates are no different. “Community bankers, just like they do in most counties, are usually your leaders, and they’re deeply entrenched,” he said. “We’re deeply rooted in every community we serve and especially in some of our core markets.”

To that point, First Citizens has 60 percent of the Dyer County banking market, and he serves on more than 15 committees while chairing three. He and his wife, Jolie, have two children, Franklin and India, who also keep the Agees involved. In addition, he gives back to his profession and is the incoming chairman of the Tennessee Bankers Association.

First Citizens employs approximately 260 full-time equivalent “teammates,” and the bank was among the top-three best employers in Tennessee from 2009-11. Contented employees and happy customers have contributed to business success. “For five years in a row, we have been

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BANKING AND UT MARTIN ENJOY A LONG ASSOCIATION

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ranked in the top-200 community banks in this country per American Bankers Magazine,” he said, adding, “Those analytics are driven by a three-year return on average return on equity. And even going through the recession, we had double-digit shareholder return, and that was about unheard of, because a lot of banks went under.”

The bank has reached \$1.2 billion in assets, and along with First State Bank, is one of fewer than 10 Tennessee banks valued at more than \$1 billion. Originally serving just Dyer County, First Citizens now has 20 branches in West and Middle Tennessee, with a new branch scheduled to open in 2014 in Madison County. “Our company’s not driven by growth or assets,” he said. “Our company, strategically, we drive it to match a balanced-scorecard approach, and I can tell you growth is not a big part of that, except driving for core-quality customers.”

First Citizens became privately owned in the fourth quarter of 2012, saving the company approximately \$250,000 annually in real dollars, plus other savings in time, effort and liability. Employees own more than 20 percent of the company through an employee stock ownership plan, so as the company succeeds, so do the teammates.

Agee says that many factors distinguish community banks from larger banks, and community bankers work hard to communicate this to lawmakers. “Community bankers are materially different, because they’re the backbone of the small communities USA. We’re deeply entrenched with farmers, small businesses and the people that many large banks will not even look at,” he said, and added, “It’s just knowing your customer.”

The bank also tries to match employees with the people it serves. “They’re not Social Security numbers. They (customers) are people. We have a deep relationship,” he said. Agee and the bank strives to hire teammates who are high on the “likeability index” so that employees “can relate and match well with the communities that we serve.”

Knowing customers is one way that First Citizens balances safety and soundness with lending money. “If you know your customer, you know what makes them tick,” he said. Diversification is another key to balancing safety and soundness. When he first entered banking in the early 1980s, “we were very much an ag bank,” he said

of First Citizens, noting, “It hurt this company. . . . So from there we knew we had to start diversifying. Farmers are critical to this company still to this day, but it cannot be a major percentage of the loans.” The combination of knowing customers and diversifying is what Agee calls “core fundamental banking.”

As for the economy, he’s most concerned about rising farm prices and high unemployment. On the plus side, “We’re starting to see home values improve a little bit,” he said. “So the sector that was killed during the recession is starting to improve.”

Dodd-Frank legislation leads his concerns for regulation, and he described the compliance and regulatory demands as “a bombardment.” Specifically, he said, “The examiners say they don’t understand it (Dodd-Frank), and when the specialized bank lawyers say that they don’t understand it all, it is very confusing,” he said. “It’s hard to enact.

“It’s also troubling times when you are hiring more compliance people than you are lenders. Now, as you know in any business, if you’re investing more of your money into being . . . defensive instead of offensive, you’re going in the wrong direction.”

Regulatory challenges aside, Agee is positive about the economy. “It’s (the economy) gone through many, many recessions and a depression, and if the government had not executed a few, quite a few actions, during the great recession, we’d probably had another depression,” he said. “So, it’s resilient. It will come back. It is coming back as we speak.”

He is also optimistic about the future of First Citizens as a strategic plan guides everything from retaining teammates – a top priority – to taking care of customers, both keys to future success. Guiding this plan takes Agee in many different directions, but he’s not complaining as he says “I’ve got my work hat on 100 percent of the time.” He might be a numbers person, but banking is clearly a people business.

“Again, even though I’m a CPA, I love getting out visiting branches. I love being out among the customers, the community,” he said. “That is Jeff Agee. That’s what I love.”

It’s been said that baseball parallels life, and in many ways, this banking veteran applies his experiences on the diamond to hit home runs in the banking industry.

ALUMNI NEWS

(the real deal)>>>

If you recall, last issue I discussed the idea of alumni purchasing lamps in the Quad to honor or memorialize someone special. More than 15 alumni took the challenge and are in the process of paying for their lamps! Not only do these lamps make our campus look more inviting and bright at night, they are helping us save on our energy bill as well.

Now I want to ask you for something else – your talent. Would you consider coming back to campus and participating throughout the year in the Alumni in the Class program? Depending on the major, you would be invited back to speak about your experiences in life, things you consider to be challenges or hurdles to overcome to achieve success. The talks will last less than 30 minutes and might involve speaking to multiple classes during your visit. Our students have stated they want to have more interaction with alumni. I hope you will consider this request and visit www.utmforever.com/intheclass to sign up.

We have another exciting homecoming planned for this fall. This will be our 10th Annual Quad City, and if you have yet to experience it, you need to come back! Bring your family with you; we will keep them entertained with a 250-foot zip line through the Quad, a rock climbing wall, a kids carnival area, and a lot of great food and fun for the adults, too! A complete schedule can be found in this issue. Check out our online calendar to find an alumni event near you. Until then, show your pride in UTM!

Charly Deal

SEE MORE ONLINE

For the most up-to-date information, news and event schedules, 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



HOMECOMING 2013>>>> Join us for a weekend of **ROARIN'** celebrations here on campus.

Friday, Oct. 4

- 3:00 p.m. Rhodes Golf Center Dedication
- 3:30 p.m. Rope Pull Championships (Pacer Pond)
- 5:30 p.m. Reception and Dinner honoring Congressman Ed Jones (Meek Library and Duncan Ballroom)
- 7 p.m. Volleyball Match (Skyhawk Fieldhouse)
- 7 p.m. Soccer Match (Skyhawk Soccer Field)
- 7 p.m. Pyramid and Pep Rally (Elam Center)
- 7:30 p.m. University Choirs Dessert Evening (Fine Arts Building)

Saturday, Oct. 5

- 7:30 a.m. Letterwinner's Breakfast and Athletics Hall of Fame Inductions (Elam Center Concourse)
- 9 a.m. Chancellor's Brunch and Awards Program (Paul Meek Library)
- 10 a.m. Sorority Village Groundbreaking (Quad)

Saturday, Oct. 5 continued

- 10:30 a.m. **QUAD CITY OPENS**
- 11 a.m. Football Team's Skyhawk Walk and Memory Lap (Quad by Meek Library)
- 2 p.m. Football game vs. Jacksonville State University (Graham Stadium)
- 5:30 p.m. Black Alumni Reception (Duncan Ballroom)
- 7 p.m. Young Alumni Wine Down (Olivia's Opera House)
- 7 pm. NPHC Step Show (Elam Center)
- 7:30 p.m. University Choirs Dessert Evening (Fine Arts Building)

Sunday, Oct. 6

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

COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR

SKYHAWKS



(spotlight on alums) >>>

By Casey Curlin Scarbrough

COVINGTON'S MAYOR OF MORE THAN 8 YEARS, DR. DAVID GORDON KNOWS EVERY BUSINESS AND PROVIDES UNIQUE STORIES ABOUT EACH ONE >>>

On the Covington courthouse square there are pink flowers blooming, and music plays from outside speakers. Around the square sit thriving businesses, some with arched windows. A little coffee shop painted mint green is nestled between two buildings, and people say hello as they pass by.

It could be a scene from Mayberry, but the quaint square filled with antique shops, cafes and boutique stores is actually part of Covington.

"I played Jed Clampett in a play in there while I was campaigning for mayor," he said, pointing to a teal-colored old movie theater that has since become a venue for community theatre.

"We park a converted cotton trailer here," he says, pointing to a space in the square where local concerts are held on Saturday nights in the summer. "We put a roof on it. We have it wired with lights."

But Covington has not always been the picturesque place it is today, and **David Gordon**, a 1975 UT Martin graduate, has been an instrumental factor in the revitalization of the town since 2008.

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(spotlight on alums)>>>

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In an era where small towns are struggling to stay afloat and revitalization is a hot topic, Covington is a shining example, and the town has seen economic growth and improvement in town pride.

"It looked like a lot of court squares in West Tennessee, with a lot of empty buildings, windows boarded up, not a lot of business traffic or foot traffic," said Gordon of the town before revitalization efforts. "Now there are things going on all the time."

In addition to the Saturday evening summer music events, which are in the eighth year, the town has also brought back its annual Heritage Day Festival in September, which brings 4 to 6 thousand people to the court square.

"We do a Dickens Christmas," Gordon added. "On a Saturday and Sunday, we have people dressed up in period costumes ... yours truly plays Scrooge."

Gordon has a humble, friendly and relaxed personality that doesn't strike you as one to be in politics, and a sign on his desk reflects his leadership philosophy. "Leadership is in your actions, not your position," it reads.

He has maintained a veterinary practice in Covington since 1979, but he credits his desire to lead to UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program, which works to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved and want to help West Tennessee become a better place.

"My public service life came out of going through the WestStar Leadership Program at UT Martin," Gordon said. "I went through in 2002. That same year I decided to run for county commissioner and was elected. In early 2004, after we moved into the city limits, I decided to run for mayor. That all stemmed from what I learned and the people I met through UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program."

Still, he credits much of the success of the improvement of Covington's downtown to those he followed in leadership, who began the process of revitalization around 2004, and others he continues to work with.

"There were some folks that I had the opportunity to follow that kind of started the process. It was a group of downtown merchants, county government and city government," Gordon said.

While much of the revitalization efforts have been concentrated on reviving the downtown area, there are also other projects and phases in the works for Covington.

Reconstructing the court square ushered in the next phase, recruiting retail for Covington. When cities have downtown areas that are well-kept and attractive, Gordon explained, they can have

a more positive impact on prospective businesses and industries that are looking to move into the town.

"They're going to look at your downtown as a barometer of how you feel about your community. If it's rundown or not maintained, that paints a picture to them of the whole community. You've got to have a downtown, in my opinion, that shows how much pride you take in your community," he said.

Recruiting retail aimed to provide Covington area residents with more local buying options so that the city did not lose sales tax revenue to nearby cities. Now Covington boasts a Home Depot, Applebee's, Hibbett Sports and other businesses not typical of a town of fewer than 10,000 residents.

"We had a concerted effort to get the community's name out and known among the retail business people," Gordon said. "We actually paid for a retail recruitment study, because you need to know who or what business you have a chance of getting ... you need to know who you can go after, who you can recruit."

He added that the city also surveyed the community to find out what businesses would be most popular.

In other projects, work is under way to expand the parks system, and construction is already being done on a biomass gasification plant.

"We're going to be taking things that we are currently paying trucks to haul to landfills to dispose of, and we're going to convert those into electricity through a gasification process. Over the 20-year project lifetime, we're going to be able to take four to five million dollars in excess savings and revenue, and that's going to go into our park master plan to expand our park facilities," said Gordon.

To other towns looking to revitalize, Gordon recommended encouraging everyone to get involved and being sure to ask people what they want.

"We're still looking at, as funds are available, doing some more," he said, adding that the city is looking to open a Boys and Girls Club soon, and it plans to convert a recently purchased church building into a municipal center that will house an Alzheimer's daycare, senior citizens programs, recreation programs, youth events, regional public safety training and more.

But today the birds are chirping on the Covington courthouse square.

"It's a nice place to be and go. You feel like, more so, that this is a home," Gordon said.



ANNE WHALEN SHAFER attended UT Junior College from 1946-47. In her time at UT Junior College, she was the 1947 editor of the *Volette* and that same year served as Miss UT Junior College. While she got her educational start at UT Junior College, Shafer went on to serve for the better good of society.

From 1964 to 1966, Shafer was appointed chairwoman of the Memphis City Beautiful Commission. When she walked through the doors on her first day, she noticed that the African American employees were working in closets. Shafer was motivated to take immediate action to improve the working conditions of all her employees; thereby, she integrated the first department of Memphis City Hall.

Following her appointment on the Memphis City Beautiful Commission, Shafer became a leader in the United Nations Association, the Memphis Panel of American Women, the League of Women Voters and Church Women United, among several other organizations. In 1966, she was selected as one of nine Women Doers by the Democratic Party, which recognizes exceptional leaders in the United States.

Now, Shafer, 89, has published a book focused on her experience as a part of the political and religious progressive activists in the Memphis community as they took their stand against issues of racism, sexism, and the relationship of church and state. Shafer's memoir, *Memphis Instruments of Peace: How Volunteers and Visionaries Challenged Racism, Reactionary Politicians and the Catholic Hierarchy*, is available on Amazon.com. Shafer's friends and family are proud of what she has accomplished and are excited to see her hard work. Shafer's son, **ROBERT SHAFER JR. ('77)**, said, "She went through a lot back then, as did my father. Both received threats and were harassed constantly. It is nice to see her finally receive some recognition for her efforts."



WARD FAMILY HAS SHOWN GREAT DEDICATION AND SUPPORT FOR UTM>>>

Walter Ward graduated from UT Martin in 1985 with a degree in business administration and major in accounting and completed his Master of Business Administration degree in 1999. Following in their father's footsteps, **Whitney Ward Simmons** and **Zach Ward** both pursued an interest in accounting. Whitney graduated from UTM in 2008 with a business administration degree and major in accounting and is currently working on her MBA. Zach is working on completing his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in accounting. Beyond their work in the classroom, the Ward family has continued to maintain their connection with UT Martin by staying actively involved in alumni activities. Walter serves on the UTM Alumni Council, Whitney serves on the UTM Young Alumni Council and Zach is a member of the UTM Undergraduate Alumni Council.

(spotlight on alums)>>>



By Elizabeth A. Davis

MANNY COLON GETS MIAMI MARLINS TO THE GAME>>>

After the Star-Spangled Banner is sung and the first pitch barrels toward the lead-off batter, Manny Colon can relax. He might be the only one in the Miami Marlins organization whose down time lasts nine innings.

COLON ('01) is in his third season as the Marlins' traveling secretary, a front-office position that many teams are starting to call director of team travel. He arranges the air and ground travel for

the players and coaches and makes sure their luggage gets to the hotel and the equipment makes it to the ballpark. He's in charge of handing out meal per diem to each player, arranging for rental cars and setting aside game tickets for family and friends. He is the personal travel agent for about 60 people who need to be on time, in a good mood and prepared for the 81 games they play on the road each season.

"When it's 7:05, it's the best time of the day because everyone is on the field," Colon says.

He began working for the Marlins in 2002 as an intern and got a full-time position as player relations assistant the next year in time for the World Series and the Marlins' victory over the New York Yankees. He worked in player development before taking on team travel.

It has been reported Colon is the first Latino traveling secretary in the major leagues, but Colon doesn't know for sure.

"It is an honor if I am, and I hope it opens doors for other people," he says.

Colon's job is fitting for someone who moved frequently as a child and loves baseball, even though he doesn't like being away from wife, Joelle; 7-year-old daughter, Melanie; and 3-year-old son, Jason.

Colon grew up in Puerto Rico with his mother while his father was in the Army in South Korea. There were stops in Germany and Italy before his father was stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky. After high school, he thought about playing college baseball. After realizing, "I'm not that good," he turned his sights to the front office.

At UT Martin, Colon worked in athletics and was Captain Skyhawk. He attended the baseball winter meetings in 1998 and got a six-month internship with the minor-league New Jersey Cardinals. Back at UT Martin, he picked up a gig as the public-address announcer for the baseball team.

At 33, Colon still has plenty of time to work his way up through the ranks in baseball.

"To be a little Latino boy raised in Clarksville, and get where I am today, I've done pretty well so far," he says. "I think I could do more in the game. I'm not ready for it now but maybe five or 10 years from now."



PHILLIP CRESWELL NAMED PARTNER WITH ATA >>> Phillip

Creswell ('04) is now a partner with Alexander Thompson Arnold, PLLC CPAs. "Phillip has been an asset to Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs since he joined the firm in 2004," said Al Creswell ('76), CPA, chief managing officer for Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC. "He has an excellent reputation in the community and has worked hard to develop his skills as an accountant and a leader. We are proud to welcome him as partner and look forward to a bright future together."

Phillip, who holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in accounting, joined the firm in 2004 and has devoted his career to governmental auditing, financial statement preparation, and tax issues and preparation. His experience complements his work on the firm's audit watch task force, whose mission is to examine and improve ATA's audit processes and deliverables. He also serves on the firm's information

technology committee and strategic planning committee and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants.

He is a member of the Union City Athletic Booster Club, Union City Rotary Club and Union City Jaycees. He is the finance committee chairman for First United Methodist Church in Union City, a financial advisor for the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity Board of Trustees and treasurer for the Union City Youth Athletic Alliance. He is also past president of the Obion County UT Alumni Association. He and his wife, Katie ('08), have a son, Preston. Phillip is the son of Al and Michelle Creswell ('91).

"Growing up with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs, I learned from an early age that ATA is a company that works hard for its clients," said Phillip. "I'm honored to continue the tradition that dad and the other ATA partners have established."

UT Martin
Fall Preview Days
October 19
November 23

Honors Preview Day
October 25

UT MARTIN REPRESENTED AT UT DAY ON THE HILL >>>

University of Tennessee alumni, faculty and staff gathered at the state capitol March 13 to highlight UT's statewide impact and thank elected officials for their support of higher education. This year's theme was "UT—Key to Tennessee's Future." UT Martin was represented by **Katelyn Arnold**, of Holladay, and **Bryce Holmes ('13)**, of Jackson, who are pictured talking with 24th District State Senator **John Stevens (right, '96)**, of Huntingdon, in front of the UT Martin display. Among those also attending UT Day on the Hill were UT President Joe DiPietro and UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes.



(spotlight on alums)>>>



By Casey Curlin Scarbrough

ROBBINS PURSUES LOVE STORY FOR WRITING>>>

If asked where the words come from, **SANDRA ROBBINS** will tell you they are given to her. The Martin native and 1973 UT Martin alumna has turned a dream of writing into a reality as she has written and had published 18 books in less than 10 years.

"Christian romance, southern style" reads the tagline on her website www.sandrarobbins.net, which features her main two lines of novels, Christian romance and historical suspense. Yet, Robbins had a long career in education before becoming a full-time writer.

"I've always put my trust in God," she said, describing the angst of searching for her first job after graduating with her bachelor's in music education.

Against tough odds, she landed a job as a music teacher at a time when few such positions were available, and during her time there she returned to UT

Martin to work on her master's degree. Another job and 16 years of teaching later, she again returned to UT Martin for additional education.

"UTM was like my second home for many years," Robbins said. "I started working on courses beyond my master's and picked up the certification for principalship."

She worked as a school principal for 17 years but still felt the urge to get into writing.

"I had a wonderful, wonderful career in education ... but inside I'd always had this dream that someday I was going to write a book," Robbins said. "It just never seemed the right moment."

Then in late 2004, despite her only fiction writing experience coming from one course in college, Robbins sat down one night and began writing.

"The story was just rattling around in my head that I wanted to write, and I sat down, and I began to write, and I didn't know anything about writing ... but it began to come together," she said.

Soon the story developed, the characters took shape, and Robbins found support within the American Christian Romance Authors organization (ACRA), now called the American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW), which introduced her to other authors in the genre.

"I knew from the very beginning when I started that first book that I was not going to write profanity. I was not going to write sex scenes. And when I found this organization, I went, 'There's a whole world out there of Christian fiction that I never explored,'" she said.

Robbins soon discovered that she had a talent for writing Christian fiction and

continued to develop her skills and receive praise within the ACRA; but in 2006, her health took a turn for the worse. She had a heart attack while on vacation in San Antonio, Texas.

The heart attack, which hit while she was on a riverboat ride, gave Robbins new insight.

"I sat there on that riverbank, waiting for the ambulance to come, thinking 'I'm going to die here. There's so many things I haven't done,'" she said. "I just prayed and said 'God, please let me live so I can do some things I need to do.'"

Fortunately, an internationally known cardiologist was at the hospital that night to insert a stent and see Robbins through the heart attack, a cardiologist that Robbins believes could have taken weeks to see had she tried to make an appointment with him under other circumstances.

"But that night I felt like God had made that appointment," she said. "So I came away from that experience knowing that I had something I needed to do. And I felt like what I needed to do was to write the words that God has given me and send them out into the world."

She soon resigned from her job as a principal and focused on writing full-time.

Fast-forward six years, and the words given to Robbins have become a successful writing career.

She talks about each book like an old friend, describing the characters and inspiration. Through the ACFW she met with editors, signed with an agent and has written several books within the Love Inspired Suspense series, which features romantic suspense stories.

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Her first published book, "Pedigreed Blood Lines," is what she called a cozy mystery and was released in 2008.

"Since it was a mystery, I turned to writing more suspense and I was able to get a contract with Love Inspired Suspense, which is a Harlequin inspirational in-print," Robbins said, as she picked up her latest Love Inspired Suspense novels, "Fatal Disclosure" and "Shattered Identity."

But suspense is not her only genre. Robbins has also made a name for herself in the Christian romance market with titles such as "The Columns of Cottonwood," about a southern belle who loses her home, and one of her latest published works, "Angel of the Cove," which is the first book in her Smoky Mountain Dreams trilogy and follows a young woman working in the mountains as a midwife's apprentice.

She has also broken into the historical fiction market with "A Lady's Choice," part of a line called American Tapestries, which takes the reader to events in 1916 on the road to equal rights for women.

"What they wanted were stories that were set in a time during American history, where you told the true events of a historical event, but you put in fictional characters," Robbins said.

Robbins is still writing and her latest book, "Mountain Homecoming," the second in her Smoky Mountain Dreams series, was released in May. The third is set to be released later in 2013.

"It's a wild ride, this journey I've been on," Robbins said. "I wanted the words that God gave me to go out in the world ... and I hope that those words are going to take root in somebody's heart." **UTM**



By Carmen Wagster

ALUM MOVES FROM COLLECTIBLES TO CORPORATIONS>>> LEE DOWNING ('94) was business savvy

from a young age. So, it should come as no surprise that Downing is the senior vice president of operations for the Tractor Supply Co.

Downing grew up around the UT Martin campus. His father, Dr. Marvin Downing, is a retired professor and chair in the Department of History and Philosophy, and his mother, Sandy Downing, is a retired from working with government documents in the Paul Meek Library.

When he became a student at UT Martin, he got his first taste of how businesses were run.

"I ran a baseball card and comic book shop in town, and I used the money I made from that to put myself through college," said Downing.

He recalled one of his greatest lessons he gained from his classes. "I had some opinions about business, but by going through the classes and meeting with some of the professors and understanding a little more about what it really meant other than 'I get the money, put it in the cash register, and take it to the bank.'"

He continued, "I understood more about the real business world and what really happens."

Right after he graduated from UTM, he sold his small business and went to work for Dollar General in Martin. He went through the store management-training program and quickly became a store manager. And in 2005, Downing was promoted to division vice president for Dollar General Corp., where he oversaw 2,500 stores.

In 2010, Downing took a position at the Tractor Supply Co. at the Brentwood headquarters and became the senior vice president of Operations. Now, Downing is the leader of all the store and field operations with Tractor Supply, with more than 15,000 team members reporting to him. He oversees the store operations group and those managing the helpdesk and customer care center.

Still, whenever Downing returns to Martin, he almost always visits the campus, whether it's to attend an event with his parents or to visit his sister, Cecile Buchanan, who works for the Healthy Start Program, housed at UT Martin. **UTM**

(spotlight on alums)>>>



by Erin Chestnut

MIKE BURTON LEADS TENNESSEE OIL AND GAS PROGRAM>>>

Michael Burton ('84) has served as supervisor of the Tennessee Oil and Gas Program since 1996 and is responsible for the permitting and environmental issues for all of Tennessee's oil and gas sites. He also has an instrumental role in the creation and approval of new regulations to control the release of natural gases through rock fracturing, or "fracking."

Burton returned April 9 to his alma mater to participate in a panel following a viewing of the energy documentary "Switch." The documentary follows Dr. Scott Tinker, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology, on an around-the-world tour of the world's leading energy sites. In the film, Tinker explores many issues surrounding global energy. Burton offered his insights about fracking before the panel discussion.

Fracking, Burton explained, works by introducing a large amount of water under high pressure into a well that's been drilled horizontally into a dense rock formation, such as shale rock. The water pressure creates fractures in the rock, allowing the natural gases trapped below to escape.

"Tennessee has not experienced (water fracking) as seen in places such as Pennsylvania or Ohio, because the geology in those states has thicker and deeper shale formations, which allows the use of five million gallons of water to frack a well; whereas, here the state has only experienced using somewhere between 150 to 200,000 gallons of water," said Burton.

"What has been found is that large, water-based fracks don't work as well, so the oil and gas industry does not use this type of frack method in Tennessee. They use nitrogen, which is three times more expensive. What the industry is seeing in Tennessee is the

water is inhibiting the flow of the gas because of these under-pressured formations. The Chattanooga Shale and Sequatchie Shale formations have less pressure than formations you see in the northeast or midwest area of the country."

However, while the practice is not as common in Tennessee as in more northern areas, the environmental and safety regulations must still be in place to control the process in the future and help ensure proper procedures are being followed. The new regulations compiled by the Tennessee Oil and Gas Program went into effect on June 18 of this year.

Burton explained that home and business owners should be aware of the regulations controlling the well-fracturing industry, as fracking plays an important role in the price of natural gas and oil for homes and other equipment.

"People should want to be informed as to what is taking place during the process for rule making, not just the government taking complete responsibility or what special interest groups are wanting to see done," said Burton. "We have the state government and the federal government writing the rules, but who is persuading them to write those rules, and in which direction are the rules being directed? All citizens are stakeholders in the rule-making process."

"If you go back to 2003 and 2004, the price of gas to heat homes was really going out the roof. Then, all of a sudden, the oil and gas industry drills a number of directional shale wells in the country, and now prices are back down to an affordable value, so people can reasonably heat their homes less expensively. Most people are not aware of this trend," he added. "Currently the United States has a number of gas wells located in the eastern section of the country that have brought the price of natural gas down."

Burton says most of the state's oil and gas activity occurs north of I-40, east of Cookeville and Livingston, and west of Hancock County to the Kentucky border.

Burton, a Camden native, served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1977-80 before receiving his bachelor of science in geology in 1984 from UT Martin. He went on to earn his Master of Science in geology in 1987 from what was then Memphis State and spent several years as a consultant in Nashville before moving his family to Kingston Springs, where they now reside. He has previously served as chairman of the Cheatham County Tennessee Solid Waste Board to determine a solid waste plan for the county and has pastored the Grace Chapel Church in Ashland City for the past 11 years.



JIMMY CROOM APPOINTED JUDGE>>> James L. Croom ('83),

assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, was appointed March 20, 2013, by the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals as bankruptcy judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee. His chambers and courtroom are located in the district's Eastern Division at Jackson.

Croom received his bachelor's degree with high honors in 1983 and his law degree in 1986 from the Cecil C. Humphrey's School of Law at what was then Memphis State University.

He served as an estate administrator for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee in 1987 until his appointment as an attorney/advisor in the Office of the United States Trustee for Region Eight in 1988. After serving in this capacity for seven years, Croom was appointed assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Tennessee in 1995 where he served until his judicial appointment. He represented various federal agencies in civil matters before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, and the Second, Fifth and Sixth Circuit U.S. Courts of Appeal. He also prosecuted criminal cases before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee and the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Croom resides in Greenfield with his wife, Diane ('84). They have two daughters, Laura and Callie (both UT Martin students), and a son, the late James L. Croom, who also attended the university.



UT MARTIN "IN THE LIGHTS" AT WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR >>>

Donna Pollard ('67), wife of **Ray Pollard ('61)**, took this photo of the electronic banner in New Orleans Arena during the 2013 NCAA Women's Final Four. The banner listed all 64 Division I women's basketball teams that played in the 2013 tournament. In submitting the photo, Ray wrote that the banner represented "a real pat on the back" for all of those who helped to get UT Martin's name on the board. "It was not easy (making the tournament), and there are a lot of other schools that did not come close to making it," Ray wrote. "My congratulations to those ladies and their coaching staff."

(spotlight on alums)>>>



By Casey Curlin Scarbrough

NO DAY IS THE SAME FOR KENT LANDERS>>>

The 1998 graduate of UT Martin is now the group director of corporate media relations with The Coca-Cola Company at its corporate headquarters in Atlanta.

"The thing about our business is that there is no 'day in the life.' Every day is different," he said.

Landers was the keynote speaker in April at UT Martin's annual Department of Communications Awards Banquet and gave current students advice and encouragement on entering the fields of communications and public relations.

"The great thing about failures or weaknesses is that those are the things you learn from," Landers said in response to a student's questions.

At Coca-Cola, Landers is responsible for overseeing the global media relations strategy for the company with an emphasis on telling the company's global growth story. He joined the company in

his current role in 2011 and was previously the director of external communications for Delta Air Lines at its world headquarters, also in Atlanta.

Still, Landers' beginnings at UT Martin started while he was in high school, attending the Governor's School for the Humanities; and he got his start in the public relations business as an intern.

"I started as a summer intern at Delta while I was here [at UT Martin], and after I graduated I worked at a PR agency briefly, and then was recruited back to Atlanta to work at a Delta subsidiary and start a communications function," Landers said on his early years in the business. "There was a great opportunity there because just like UT Martin -- where you have the opportunity to get a lot of experience in a smaller environment -- I was able to gain a lot of experience early in my career in an environment that was safe for learning and taking risks."

During his 12-year career with Delta, Landers oversaw the development and execution of critical communications campaigns for the airline, including serving on a core communications team that defeated a hostile takeover attempt of Delta in 2006. He also managed communications for Delta's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing in 2005, and he led communications during Delta's successful reemergence from bankruptcy and relisting on the New York Stock Exchange in 2007. He also set communications strategy during the company's merger with Northwest Airlines in 2008. From 1999 to 2005, he oversaw communications for Delta's regional airline subsidiary, Atlantic Southeast Airlines. In this role he facilitated strategic communications initiatives to increase employees' trust in senior management, leading to a 26 percentage point improvement in employee management trust over five years. For this work, his team was awarded more than 30 professional communications awards from the Public Relations Society of America and the International Association of Business Communicators.

Landers is an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America, and while a student he served as the national president of the Public Relations Student Society of America and led UT Martin's successful bid to host the 1997 PRSSA National Conference in Nashville. In 2008, he was named among Georgia Trend Magazine's Top 40 under 40 and is a PRSA Silver Anvil winner.

But Landers has not forgotten his roots at UT Martin as he recalled that the campus is made up of "such welcoming people who want you to do well, who are invested in your success."

(class notes)>>>

1957

Dr. Joe Cherry ('50) is professor emeritus in the Auburn University Department of Botany and Microbiology. He retired with his wife, Pat, to Navarre, Fla., after 44 years in research, teaching and administration at Purdue and Auburn universities. Email: jcherry1@mchsi.com

1964

C. Sommers "Butch" Dean ('64) is retired and lives in Opelika, Ala., with his wife, Nancy Barnett Dean. The couple has three grown children: Kelly Lasten, Sommers Dean IV and Russell Dean.

1972



Jack Harlow ('72) was inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame on April 4, 2013, in Murfreesboro. He played baseball at UT Martin from 1969-72. Jack was a teacher and girls' basketball

coach for almost 40 years. He guided three different Class AAA girls' basketball teams to the TSSAA State Tournament (Franklin County, Columbia and Bradley Central), appeared in the tournament five times and compiled 564 wins and 224 losses in his career. He retired in 2006, and in 2010 he returned to Franklin County as an assistant girls' basketball coach.

1974

Nancy Bond West ('74) was named the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce 2012 Distinguished Woman of the Year. She works for Dyersburg City Schools as the coordinated school health coordinator.

She is married to David E. West and the couple has two children, **Wesley Bond Deer ('07)** and **John Thomas Deere ('00)**.

1986

Charles "Phil" Leonard ('86) is an adjunct instructor at Itawamba Community College. He is a retired school principal.

1988



Lawrence "Joe" Lofaro ('88 and '12) won two first-place accolades in the 2012-13 CoSIDA Fred Stabley Sr. Writing Contest. He won first-place

honors in District 4, which includes writers in Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan. His story titled "Former AD Leads Movement to Eliminate Pacifier: First Signee Understands How Monumental Title IX Was" won first place in coach/administrator profile and historical feature, while his story titled "UT Martin Women's Basketball Team Not After Perfection, But Being the Best They Can Be" won first place in Season Preview/Recap. Lofaro, who lives in Martin, served as the sports information director at UT Martin from February 2002 until March 5, 2013.

1991

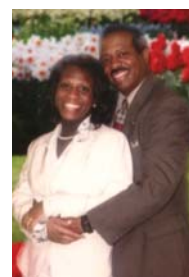


Longtime West Tennessee girls' basketball coach **David Russell ('91)** was among 12 people inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame on April 4,

2013, in Murfreesboro. He built his legacy at Bradford and Gibson County, capturing six state championships and winning more than 950 games during his 35 years in the preps. He took his teams to the state tournament 17 times. David is currently an assistant coach to Kevin McMillan with the UT Martin women's basketball program.

Mellany Winter Warner ('91) is a third grade reading intervention and fifth grade language teacher at Union City Elementary School. Her husband, **John L. Warner, III ('91)**, is an attorney in the Warner Law Firm. The couple lives in Union City and has three children: Andrew Lockwood; John Alexander and Ariana Grace.

1994



Davida M. Cruthid ('94) is a business services analyst at Workforce Investment Network in Memphis. Cruthid, who has a Bachelor of Science degree in

political science, earned her MBA at the University of Phoenix and is engaged to Elder Anthony Hayes.

Sandy Tarkington ('94) has been promoted to the vice president of sales and marketing at First Citizens National Bank. Sandy's success in her former role as the bank's public relations manager, combined with her prior marketing experience and education, make her an excellent choice to assume the role of managing First Citizens' marketing division, said Jeff Agee, the CEO and president of the bank.

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Tarkington and her husband, Rob, have three children: Anna, Becca and Trey. Sandy currently serves as the president of the American Business Women's Association – Southern Accent Chapter (Dyer County); board chair of the Dyer County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Dyersburg; Dyer County Chamber of Commerce diplomat; Dyersburg State Community College Annual Fund Campaign committee member; Kiwanis member and Healthy Woman Advisory Council.

1996

Alisha Weber ('96) was named the new park manager at Reelfoot Lake State Park on Jan. 28, 2013. She was previously at Natchez Trace State Park where she served as the park's interpretive specialist. She has been working for Tennessee State Parks for 15 years. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife biology and completed an internship with Indiana State Parks at Tippecanoe River State Park.

Dr. Heather A. Pratt ('96) currently



works for the Cordova Animal Hospital as a veterinarian. She earned her undergraduate degree in animal science in 1996.

1997

Vickie Ann Dean ('97) was promoted to principal of Connally Junior High School for the 2012-13 school year. She is a board member of Stand Strong Together and the chairperson of the academic rodeo for Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo. Her

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husband, Kyle, is a planning manager for Allergan in Waco, Texas. The couple has two children, Quinton (20) and Shelby (18). She earned her master's in curriculum and instruction in 1997.

1999

Emanuel "Big Mac" McNeil ('99)

is an educator who works with abused children and is a former professional football player who founded the Moriah McNeil Celebrity Golf Classic in 2004 to honor his late daughter. Moriah died of brain cancer that year, and the tournament continues in her memory to raise funds for various children's charities. The tournament is held at the Hunting Hawk Golf Club in Glen Allen, Va. Emanuel helped to lead the '88 Pacers to the Gulf South Conference championship and a trip to the NCAA Division II national quarterfinals, playing all the defensive line positions during his career.

2002

Cindy Brasher ('02) is a pharmacy intern at LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education in 2002.

Sherry Brewer Johnson ('03) is a medical social worker and Hospice social worker in Tiptonville. She is married to Earl Scott Johnson and the couple has three children: Earl Scott Johnson, II, Logan Brewer and Kaleb Lynn Brewer.

2003

Robert "Shane" Oldham ('03) is a regional finance director for Auto Nation in Atlanta, Ga., where he oversees the business finances of about 20 automotive dealerships throughout the Southeast.

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 Occupation: _____ Business Name of Employer: _____
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(in memory)>>>

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He earned both his undergraduate degree (accounting) and his MBA from UT Martin. His wife, **Crystal Pilkinton Oldham ('03)**, is the executive director of Hardwood Forest Foundation. The couple has a 2-year-old daughter, Layla.

2007

Dr. James Orr Jr. ('07) received his doctorate in public policy and administration from Mississippi State University. He is currently director of the Mississippi State Student Honor Code Council Office. An honors graduate of Bolivar Central High School, he majored in economics at UT Martin and was elected Student Government Association president for two consecutive years.

Jessica Manning-Garner ('07) is an attorney for Jewelry Television in Knoxville. She earned a law degree from the UT College of Law ('11). She is married to Kris Garner, who is the country club manager at Cherokee Country Club.

2008

Mark Alan Hartsfield ('08) and **Miles Lee Hartsfield ('08)** were members of the 2013 graduating class at Lincoln Memorial University - DeBusk College of Osteopathic

Medicine. Mark and Miles will both enter an osteopathic residency in family medicine at OSUCOM/University of Arkansas in Pine Bluff. Mark and Miles received national attention for their academic and sports success as both were members of the Skyhawk baseball team.

2010

Jessica Erin Willis ('10) was a member of the 2013 graduating class at Lincoln Memorial University - DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine. Jessica will enter an allopathic residency in family medicine at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo, Miss.

2012

Robin Griffin ('12) is a receptionist and graphic designer for Tencom in Dyersburg.



Josh Lemons ('12), is the Jackson Generals beat writer for The Jackson Sun. While at UT Martin, he was sports and remotes director for WUTM-FM and was executive editor for The Pacer.

Harley Griffin Jr. (UTJC), of Martin, passed away April 17, 2013.

Carl D. Grimes, of Martin, passed away Jan. 26, 2013.

Jane Huey Elmore (UTJC), of Daleville, Va., passed away June 19, 2013.

Phil Harris (UTJC), of Greenfield, passed away Feb. 13, 2013.

Louis Hoffman, of Allentown/Bethlehem, Penn., passed away Dec. 20, 2012 (UT Martin faculty).

Paul Horne, of Germantown, passed away March 11, 2013 (UT Martin faculty).

Robert F. Jones, of Columbus, Ohio, passed away March 3, 2013 (UT Martin faculty).

Denise Houston Joyner, of Lexington, passed away July 29, 2012.

Walter S. Low, of Saline, Mich., passed away March 3, 2013.

John McClusky, of Martin, passed away Aug. 16, 2013 (UT Martin faculty).

Jeremy McKinney ('99), of Dyer, passed away April 4, 2012.

James Bernard (J.B.) Sipes, of Pottsville, Pa., passed away March 9, 2013.

Shawna Lea Smith, of Nashville, passed away Feb. 15, 2013 (wife of Dr. Charles Smith, former UT Martin chancellor).

Michael Louis Wellons, of Bolivar, passed away March 20, 2013.

Dr. Philip Young, of Martin, passed away June 21, 2013 (UT Martin faculty).

Chuck Zarecor, of Trenton, passed away March 23, 2013.

<<<(one last thought)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT>>> Jasmine Newsome, Health and Human Performance

Millington, Tenn.

Heather Butler, Health and Human Performance

Medina, Tenn.

Jasmine Newsome and **Heather Butler**, the record-setting guards on the Skyhawk women's basketball team, are highlighted in the July 2013 edition of SLAM Magazine.

The Skyhawk tandem is featured on page 27 under the "Picture Me Ballin': Under-the-Radar Players Who Demand Your Attention" section. SLAM writer Franklyn Calle touts UT Martin as "one of the top mid-major programs in the country."

Both three-time All-Ohio Valley Conference first teamers, Newsome (22.6 points per game) and Butler (22.4) each ranked in the top-10 in the nation in scoring in 2012-13, ranking fifth and sixth, respectively. Newsome captured her second straight OVC Player of the Year honors en route to All-American honorable mention accolades last season. Butler set an NCAA record by making a three-pointer in 80 consecutive games and tallied 37 points in the Skyhawks' NCAA Tournament game against eventual Final Four participant Notre Dame – which ranked as the highest individual scoring game in the 2013 NCAA Tournament.

Together, Butler and Newsome are the program's top two scorers after only three seasons, as Butler has poured in 2,111 points and Newsome has accumulated 1,958 points. They have helped UT Martin to 63 victories and three consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances since 2010.



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