

# New opportunities for West physics students

By Betty Bean

West High School physics teacher Joe Foy is quick to find new opportunities for his students. So, when he heard the University of Tennessee had received an \$18 million grant from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy to study the transfer of electrical energy as part of a long-term overhaul of the nation's power grid, he wanted his kids involved.

"They are exploring not just electrical power generation, but also transmission – moving power from TVA to our homes – and new energy sources – wind, solar, things like that. We contacted UT, and now we're working with them, and the students are learning about these new power technologies," said Foy, who was a professional engineer for

25 years before he became a teacher. He has been at West for five years.

The project is the Curent Program, short for Center for Ultra-wide-area Resilient Electrical Energy Transmission Networks. It will provide opportunities for students to do out-of-school research and summer employment for students and teachers as well.

"I've seen the numbers and they're going to pay well," Foy said. "Other Knox County students are eligible to apply for paid summer research as are the teachers."

Senior Hannah Simpson and junior Emanuel Gyeblson Jr. work with the Curent staff under Foy's supervision.

But wait! Foy's 16 AP students are building an electric car, using materials donated by UT's Department



West High physics students Stephanie Stefan Ruta, Andrew Jones, Corinne Kinzy, Michela Serra, Gracie Aldridge, Greg Tate, Spring Smith, Bogachon Akyildiz, Sam Thomas, Ethan Black, Demetri Bovoupolos and Dina Alani. Photo submitted

of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering to construct product a "street legal" three-wheeled vehicle.

"They will learn the technologies around an electric car, both hands-on and theoretical," Foy said.

Also in the works is a new endeavor for next year – Knox County's first IB physics class (which makes sense, since West is Knox County's first International Baccalaureate school).

"It will run parallel to

the AP physics course that we have now," Foy said. "Students will do extensive research and the curriculum will be supplemented to include current technical topics encompassing power transmission and renewable energy."

"In a sense, I'm going back to school, too," he said, but I'm now learning about renewable energy technologies and more about power transmission and distribution.

## Creating gift boxes

Jessie Xu creates a doggie gift box using greeting cards during a workshop at Sequoyah Hills Library. She liked how you can read the card's greeting inside the box. Photos by T. Edwards



Miriam Weinstein enjoys making gift boxes at Sequoyah Hills Library's workshop for the young and young-at-heart. "It's simple to make them," she said. Separate the card's front and back. Use a small square (about one inch) to trace in each corner. Use a slightly smaller square on the top one which will be the lid. Cut the one vertical line in each corner, fold corners in and tape in place for each piece.

# What a splash!

Never have I seen such a fuss over an assistant coach. Doug Dickey once hired P.W. Underwood, twice the size of Jay Graham, without making half the splash.

The Tennessee football family is desperate for good news. And Jay is good news but he is only the beginning. The end line is somewhere in the distance, maybe far away.

Next little step toward reconstruction is Derek Dooley deciding he really wants a running game and not just a token run coach who can occasionally cool a blitz or provide a distraction to give route-runners a break.

Jay Graham, 36, brings hope and excellent credentials. He was a big-time runner. He has recruited five-star runners. He has coached winning runners. Hard to imagine he would be anything other than a plus.

In fact, he has already produced plus points. Just wanting to be here, accepting the job (and increase in pay) was an expression of faith in the future and an endorsement of Dooley. South Carolina was shocked that Jay would leave his rock-solid arrangement with Steve Spurrier for the disorganized dilemma (and



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some might say tentative time frame) at Tennessee.

But, the heart supposedly leads home and this is the scene of Graham's greatest accomplishments. There are so many 1995 memories:

Jay ran for 144 in the opener against East Carolina, 137 against Georgia, 134 against Mississippi State, 108 against Oklahoma State, 122 against Alabama, 126 against South Carolina, 108 against Southern Mississippi, 147 against Kentucky, 211 against Vandy and 154 in the Citrus Bowl against Ohio State.

Incredible run against the Buckeyes, big moment against the Crimson Tide, 1,438 yards in an 11-1 season when Peyton Manning didn't hand him the ball on every down.

I should say more about that Citrus game. There was an Old Testament flood in Orlando. It appeared the Vols would run out the first half

clock and got dry off only seven behind. Graham's idea of killing time was to break four tackles and run 69 yards for a touchdown. For the day, he overshadowed Heisman hero Eddie George and was MVP. I do not know how long were Jay's cleats.

Graham against Alabama will run on forever. Tennessee in 1995 was in the process of stopping Tide domination when the red team scored a TD and thought it might be back in contention. Graham answered with a 70-yard touchdown run, flying down the sideline, regaining momentum for good.

The next year, Tennessee was trailing Alabama by 13-6

in the fourth quarter. Graham got a favorable spot and a tying touchdown. Tennessee got one late possession at its 20 but overtime seemed inevitable. On first down, Graham gained one yard. David Cutcliffe called the same play for second down, hoping the Tide would be looking elsewhere. What happened was simply sensational.

Graham went through a big hole on the right side, broke a tackle and took off, 79 yards, home run, Tennessee 20, Alabama 13.

It is really good to have this old Vol back in town. Now, let's see what comes of it.

Marvin West invites reader reaction. His address is westwest6@netzero.com.

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