By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

A woman who wears two hats, scientist and advocate, will speak at the University of Tennessee at Martin next week, thanks to a serendipitous meeting with a local UTM staffer.

Dr. Temple Grandin, an internationally-known animal behaviorist and autism advocate, will speak at the university at 7 p.m. Feb. 13, in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse, located adjacent to the university’s Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Her presentation, sponsored by the Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series, is titled “Developing Individuals Who Have Different Kinds of Minds.”

Tickets for this event are available free of charge and must be digitally reserved and downloaded through Eventbrite.com by searching “Temple Grandin.” When claiming tickets, please ensure you have selected the Feb. 13 event in Martin, as several others are also listed. The fieldhouse doors will open at 6 p.m., and all tickets will be scanned upon entry.

Grandin is currently a professor of animal science at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. Her specialties include the behavior and handling of cattle and pigs; the design of livestock handling facilities and restraint systems; and the study of animal welfare in the meat industry.

Diagnosed with autism in the 1950s, Grandin is a top spokesperson for the autistic community in addition to her work in the animal science field. She is the author of several books in both subject areas, and her life story was the subject of the HBO film “Temple Grandin,” starring Claire Danes.

Sara Rachels, a library specialist at Paul Meek Library, first heard of Dr. Grandin in late April after a poster competition on campus. One of the posters was about animal science, and Rachel said that led some of her library colleagues talked with Emalee Buttrey, an agriculture professor. Somehow the topic of Rachels’ daughter Felicity came up. Felicity, who was 5 at the time, was not yet talking and Rachels was concerned about her development.

The poster conversation led to Buttrey mentioning Temple Grandin and her advocacy for autism.

Rachels’ colleagues rushed back to the library, found a video on Grandin and handed it to Rachels.

“I was hooked,” Rachels said. “I started gobbling up information about her [Grandin].”

Soon she began to think, ‘Wouldn’t it be neat to have her speak at the university?’

She went to Grandin’s website, clicked on a button to ask the scientist a question, and with the help of many UTM faculty and staff, she soon had Grandin’s agreement to speak on campus.

Meanwhile, her daughter Felicity was accepted for diagnosis at the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Vanderbilt. Within two hours Felicity was diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum.

“It’s a devastating diagnosis, but I wasn’t as devastated as I would have been because I had all this knowledge from my reading,” Rachels said.

“It’s so special to the ag program, to the university, and to me personally to have Dr. Grandin come here,” she said. “She gives people hope. She shows that barriers can be overcome, especially if you latch onto your passion.”

Grandin has appeared on numerous television shows, including 20/20, 48 Hours, 60 Minutes, the Today Show and Larry King Live, and has been featured in publications such as People Magazine, the New York Times, Forbes, U.S. News & World Report, Time Magazine and Discover magazine, among others. In 2010, Time Magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people in the “heroes” category.

Grandin will also speak with students in both agriculture and behavioral science classes during her campus visit.

The Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series was recently reinstated by Meg Kinnard Hardee, the only granddaughter of former Congressman Ed Jones, and her husband, Geoffrey Hardee, in honor of Meg’s grandparents.

For more information on Grandin’s appearance or for assistance downloading tickets, contact Dr. Emalee Buttrey, assistant professor of animal science, at 731-881-7255 or ebuttrey@utm.edu, or Sara Rachels, Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7083 or srachels1@utm.edu.
BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST — Dr. Temple Grandin is an internationally-known animal behaviorist and autism advocate. She will speak at UT Martin on Feb. 13.

Photo provided by Colorado State University and taken by Rosalie Winard.

FELICITY RACHELS
DYER RECOGNIZED – Johnny Dyer, a Union City resident and veterans services coordinator for the UT-Martin, received a Tennessee Army National Guard Partnership Award. This honor is given to a limited number of individuals each year who dedicate themselves to helping the current and future soldiers of the Tennessee National Guard. Dyer was recognized for his work to help soldiers achieve their educational goals through UTM. He has also played a vital role in National Guard recruiting and retention efforts by setting up recruiting events, helping soldiers with educational benefits and facilitating on-campus recruiting offices. Dyer (right) is pictured with Lt. Col. Steven Turner.

Town hall meeting slated Thursday for

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a town hall meeting at 4 p.m. next Thursday in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. The public is invited to hear an update on important university events and information and ask questions about the university.

The town hall is the result of an act passed by the Tennessee General Assembly establishing a community relations outreach program designed to maintain a consistent and healthy relationship between universities and the communities they serve.

Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, will provide an opening update followed by questions from the audience. Questions can also be emailed to townhall@utm.edu prior to the event. Administrators from campus offices and academic areas will be on hand to answer questions.

A live webcast of the meeting will be available online at utm.edu/townhall for those unable to attend.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Cups for the Cure to benefit
Anna Kate Wenz Fight Foundation

The second-annual Cups for the Cure event, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin, will take place from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, at the UT Martin Wesley Foundation building on Lovelace Avenue.

David McBeth, UT Martin professor of art, and his students will be selling handmade ceramic cups and mugs for a $15 donation. One hundred percent of funds raised will be split between the Anna Kate Wenz FIGHT Foundation and the Joliet Oncology-Hematology Center.

McBeth created Cups for the Cure in 2017 to support cancer patients and their families. McBeth’s mother was diagnosed with cancer on Feb. 4, 2014, and passed away 21 days later. She received financial assistance from Joliet Oncology-Hematology Associates, a foundation at the cancer center where she was receiving treatment.

The event is open to the public, and a variety of hot beverages and desserts will be available. McBeth will also be present to give demonstrations of the pottery process.

For more information, contact McBeth at 731-881-7416.

FOR THE CURE — Cups for the Cure will take place this Saturday. All proceeds go to Anna Kate Wenz Fight Foundation and Joliet Oncology Hematology Center.
Martin Civil Rights Conference to feature first student art exhibition

The University of Tennessee at Martin and the university's department of history will present the first Civil Rights Conference Student Art Exhibition, Feb. 13-24, as part of the 18th Annual Civil Rights Conference. The theme is "50 Years After Dr. King's Death: From Dream to Woke." Organizers plan to make the art exhibition an annual event.

Entry is free for up to three works and is open to any individual at least 18 years of age who is currently enrolled at UT Martin. All themes, narratives and subject matter may be explored, as long as the imagery addresses the history of the civil rights movement or specifically the theme for the 2018 conference.

Awards will be presented for first and second place and for People's Choice during a reception for the exhibition at 1 p.m., Feb. 23, in the Boling University Welcome Center. A lecture by the juror will follow at 2 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium.

The exhibition will be juried by Carl Moore, a Memphis-based artist and designer.

Moore received his BFA from the Art Institute of Chicago and his MFA from the Memphis College of Art. His work is described as a form of visual communication using simplicity and depth to express current social and economic conditions.

More information on the exhibition may be found by contacting Jason Stout, UT Martin Associate Professor of Art, at jstout@utm.edu or by contacting Kalen Sharp, student representative for the exhibition at kalshar@ut.utm.edu.
UT Martin Associate Professor of English, Dr. Longacre, to lecture

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Phi Kappa Phi Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture will be held at 7 p.m., Feb. 6, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, UT Martin associate professor of English, will present a lecture titled, “It’s Still Alive! – ‘Frankenstein’ at 200” in honor of the bicentennial of the novel’s original publication. Longacre completed undergraduate work at Texas State University and earned his doctoral degree in English from the University of Tulsa. He specializes in 19th and 20th century British and Irish Literature.

Longacre has served as project manager of the “Modernist Journals Project” – an online, fully searchable, digital archive of modernist periodicals; and as book review editor of the “James Joyce Quarterly.”

He also currently serves as an assistant director of the UT Martin Honors Program. In addition to work on William Blake and James Joyce specifically, his scholarly and teaching interests include modernism, Irish literature, romanticism and film studies. Recent scholarship includes work on authors Alfred Hitchcock and Edna O’Brien.

Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 127 was founded at UT Martin in 1971 and honors students, faculty and staff who have reached high levels of academic success. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation’s oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honors society for all academic disciplines.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Ann Gathers, chapter president-elect, at agathers@utm.edu.

County students place in UTM Honor Band

Several Henry County band students earned top chair placements at the 39th Annual University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band last weekend.

These students were chosen to participate out of over 800 applicants. They auditioned for chair placements and rehearsed music with other students in the region as well as being led by nationally-renown music educators.

They then performed in a concert Saturday afternoon in the Harriet Fulton Theater on the UTM campus.

Middle school students selected to first chair for their instruments are Taylor Boase, Lakewood, oboe; and Thomas Holcomb, Harrelson, percussion.

Also selected from Lakewood were: Tori Fletcher, fifth chair, French horn; Abby Reed, sixth chair, French horn; Samantha Wynn, sixth chair, trombone; Jack Kibbler, seventh chair, tuba; and Suzie Chau, seventh chair, flute.

Landon Dougherty from Harrelson was also named second chair, alto saxophone, and Jake Davis from Henry was chosen sixth chair, percussion.

Henry County High School students selected for symphonic band, concert band or wind ensemble.

For the symphonic band, Garrett McKinney was chosen seventh chair, percussion.

In the concert band, Claire Burns was chosen first chair, oboe, while Abigail Liuttrell was chosen second chair, alto saxophone, and Mirelle Loftquist was chosen 12th chair, clarinet.

For the wind ensemble, Luke Weatherly was chosen first chair, trombone, Emma Walters was chosen sixth chair, trumpet, and Aaron MacDonald was named ninth chair, trumpet.

Information was supplied by Chris Watson, director of bands at Harrelson and Henry and assistant director of bands at Henry County High School.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2017 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Local students making the honor roll include:

**Adams:** Catherine M. Black, Honors; William T. Thomas, Highest Honors.

**Cedar Hill:** Trisha N. Crutcher, Highest Honors.

**Cross Plains:** William T. Gregory, High Honors; Peyton R. Judkins, Highest Honors; Torger O. Torgersen, Highest Honors.

**Goodlettsville:** Gwendalynn M. Bracey, Honors; Hope C. Jarrett, High Honors; Kristen M. Speer, Honors.

**Greenbrier:** Kenneth A. Abel, Highest Honors; Madelyn M. Dycus, Highest Honors; Erin T. Keenan, Highest Honors; Hailey E. Williford, Honors.
Orlinda: Lane T. Eden, High Honors.

Pleasant View: Chelsea E. Frase, High Honors; Timothy C. Minton, High Honors.


White House: Arianna L. Howell, Honors; Jason P. Repath, High Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.

http://www.thunderboltradio.com

UT-Martin Town Hall Meeting

Posted on February 6, 2018 by Charles Choate in Local News

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The town hall is the result of an act passed by the Tennessee General Assembly, which estat
designed to maintain a consistent and healthy relationship between universities and the commu

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Administrators from campus offices and academic areas will also be on hand to answer questi
UTM Students Attend Governors’ Forum

FEBRUARY 6, 2018 AT 9:25 AM POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Photo: Students Rikki Erwin, a senior from Brighton; Ashley Shores, a senior from Lebanon; Emma Bruner, a junior from South Fulton; and Holly Seng, a senior from Union City. Erwin and Shores also participate in the university’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute, a mentoring program that includes engagement and networking opportunities for selected students.

Martin, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program partnered with the Tennessee Press Association and other individuals and organizations to co-sponsor a gubernatorial candidate forum during the Tennessee Press Association Winter Convention on Feb. 1 at the Nashville Public Library. More than 70 current WestStar class members and alumni traveled by chartered bus to hear candidates answer questions and address issues in the race for Tennessee governor.

The non-partisan forum was open to all candidates and supported WestStar’s strategic vision to promote economic development in West Tennessee and encourage participation in the upcoming election. Participants were Democratic candidates Carl Dean and Craig Fitzhugh
and Republican candidates Kay White, Bill Lee and Randy Boyd. Each offered opening statements, answered questions submitted by Tennessee Press Association member newspapers and closed the forum with final statements. Eric Barnes, publisher and CEO of The Daily News Publishing Co. Inc. in Memphis and TPA president, was the forum moderator.

Traveling with the WestStar group and attending the forum were UT Martin communications students Holly Seng of Union City, Emma Bruner from South Fulton, Rikki Erwin of Brighton, and Ashley Shores of Lebanon. Erwin and Shores also participate in the university's Ned Ray McWherter Institute, a mentoring program that includes engagement and networking opportunities for selected students.

The current WestStar class is the program's 29th since WestStar was established in 1989. Thirty class participants were competitively selected by the program's board of directors to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies to help communities solve problems and maximize potential. Participants are selected from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement. WestStar has graduated 798 class members since the program began.
UNIQUE EXPERIENCE – UT Martin cohort members Kathryn Reece, Zane Cox, Brianna Rinker, Ashley Coots, Alyson Brown, Houston Downey, Dr. Dexter Davis, Tristan Cost, Colten Daugherty, Leah Barnett, Austin Barber, of Bradford, Leighton Chappell, and Sara Taylor, will work behind-the-scenes during Super Bowl LII Sunday in Minneapolis.

Bradford student helped with Super Bowl LII

A dozen students from the University of Tennessee at Martin worked behind-the-scenes during Super Bowl LII Sunday in Minneapolis.

The group, led by Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business at UT Martin, is the fifth and largest UT Martin cohort to receive first-hand, real-world experience at one of the largest sporting events in the world.

Austin Barber, a sophomore from Bradford, was among those making the trip. Previous years have seen a maximum of nine students participate in the experience, but additional students are attending this year at the request of the National Football League. “The NFL has asked us to bring (12 students) because they like what our students do and how they do it,” said Davis. “I think that shows the growth of this program.”

This is Davis’ 13th Super Bowl, where he works with On Location Experiences, the NFL’s official hospitality company, to coordinate player appearances during and after the game. UT Martin students assisted Davis by providing hospitality services to visiting players and escorting players between event venues. Students also assisted with post-game activities, including an on-field experience for VIP NFL guests.

In addition to Barber, other students participating in the trip were Barnett, a junior from Parsons; Alyson Brown, a senior from Pinson; Leighton Chappell, a sophomore from Flushing, Mich.; Ashley Coots, a senior from Fairview; Tristan Cost, a sophomore from Nunnelly; Zane Cox, a junior from Fremont, Ohio; Colten Daugherty, a senior from Nunnelly; Houston Downey, a senior from Pegram; Kathryn Reece, a junior from Louisburg, Kan.; Brianna Rinker, a senior from South Fulton; and Sara Taylor, a senior from Jackson.

For more information on the trip or the UT Martin sport business program, housed in the College of Business and Global Affairs, contact Davis at davis78@utm.edu.
TRMS BAND STUDENTS (from left) Phebe Manner, bass clarinet; Ar'ylvania Hall, euphonium; Kalyn Gant, clarinet; and Tucker Brown, trumpet recently participated in the 39th annual University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band Festival. Nearly 120 of the top seventh and eighth grade band students from West Tennessee and Kentucky participated in this 3-day event that culminated in a final concert at the Harriet Fulton theatre on Jan. 27. George Pokorski who served as a music educator for a total of 37 years in schools in Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi, conducted the honor band. Hall (right), an eighth grade euphonium player, will also participate in the All West Convention Feb. 8-10 at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts in Memphis. The West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association sponsors this event to recognize the many talented young band, orchestra and jazz musicians in grades 6-12 in West Tennessee. Students are selected by an audition process to be members of one of two ensembles for their grade level. Hall had the second highest score for the middle school aged euphonium players, giving her the ranking of second chair in the Blue Band. Students selected for these ensembles will spend two days rehearsing with highly qualified and regionally renowned clinicians and then present a final concert Feb. 10 on the Cannon Center stage. TRMS was also fortunate to have eighth grade alto saxophone player Zachary Taylor recognized as the third alternate to the All West Middle School bands.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 18th annual Civil Rights Conference, Feb. 18-24, on the main campus in Martin. The 2018 conference will center on the theme "50 Years After Dr. King's Assassination: From Dream to Woke."

Bobby Seale, co-founder and first chairman of the Black Panther Party, will serve as keynote speaker at 7 p.m., Feb. 22, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

A special forum discussion titled "Heritage or Hate: A Forum on Confederate Monuments" will be held at noon, Feb. 14, in Watkins Auditorium before the official start of the conference. New this year is a public trip to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, sponsored by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin. Those wishing to attend will depart the Boling University Center parking lot at 7:30 a.m., Feb. 24. Admission to the museum is $10 per person.

The public is also invited to vote for the Popular Choice Award in the Civil Rights Conference Student Art Contest during the day Feb. 22. Awards will be presented at 1 p.m., Feb. 23.

All other events will be held in Watkins Auditorium free of charge unless otherwise noted. A schedule of events is as follows:

Feb. 18  Movie screening: “Detroit”; 6 and 9 p.m.; sponsored by the Student Activities Council
Feb. 19  Roundtable: “Black Writers Reading Roundtable”; Hortense Parrish Writing Center, Andy Holt Humanities Building, room 209; noon
Performance: “From Dream to Woke”; Florence Roach and UT Martin theatre students original play; 7 p.m.
Feb. 20  Speaker: “Double Jeopardy: Crossroads of Discrimination”; Marisa Richmond, professor of women and gender studies, Middle Tennessee State University; 1 p.m.
Panel discussion: “Athletes and the Civil Rights Movement;” chaired by Dr. David Coffey, UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy; 2:30 p.m.
Performance: Roots of Rhythm; Harriet Fulton Theatre, UT Martin Fine Arts Building; 7 p.m.; $5 admission charge
Feb. 21  Workshop: “Understanding Cultural Diversity”; Boling University Center, room 206; 11 a.m.; sponsored by the UT Martin Sexual Work Association
Performance: Roots of Rhythm; Harriet Fulton Theatre, UT Martin Fine Arts Building; noon; $5 admission charge
Performance: “Night of Dance and Spoken Word”; Imani Ce-zanne, Samuel Hawkins and the Judith Jamison Dancers; 7 p.m.
Feb. 22  Speaker: “The Last Year of Dr. King’s Life”; Ryan Jones, historian, National Civil Rights Museum; 9:30 a.m.
Speaker: “From Memphis to St. Louis”; Adolphus Pruitt, chairman, St. Louis chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Beverly Robertson, former president for the National Civil Rights Museum; 11 a.m.
Speaker: “The White Church and the Civil Rights Movement”; Rev. George Pasley, pastor, Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin; 1 p.m.
Panel: Black Student Association presidents from various institutions; 2:30 p.m.
Keynote speaker: Bobby Seale, co-founder and first chairman of the Black Panther Party; 7 p.m.; accompanied by a performance from the Voices of Harmony
Feb. 23  Civil Rights Conference Student Art Exhibition awards reception; Watkins Auditorium foyer; 1 p.m.
Speaker: “Art and Civil Rights”; Carl Moore, Memphis-based artist and contest juror; 2 p.m.
Feb. 24  National Civil Rights Museum trip, sponsored by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin; leaves from Boling University Center parking lot; 7:30 a.m.; $10 museum admission fee
UT Martin is one of only two universities in the nation to host an annual civil rights conference, and the event has been held each year since 2000.
For more information on the Civil Rights Conference, contact Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history and conference organizer, at 731-881-7465 or by email at dbarber@utm.edu.
WestStar Leadership Program Co-Sponsors Gubernatorial Forum

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program partnered with the Tennessee Press Association and other individuals and organizations to co-sponsor a gubernatorial candidate forum during the Tennessee Press Association Winter Convention on Feb. 1 at the Nashville Public Library. More than 70 current WestStar class members and alumni traveled by chartered bus to hear candidates answer questions and address issues in the race for Tennessee governor.

The non-partisan forum was open to all candidates and supported WestStar’s strategic vision to promote economic development in West Tennessee and encourage participation in the upcoming election. Participants were Democratic candidates Carl Dean and Craig Fitzhugh and Republican candidates Kay White, Bill Lee and Randy Boyd. Each offered opening statements, answered questions submitted by Tennessee Press Association member newspapers and closed the forum with final statements.

Eric Bames, publisher and CEO of The Daily News Publishing Co. Inc. in Memphis and TPA president, was the forum moderator.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, also a WestStar graduate, attended the forum and later joined other Tennessee college presidents offering campus updates at the TPA luncheon and keynote address by Gov. Bill Haslam.

The current WestStar class is the program’s 29th since WestStar was established in 1989. Thirty class participants were competitively selected by the program’s board of directors to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies to help communities solve problems and maximize potential. Participants are selected from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement. WestStar has graduated 798 class members since the program began.

Animal behaviorist Temple Grandin to speak at UT Martin

MARTIN, TENN. — An internationally known autism advocate and animal behaviorist is coming to Tennessee.

The University of Tennessee at Martin says Dr. Temple Grandin will speak Tuesday in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse on campus. The sold-out lecture, "Developing Individuals Who Have Different Kinds of Minds," will also be streamed online.

Diagnosed with autism in the 1950s, Grandin is a professor of animal science at Colorado State University, specializing in behavior and handling of cattle and pigs, and the study of animal welfare in the meat industry. An HBO movie about her life and work was produced in 2010.

Grandin’s presentation is sponsored by the Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series, which was recently reinstated by Meg Kinnard Hardee, granddaughter of former Tennessee U.S. Rep. Ed Jones, and her husband, Geoffrey.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2017 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Local students making the honor roll include:

**Auburntown:** Benjamin T. Chumley, High Honors.

**La Vergne:** Andrea M. Boulton, Honors; Madison P. Lee, High Honors; Leonel Perez, Highest Honors.

**Murfreesboro:** Lana Albasri, High Honors; Bailey M. Barber, Highest Honors; Lane E. Brown, Highest Honors; Timothy J. Dye, High Honors; Andre D. Espinoza, High Honors; Gracie K. Fusting, Honors; Allison G. Glover, Highest Honors; John Michael Glover, Honors; Jennifer L. Greene, Honors; Danielle E. Gruenke, High Honors; Alexis L. Muncy, High Honors; Emily P. Nash, Honors; Stephen M. Reneau, High Honors; Hannah L. Roberts, Honors; Jack A. Scalzo, Highest Honors; Christian C. Walker, Highest Honors; Elizabeth A. Whitt, Highest Honors; Nicholas R. Wolf, Highest Honors.

**Rockvale:** Mary L. Minatra, High Honors.

**Smyrna:** Clint D. Beel, Honors; Savannah K. Frazier, Honors; Amanda S. Harrell, High Honors; Mika E. Purvis, High Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
MARTIN, Tenn. — Guests took the mic Thursday evening at the first ever University of Tennessee Martin Town Hall meeting.

"I love to be involved, and I love to know what's going on around campus, and the town hall meeting was a great way to just stay updated with everything that Dr. Carver is working on and the university administration has been working on," said Daniel Jones, Junior at UT Martin.

Students, alumni, members the community, and local government officials came to ask questions and listen in to the open forum.

"I thought the questions centered on enrollment, governance, recruitment strategies, budgets; so areas I think that people would be very concerned with came up," said Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor at UT Martin.

Jones said he asked about the upcoming academic affairs provost selection process.

"There's lots and lots of different parts of the academic process, and the best way for them to get feedback is from the students," said Jones.

Another important issue was the economic impact the university has on the community.

"Northwest Tennessee is kind of known for being one of the more poorer areas of Tennessee," said Jones, "and so it's always a question that comes up as to how UT Martin affects that and how we can help with that."

Dr. Carver said the discussion, which was broadcast live, allowed viewers to email him with questions. Both students and the chancellor say they enjoyed the opportunity they had and are hoping to participate again in the future.
The Weakley County Press
Thursday, February 8, 2018

A marriage of television and radio

Ashleigh Burton, a 2016 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, entertains area residents each morning as "Gracie Hopper," a weekday radio personality on Froggy 103.7’s Morning Splash program, broadcast from Murray, Kentucky.

Burton, originally from South Fulton, visited the UT Martin main campus Jan. 25 to speak to a class of broadcast students. However, as she answered various student questions, she had no idea her long-time boyfriend, Blake Stevens, was preparing to make a different sort of request.

Stevens, originally from Brighton, is an evening news reporter for WPSD Local 6 in Paducah, a position he accepted after graduating from UT Martin in spring 2015. He and Burton were classmates in the UT Martin communications program and coworkers on WUTM 90.3 FM staff. In fact, they first met in the UT Martin Communications Building.

In that same classroom, four years later, Stevens interrupted Burton’s presentation, took a knee and asked her to be his wife – a question she happily answered, "Yes!"

Stevens and Burton are a true marriage of television and radio. Both received their UT Martin degrees and walked straight into on-air positions in their chosen career fields.

"I was blessed and lucky to be able to walk right into a morning show, which is what I wanted to do," she told broadcast students Jan. 25. "When I started working at Froggy, I was straight out of college working with a lot of people who were older than me who have been in (the field) longer than me. So I had to humble myself and say, 'You know what, if you want me to work this appearance with no pay, I'm there. If you want me to work 400 Saturdays in a row, I'm there.'"

However, as Stevens points out, their individual successes create challenges in their personal relationship.

"In radio, your dream spot is the mornings, drive time. In TV news, in most markets, the reporter’s goal is to be on the evening news. So, by default, if she does well, she’s early, and if I do well, I’m afternoons. And that’s what we have," he said. "So we don’t see each other Monday through Friday. She comes home after I’ve already left for work."

Burton, who was recently promoted to assistant program director at Froggy 103.7, begins her day at 5 a.m. and is on the Morning Splash from 6-10 a.m. and hosts the station’s Taco John’s All-Request Lunch program from noon-2 p.m. as well. Stevens begins his workday at 1:30 p.m. and could be on camera until 10:30, depending on when his stories are scheduled to air.

"It really makes us consider what’s worth our energy, I think," said Burton. "It’s really important to us that we spend the one-on-one time, too. We don’t want to be constantly running and forgetting about each other."

As for professional rivalry, the couple says their jobs may be in the same industry but are different enough to keep them in separate playing fields.

"I make jokes all morning, and he’s very serious recording the news. So they are two totally different beasts," said Burton.

The future is wide open as both Burton and Stevens climb the proverbial ladders in their respective platforms. Yet one thing is for sure: wherever they go, and whatever they do, they’ll do together.
Actor to portray famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass, famous abolitionist leader, will visit the University of Tennessee at Martin in the form of Nathan Richardson, performance poet and author. Richardson will perform at 5 p.m., Feb. 12, in the UT Martin Paul Meek Library as part of his 2018 Bicentennial Frederick Douglass Live Speaking Tour.

Richardson is the author of the poetry collections "Likeness of Being" and "Twenty-one Imaginary T-shirts" and has contributed to a variety of anthologies. He is in his third year of The Frederick Douglass Speaking Tour, which offers a live look at the historical figure.

Douglass, who lived during the 19th century, was born into slavery and later became an author, orator and prominent human rights leader during the anti-slavery movement. He is also the first African American citizen to hold a high U.S. government rank. President William Henry Harrison appointed Douglass to be the United States's minister resident and consul-general to the Republic of Haiti and Chargé d'affaires for Santo Domingo in 1889.

He was also the first African American to receive a vote for President of the United States in a major party's roll-call vote in 1888.

His autobiography, "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave," describes his experiences living in slavery and his life after the Civil War. Douglass died on Feb. 20, 1895.

Richardson's performance is free and open to the public and will include a question-and-answer session with the audience.

For more information, contact Dr. John Burch, director of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070 or jburch5@utm.edu.
Bobby Seale to deliver keynote at Civil Rights Conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 18th annual Civil Rights Conference, Feb. 18-24, on the main campus in Martin. The 2018 conference will center on the theme “50 Years After Dr. King’s Assassination: From Dream to Woke.”

Bobby Seale, co-founder and first chairman of the Black Panther Party, will serve as keynote speaker at 7 p.m., Feb. 22, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Events begin with a special forum discussion titled “Heritage or Hate: A Forum on Confederate Monuments” will be held at noon, Feb. 14, in Watkins Auditorium before the official start of the conference.

New this year is a public trip to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, sponsored by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin. Those wishing to attend will depart the Boling University Center parking lot at 7:30 a.m., Feb. 24. Admission to the museum is $10 per person.

The public is also invited to vote for the Popular Choice Award in the Civil Rights Conference Student Art Contest during the day Feb. 22.

Awards will be presented at 1 p.m., Feb. 23.

All other events will be held in Watkins Auditorium free of charge unless otherwise noted. A schedule of events includes:

- Feb. 18 - Movie screening: “Detroit”; 6 and 9 p.m.; sponsored by the Student Activities Council
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- Feb. 19 - Performance: “From Dream to Woke”; Florence Roach and UT Martin theatre students original play; 7 p.m.
- Feb. 20 - Speaker: “Double Jeopardy: Crossroads of Discrimination”; Marisa Richmond, professor of women and gender studies, Middle Tennessee State University; 1 p.m.
- Feb. 20 - Panel discussion: “Athletes and the Civil Rights Movement,” chaired by Dr. David Coffey, UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy; 2:30 p.m.
- Feb. 20 - Performance: Roots of Rhythm; Harriet Fulton Theatre, UT Martin Fine Arts Building; 7 p.m.; $5 admission charge
- Feb. 21 - Workshop: “Understanding Cultural Diversity”; Boling University Center, room 206; 11 a.m.; sponsored by the UT Martin Social Work Association
- Feb. 21 - Performance: Roots of Rhythm; Harriet Fulton Theatre, UT Martin Fine Arts Building; noon; $5 admission charge
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- Feb. 22 - Speaker: “The Last Year of Dr. King’s Life”; Ryan Jones, historian, National Civil Rights Museum; 9:30 a.m.
- Feb. 22 - Speaker: “From Memphis to St. Louis”; Adolphus Pruitt, chairman, St. Louis chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Beverly Robertson, former president for the National Civil Rights Museum; 11 a.m.
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- Feb. 22 - Panel: Black Student Association presidents from various institutions; 2:30 p.m.

Feb. 22 - Keynote speaker: Bobby Seale, co-founder and first chairman of the Black Panther Party; 7 p.m.; accompanied by a performance from the Voices of Harmony

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- Feb. 24 - National Civil Rights Museum trip, sponsored by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin; leaves from Boling University Center parking lot; 7:30 a.m.; $10 museum admission fee

UT Martin is one of only two universities in the nation to host an annual civil rights conference, and the event has been held each year since 2000.

For more information on the Civil Rights Conference, contact Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history and conference organizer, at 731-881-7465 or by email at dbarber@utm.edu.
LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE — Dr. Lindsay Anderson, assistant professor of sociology at The University of Tennessee at Martin, advises student Joe Lurks III of Dyersburg. Anderson explains how race is still an issue and a viable current topic of discussion.

Race still matters, sociology professor declares

By KIMBERLY PAGE
Press Reporter

In an age of political correctness, race is often considered an uncomfortable subject.

For people who grew up in the '60s and '70s, it's surprising race and race relations remain active topics in the 21st century. Even after the "Summer of Love," desegregation, civil rights, affirmative action and "Black Lives Matter," a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll found 70 percent of Americans still think race relations in the United States are poor.

According to Dr. Lindsay Anderson, associate professor of Sociology at The University of Tennessee at Martin, the reason we're still talking about race is that race is still very much an issue.

When talking about race, one obstacle is using polite and proper language. When asked if African-American or black was the correct terminology, Anderson said, "They mean different things. I'm both, but not all blacks are African-American, and not all African-American are black. Black is your racial category and it's based on visuals. For example, you may have someone that looks white, but has African-American parents. So going by visuals, people don't consider them as black. African-American is my ethnic background, so what that means is that I am an American citizen, and I am descended from people who came from Africa. African-American also usually means that my ancestors were slaves. "We are taught that race is over. It's been so long ago, we should be over it," Anderson continued. "I argue that racism used to be a bullet wound. You could point to the scar, you knew who shot you, people witnessed it, it was obvious what had occurred. Now

SEE RACE,
Page 18
RACE.
From Page 1

Race is like cancer. It's still just as much killing us, and it's probably doing it faster. But it's silent, it's underground and we're not even aware of our diagnosis. So the problem is our inability to recognize race still matters. While we're sitting here talking that race is an issue, we're actually continuing to let it become an issue."

When asked how to stop racism, Anderson said the problem is "we really don't know how. Our society, from day one, was built on different people having different access - in terms of race, in terms of gender, in terms of landowners. Our country was never built to be free."

If a 50-year-old woman is told she is not right for a job because a younger person could handle the duties better that, "is overt discrimination," Anderson explained. "It's illegal agism and blatant. However, if the woman is just not told anything and is just not put into the pool of applicants, that is covert discrimination and the reason for not hiring her is the exact same. And that's how racism works. I'm not hiring someone because they're black, but I may hear something like 'our customer base won't relate to you.'"

Stereotypes are still alive and well in our culture. "The problem becomes not that we stereotype; the problem becomes that the stereotype allows us to justify different treatment," Anderson said.

"All of us stereotype. When I teach general sociology, I treat the students differently than I do with my 400/senior level students. I expect my senior level to be a bit more self-aware, more self-sufficient. General sociology - I spoon-feed them. I have to, because it's the first time they've had sociology. It usually is a first semester, and high-school-to-college transition is hard. So it's completely different. I stereotype." "These stereotypes necessarily don't have to be bad," she said. "I don't value my general sociology students different from my seniors. I give them both the same amount of attention, or at least I try to."

In class, Anderson addresses a common stereotypical example that people of color don't work as hard and therefore don't have the wealth and status of whites. "Let's look at the history of the U.S. For 300 years there was no way that specifically African-American could accumulate wealth. They were slaves; they were property themselves. So when they finally got freedom and emancipation, they started exactly with nothing. They had no education, they had no money, they had no skills really except for physical labor, which we know pays the least. And then we had Jim Crow segregation, which wasn't slavery but it insured that wealth couldn't be accumulated. So until the '60s or '70s, this is the first time we've seen the ability of African-Americans to join the military and get GI benefits. World War II veterans who came back didn't get any benefits. They didn't get the college education, they didn't get the housing that everyone else got. Once they got the house and the college education, you have more wealth to pass on so the next generation can start at a higher level."

Changing our thinking about race is problematic and takes time. "Change has to be three levels," Anderson explained. "You have to change hearts and minds, which is difficult. You have to change the system and you have to change the accumulation. This is what affirmative action tried to do and people got really upset with affirmative action because they were trying to quickly find a way for people who had been excluded to catch up.

"What ends up happening with race, we focus so much on the superficial changes that we are not looking at the structural changes, we are not looking at the widespread changes. "So the issue with race is that it's structural, and that's what sociology studies," Anderson said. "This has been going on a long time and it's deeply embedded in our culture. When you are 5 or 6 years old, you accept [stereotypes] as fact. This becomes your reality and you start to treat people differently, which leads to problematic behavior. Our culture hasn't changed, so we haven't changed. We've gotten really good at saying the right things and loving the word 'diversity,' but we still segregate, she said. "We don't self-segregate. There is a level of we are comfortable and attracted to people like us because we can communicate with each other, we have similar backgrounds. That's why we tend to date within our class, within our race, within our religion, within our political spectrum, because it's usually who we have the most common with."

"But within our culture there is an understanding that the only people who will understand you is people like you, and that perpetuates this self-segregation. "We fall back on our stereotypes whenever we are in situations of stress or confusion," Anderson explained. "Our stereotypes are there because we've been socialized into them. And no matter how much we want to dispute them or refute them because they're not good even when we recognize it, in times of stress or problems we fall back on them. When you strip away who we are, what is left is our culture. And our culture is a problem."

Trying to repair racial relations can be overwhelming. "People feel disheartened," Anderson said. "But the way I see it is there's only two things I can do as an individual. I can work on myself constantly and recognize there are times I'm going to fail and there are times where I'm going to have to swallow the pill and recognize that I am wrong. I'm going to have to correct myself and let others correct me. There are times when I look back at things I have said and I cringe. But the fact that I know now to cringe is good."

She continued, "The first part is that we have to work on ourselves. The second part is while we are working on ourselves we have to speak up because the problem is we don't say anything; it's easier. We take the easy route. Sometimes we just sit there and are appalled but we don't do anything, we don't say anything and our silence is supporting that behavior to continue. We don't engage."

Anderson explained there's solidarity in talking about big issues. "If enough people join, if enough people say things, then things actually change, then we can change our culture. And then that impacts the next generation coming up, more than any PC or polite term or anything we can do. Us coming together is necessary for us to change our cultural awareness and our society, just like with 'Me Too' or 'Black Lives Matter.'

"There is backlash because a lot of people don't see the point in things changing because it doesn't impact them."

Relating to other races "takes a level of empathy," Anderson said. "You have to be able to understand the situation of somebody else that's outside of your realm of understanding."

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018
UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver is optimistic about the growth of campus as well as the wellbeing of Martin following yesterday's Town Hall meeting on campus.

Dr. Carver feels the local area and UTM are connected during positive and negative times.

Dr. Carver credits his faculty and staff for overcoming recent challenges with accreditation.

With the TN Promise program making progress, Dr. Carver believes it will benefit the local economy while creating interest towards higher education.

Enrollment for the Spring Semester is slightly above 6,800 students. Dr. Carver is optimistic this number will increase next semester.

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From Staff Reports
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

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For more information on the Civil Rights Conference, contact Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history and conference organizer, at 731-881-7465 or by email at dbarber@utm.edu.

WestStar leadership program co-sponsors gubernatorial forum

From Staff Reports
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program partnered with the Tennessee Press Association and other individuals and organizations to co-sponsor a gubernatorial candidate forum during the Tennessee Press Association Winter Convention on Feb. 1 at the Nashville Public Library. More than 70 current WestStar class members and alumni traveled by chartered bus to hear candidates answer questions and address issues in the race for Tennessee governor.

The non-partisan forum was open to all candidates and supported WestStar's strategic vision to promote economic development in West Tennessee and encourage participation in the upcoming election. Participants were Democratic candidates Carl Dean and Craig Fitzhugh and Republican candidates Kay White, Bill Lee and Randy Boyd. Each offered opening statements, answered questions submitted by Tennessee Press Association member newspapers and closed the forum with final statements. Eric Barnes, publisher and CEO of The Daily News Publishing Co. Inc. in Memphis and TPA president, was the forum moderator.
Traveling with the WestStar group and attending the forum were UT Martin communications students Rikki Erwin, Ashley Shores, Emma Bruner and Holly Seng. Erwin and Shores also participate in the university’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute, a mentoring program that includes engagement and networking opportunities for selected students.

Erwin and Shores both gained important insights about the candidates and commented by email following the event. “I really enjoyed learning more about more specific beliefs and values of the candidates,” wrote Erwin, a senior from Brighton. “It (the forum) was really informative, and I especially enjoyed hearing comments on penal reform and the education goals each candidate had.”

Shores, a senior from Lebanon, was impressed by the candidates’ preparation. “They have to be prepared for any and every question that could possibly be asked, and they have to be able to take a solid stance on that issue within a given time,” she wrote. “I also thoroughly enjoyed hearing their opening statements, because it gave an insight into their lives, families and past so you can see them as more than just a political candidate asking for your vote.”

Bruner and Seng both valued the experience and see voters benefiting from this kind of campaign event. “I believe candidate forums such as this are important, because they allow candidates to conduct an open discussion that engages the public,” wrote Bruner, a junior from South Fulton. “This forum in particular allowed me to better understand what policies the candidates support and how they would run the state of Tennessee as the new governor.”

Seng, a senior from Union City, gained valuable voter knowledge through her attendance and sees the forum as a way to involve and inform younger voters. “I encourage other students and voters to either attend forums or stay informed about local and state politics because of the direct impact their (elected officials) decisions have on our lives,” Seng responded. “I definitely walked away with an interest and greater appreciation of local and state governments, an interest that will translate into my continual effort to stay informed and participate in the future.”

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, also a WestStar graduate, attended the forum and later joined other Tennessee college presidents offering campus updates at the TPA luncheon and keynote address by Gov. Bill Haslam.

Also attending the forum, TPA convention and lunch were Dr. Robert Nanney, UT Martin communications department chair, and student journalists from the department. Nanney, a long-time print journalism photographer, reporter and managing editor, annually takes university students to the convention.

These students included Matt Herod, a junior from Jackson; Sarah Knapp, a junior from Moscow; Julia Ewoldt, a senior from Savannah; Jason Repath, a freshman from White House; and Rachel Moore, a senior from Ashland City.

The current WestStar class is the program’s 29th since WestStar was established in 1989. Thirty class participants were competitively selected by the program’s board of directors to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies to help communities solve problems and maximize potential.

Participants are selected from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement. WestStar has graduated 796 class members since the program began.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Test Flight Academic Preview Day beginning at 8:30 a.m., Feb. 19.

High school juniors and seniors are invited to tour the campus, meet with faculty members and students in areas of interest and experience college life inside the classroom.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium with an official welcome following at 9 a.m An administrative fair featuring representatives from the offices of undergraduate admissions, financial aid and scholarships, housing and dining services will be open during the registration period.

Students will be introduced to the various academic departments at 9:30 a.m. and can attend a college course later in the morning.

From 10 a.m. until noon, participating students will visit classrooms, meet with faculty in their chosen departments or attend a question-and-answer discussion panel.

Guests can have lunch at noon with members of the chosen department, and students will return at 1 p.m. to tour the rest of the UT Martin campus.

There is no charge to attend either event, but pre-registration is required.

Visit utm.edu/testflight to register online, or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 881-7020 for more information.
A co-founding member of the Black Panther Party will be the key note speaker at the 18th annual Civil Rights Conference at UTM.

Event organizer Dr. David Barber says the Panther’s formation revolved around self-defense, which has often led to misconceptions about the group.

Although most commonly known for skirmishes with law enforcement, Dr. Barber says the Panthers were involved in a variety of social programs to better African-American communities.

Bobby Seale will speak on February 22nd at 7:00 in Watkins Auditorium.

Jackson Symphony partners with UT Martin students for performance

February 13, 2018 by Hannah King

JACKSON, Tenn. — Students from the University of Tennessee at Martin joined the Jackson Symphony Tuesday at the Jackson-Madison County Library for a special 25-minute performance for children.

‘The Magic Flute’ is a combination of elements that are classical music, educational and fun. These performances are for all ages but are part of the Jackson Symphony’s Integrative Medicine Program created for children who have developmental challenges.

“What we have been seeing today at the library is actually really Mozart sung along with our collaboration with UT Martin and Dr. Mark Simmons,” said Peter Shannon, Jackson Symphony’s conductor and artistic director. “We are really proud of this. It is something that we do here at the library, but we have also done it at the Therapy and Learning Centers for children with physical and mental disabilities.”

Tuesday’s performance was during the regular children’s story hour and was open to the community. Over the past year, the program has been modified for audiences for all ages.
CLASS ACT — Members of UTM Professor Tara Woods’ class had a laboratory day full of affection last week. They visited Lake Nowhere Mule & Donkey Farm outside Martin just in time to see five donkey foals that ranged in age from 3 months to 3 days. Pictured above, second from left, is farm proprietor Deb Kidwell and at far right, Woods. Students pictured are Anna Kiser, Courtney Rivera, Hunter Sternenberg, Hope Richardson, Ashton McCage, Caroline Jones, and Heather Weisenstein. Below, Caroline Jones cuddles with Maia, the only female born so far this year. Maia is 2 weeks old. More pictures can be seen on the Press Facebook page.

Photos by Linda Thurston

High school students invited for a Skyhawk Test Flight

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2018 Leadership Fayette Class Orientation on January 27th

The 2018 Leadership Fayette class held Orientation at UT Martin in Somerville. Senator Dolores Gresham, Mayor Ronnie Neill, Mayor Rhea Taylor and Ms. Molly McCarley, founders of the Leadership Fayette program, were in attendance and welcomed the class. Edward Champagne facilitated "Discover Your Leadership Personality Skills" which is designed to assist the members of the class to recognize and acknowledge their leadership personality types with a view towards improving teamwork. Pictured are: Mayor Ronnie Neill, Edward Champagne, Molly McCarley, Franklin Stanford, Cheryl Brown, Russ Holcomb, Maria Escarre, Josh Holley, Caleb Hollingsworth, David Webb, Civil Miller-Wilkins, Jarrett Burrows, Lauren Brown, Angie Rivers, Amy Segraves, Laurie Scott, Michelle Duncan. Not Pictured: Wyatt Follmann, Gennette Malone, and Amanda Stout. (Photos by Jim Larkin)

ACT prep course offered at UTM’s main campus

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students looking to improve their scores can register for an ACT review course offered from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays Feb. 24-March 17 on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years and will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science. Students will use "The Official ACT Prep Guide, 2018: Official Practice Tests + 400 Bonus Questions Online 1st Edition." The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/act.php.

Spring Enrollment Up at UT-Martin

By West Kentucky Star Staff/UT-Martin Media Relations

MARTIN, TN - The University of Tennessee at Martin has seen its first increase in spring semester enrollment since 2011. Total university headcount for the spring 2018 semester is up 1.6 percent as compared to the spring 2017 semester.

UT Martin has specifically seen increases in the number of transfer (10.4 percent increase), first-time freshmen (7.7 percent) and dual/concurrent enrollment students (25.9 percent) as compared to last spring.

"Our admissions and recruiting teams have been working very hard, and we are pleased to see this increase in our spring semester enrollment," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. "It is no secret that overall enrollment has been trending down in recent years, but this bump, along with our record-setting freshman-to-sophomore retention rate and large first-time freshman class, proves we are heading in the right direction once again."

This news comes on the heels of a study that places UT Martin sixth in the state in LendEDU’s third-annual College Risk-Reward Indicator. LendEDU, a student loan comparison service, evaluates the average student loan debt per borrower as compared to the average early career pay for university graduates to determine institution standing. Average early career pay can also be defined as the median salary for alumni with fewer than five years of work experience.

The top-ranked school in Tennessee is Vanderbilt University.
Grandin Speaks To Huge Crowd At UTM

FEBRUARY 14, 2018 AT 6:50 PM  POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN
Martin, Tenn. – Dr. Temple Grandin, an internationally-known animal behaviorist and autism advocate, spoke to an overflow crowd Tuesday at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Her presentation, titled “Developing Individuals Who Have Different Kinds of Minds,” was sponsored by the Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series.

Grandin focused her comments on the value of individuals who see the world differently than those around them, such as those on the autism spectrum and those with other learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

“We’ve got to help the minds that are different succeed. We need these minds that are different, and we must not screen them out because the world needs all kinds of minds,” she said. Grandin gave examples from her own life to illustrate the need for creative classes such as woodworking, welding, sewing and theater in schools. She has invented many restraint systems and handling facilities for the livestock industry, and those pursuits began with an early exposure to construction and art.

“When I was a little kid, four years old, I had no speech. I had all the full-blown symptoms of autism. Nobody thought I would go anywhere, but my ability in art was always encouraged. Take the thing the kid is good at and build on it; build on the area of strength,” she said. “I’ve seen too many kids (who) are becoming their disability.”

Grandin is currently a professor of animal science at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Her specialties include the behavior and handling of cattle and pigs; the design of livestock handling facilities and restraint systems; and the study of animal welfare in the meat industry.

Her presentation is available through archived video on the OVC Digital Network.

For more information on Grandin’s appearance, contact Dr. Emalee Buttrey, assistant professor of animal science, at 731-881-7255 or ebuttreym@utm.edu, or Sara Rachels, Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7083 or srachels1@utm.edu.
A teacher and band director at North Side High School resigned from his position Feb. 7 after being suspended earlier in the week for "inappropriate physical contact of a sexual nature and inappropriate comments of a sexual nature towards a student" according to recent documents in his personnel file.

Brandon Shields
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Inappropriate contact alleged against educator

Brandon Shields
Jackson Sun

See DIRECTOR, Page 6A

Director
Continued from Page 3A

employee of Jackson-Madison County Schools in the spring of 2008 and was promoted to head band director at North Side in the summer of 2009 after graduating from Jackson Central-Merry in 2002 and UT Martin in December of 2007.

His record is full of positive recommendations and commendations from past system superintendents for performance and attendance, but a letter dated Feb. 2 from JMCSS Superintendent Dr. Eric Jones highlighted the accusations against Eckford.

Eckford was suspended without pay pending an investigation. The Jackson Police Department investigated allegations against Eckford. The JMCSS investigation closed with Eckford's resignation. JPD's investigation is still open according to the JMCSS final report regarding Eckford.

Personalized reading clinics at UTM

The UT Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students in grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade-level reading standards.

UTM offers ACT prep course

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"We've got to help the minds that are different succeed. We need these minds that are different, and we must not screen them out because the world needs all kinds of minds," she said.

Grandin gave examples from her own life to illustrate the need for creative classes such as woodworking, welding, sewing and theater in schools.

"When I was a little kid, four years old, I had no speech. I had all the full-blown symptoms of autism," she said. "Nobody thought I would go anywhere, but my ability in art was always encouraged. Take the thing the kid is good at and build on it; build on the area of strength," she said. "I've seen too many kids who are becoming their disability."

Grandin is currently a professor of animal science at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Her presentation is available through archived video on the OVC Digital Network.

The Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series was originally created in 1989, and Grandin is the 15th speaker in the series.

ACT courses to be offered

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students looking to improve their scores can register for an ACT review course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Feb. 24-March 17, on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years and will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science. Students will use "The Official ACT Prep Guide, 2018: Official Practice Tests + 400 Bonus Questions Online 1st Edition."

The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com.
Temple Grandin inspires agricultural students at UTM

By RACHEL FULCHER
Special to the Press

About six months ago, the University of Tennessee at Martin made an announcement that one of the biggest influences on the agriculture industry, who is also an autism advocate, would be coming to UTM to speak. As an agriculture student myself, I was not only excited to hear of this information, but overjoyed. Being able to attend a lecture by Dr. Temple Grandin at UT Martin is the opportunity of a lifetime. This event brought in over 1,000 attendees, and every single seat in the Skyhawk Field House was sold out.

Temple Grandin was born in 1947 to a family in Boston. She was diagnosed with autism at a very young age. Grandin explained that she was just a poor high school student with little interest in studying. She had the goal of becoming a scientist, and this goal turned her into a motivated student.

"At the age of 4, I still couldn’t talk. In high school I was in the ninth grade and I got kicked out of school for fighting because someone called me a ‘retard.’"

Temple Grandin entered college on probation, but through her hard work and perseverance she was able to graduate second in her class. Grandin now has a career in psychology and animal science.

"I learned to build on the thing that I was good at. That’s what the education system doesn’t understand anymore. We have to figure out what people can do, and build on that."

Grandin spoke about building on the strengths that people attain, and turning these strengths into a career. Today, Temple Grandin has become one of the most admired and respected people in the agriculture industry.

Grandin’s science teacher motivated her to become a scientist. However, Temple also got a lot of experience while she was working on her Aunt Ann’s farm. This is where she realized that she thought a lot like the animals that she was working with.

"We gotta get kids out there working on stuff," she told the audience. "Too many kids are being defined by their label. Too many kids are stuck in a disability. But by finding what any kid is good at they can break any disability barriers."

In Grandin’s early life she explained that she spent a lot of time being educated by her family. Books were very important to her; art was nurtured. She made kites and helicopters with cardboard and paper. Her mind was always working.

Grandin is most famous for her invention of the hug machine. This device is a high-pressure squeeze box to calm hypersensitive people, usually those diagnosed with autism. This is also known as a squeeze machine, and plays a significant role in the cattle chutes used in the livestock industry as a therapeutic calming device to keep animals calm.

"As a kid I was fighting all the time," Grandin said. "I remember when I first saw our industry go from paper to computer. Old people didn’t like it. I began seeing strange mistakes on drawings when they would try to transfer from computer to paper. Real work gets minds turned on," said Grandin.

SEE GRANDIN,
 PAGE 14

GRANDIN,
 FROM PAGE 1

Gralsin specializes in animal behavior, livestock management, and much more when it comes to the agriculture industry. She has spent her entire life blending her passion for the agriculture industry, her career, and her autism together so well that she has not only made huge strides for the agriculture industry, but for those affected by autism and their loved ones as well.

Grandin began her lecture on Tuesday night by reminding people of the need for touch to perceive information. A recent study came out that said every student in most states has an iPad.

"This doesn’t make education better," said Grandin. "It only makes it decline."

The typical "classroom setting is the complete opposite of the environment that Grandin believes is best to learn in.

"I remember when I first saw our industry go from paper to computer. Old people didn’t like it. I began seeing strange mistakes on drawings when they would try to transfer from computer to paper. Real work gets minds turned on," said Grandin.
She brought up several examples of people who were educated and successful without a "by the book" education from a classroom. Some examples that she used were Jane Goodall, Thomas Edison, Stephen Spielberg and Elon Musk.

"Thomas Edison was labeled as a hyperactive high school dropout, who was also labeled as 'addled' by a teacher. He probably had autism. But Edison accomplished more by the age of 14 than most people do in a lifetime," she said.

The common denominator of these successful people was their early exposure to career interest, a lot of books, learning to work at an early age, not overspecializing, having mentors to start career paths, and career entry with internships.

Try out different careers, Grandin told the students. Figure out what you like and what you don't like. They didn't learn every bit of their skills from a book or in a classroom. "That's why we gotta get kids out doing stuff!" exclaimed Grandin. Grandin explained that the need for out-of-classroom activities, and hands-on experiences go hand in hand with those who are autistic.

Grandin used examples for hands-on classes that included activities such as: art, sewing, cooking, playing musical instruments, theater, welding, auto, shop and creative writing.

When addressing autism, Grandin reminded her audience that people with autism are everywhere. They might not know it, but they are on the autism spectrum.

"Autism in its mild form has been around for a long time. But people in my generation learned what they could do, and found jobs. Many even work at NASA today," said Grandin.

"Autism is all about brain variability," Grandin explained. She said studies show that people with autism typically have relatives in a more technical career and may find themselves in one of these careers, too. A brain can be more cognitive or more socially/emotionally oriented.

Temple Grandin talked about the four different types of thinking: photorealistic visual thinking object visualizer, pattern thinker spatial visualizer music and matter, verbal facts language translation, and auxiliary thinker. "Some kids are visual learners, some can do math in their head, and some need to see it on paper," said Grandin.

She labeled herself as a photorealistic visual thinking object visualizer. There can be a mixture of these thinking purposes, she said. She stressed the importance of visual thinkers in our world. "When someone says church steeple to me I see a wide array of pictures and photos of church steeples, but when someone says church steeple to you, you just see one tall pointy thing."

Being a visual thinker helped me in my work in animal science, because I noticed a lot of little details that not everybody else noticed. I used to think that everyone was a visual thinker. But almost all animals think visually. Grandin stressed the importance of tying up loose chains that scare animals, removing jackets hanging on fences, not having changes in flooring.

"Gotta give the leaders a chance to look at it. Cattle notice little details that we don't notice," she said. Animal memories are specific because they are sensory and not word-based. Top down verbal thinkers overgeneralize.

In the realm of agriculture Grandin was able to use her senses and her ability to notice what other people might miss to focus on the livestock's point of view.

Today over half of the cattle in North America are handled in equipment that she designed. Grandin implemented an objective scoring system for evaluating animal welfare in meat plants. Grandin created the "flight zone" parameters, and designed chutes and practices to keep cattle safe and calm.

Parker Meyer, an animal science production major at UTM, was thrilled to hear Grandin speak.

"Her appearance is the opportunity of a lifetime. It brought people in from across the region and even the state. As an animal science student with a livestock background, I don't believe that I could have gotten a better experience in my undergraduate career that would have been better than listening to Dr. Grandin today."

Today, Grandin is a animal science professor at Colorado State University. Her courses are said to fill up with students in under an hour. Grandin has been said to be "the professor of a lifetime," "the kind of mentor and leader who leads you where you need to go," and "a teacher who makes you think things through, and learn from a firsthand experience."

Grandin has a list of accomplishments, awards, and accolades longer than any award show one could watch. She also has several movies produced about her life and her accomplishments. Grandin has won the Goodreads Choice Awards Best Nonfiction for the "The Autistic Brain." She has won the award for the James Beard Foundation Award for Who's Who's of Food and Beverage in America. She was listed on Time's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2010, and she was the subject and inspiration for the award winning semi-biographical film "Temple Grandin."
Grades

Continued from Page 1A

serve highly effective teachers," she said.

The report card assigns an overall grade of 1 through 4 based on scores given for diversity of candidate pools, the percentage of students employed and retained after graduation, and the effectiveness of those teachers, measured by their evaluation scores.

The programs in Memphis are strong across the board, the report shows, with all earning an overall score of 3 or 4. Both of those scores mean the schools are meeting expectations.

The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University each earned a 3 overall. Memphis Teacher Residency and Teach for America Memphis both earned a 4. In Nashville, The New Teacher Project also earned a 4.

University of Tennessee Knoxville earned a 4, but UT campuses in Martin and Chattanooga both earned a 2 overall. Vanderbilt University's program earned a 3.

Teach for America programs in both Memphis and Nashville earned a 4. The program is often criticized for putting teachers into classrooms with only weeks of training, although its participants are heavily supported.

The state’s report does not address whether a program specifically trains teachers to work in high-poverty classrooms with increased needs.

That could make a difference in a place like Memphis, where children’s needs are often substantial and just one in five third-grade students reads on grade level.

Sara Morrison, executive director for the state board, said an additional "satisfaction" score will be added next year that would ask both teachers and their employers whether they felt prepared for their specific classroom environment.

University of Memphis recently announced a new partnership with Shelby County Schools to increase its pipeline of teachers who can teach with cultural competence about the needs of Memphis students. Rhodes College in Memphis will also be adding a master's degree in education next year.

Morrison said there’s not one model that is the “silver bullet,” but that every model can learn from each other’s successes.

Of the smaller, non-traditional options like Teach for America and Memphis Teacher Residency, Morrison said they may have an advantage over a larger program when it comes to preparing teachers for a local classroom.

"I think that's often a result of the fact that they're working pretty closely with their communities and with their districts and the places they're placing these students," she said.

Memphis Teacher Residency, which has about 300 of its graduates in Shelby County schools, immerses aspiring teachers in a year of preparation before they take over a classroom. In that year, they earn their graduate degree in urban education from Union University—which earned a 4 on the state report—and shadow a teacher in a classroom.

The following three years, they teach full-time, but still have support through the residency program.

Molly Nied, the director of education for MTR, said the program is unique in its ability to train teachers for the exact job they will have following their residency.

"We're able to design coursework that directly prepares teachers to be here in Memphis teaching," she said.

Reach Jennifer Pignolet at jennifer.pignolet@commercialappeal.com or on Twitter @JenPignolet.

Many of the smaller, non-traditional programs that prepare Tennessee’s teachers are outperforming some of the larger university programs, according to a new report.

Graduates of some of the smaller programs, like the Memphis Teacher Residency, were more effective in their public school classrooms, the report showed, highlighting the importance of community-immersed training for teachers.

But many larger programs still fared well, including University of Tennessee Knoxville and University of Memphis.

The Tennessee State Board of Education made public Thursday its 2017 Teacher Preparation Report Card grading each program across the state that readies teachers for the classroom. Schools use the report to inform where they can make improvements, and it serves as a tool for perspective teachers to find a training program right for them.

Kandi Hill-Clarke, dean of the college of education at University of Memphis, said her department takes the report seriously.

"It's important because children de-
Martin, Tenn. – Alumni, community members and other guests to the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus now have a new way to obtain visitors’ parking passes.

One-day parking passes can be requested online at utm.edu/parking and will be verified during normal office hours from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Once verified, a PDF pass will be emailed to the requestor and can be printed and displayed on the vehicle’s dashboard.

These printed passes are only valid for the single day displayed on the printout, and a new pass will need to be requested for each additional visit.

Visitors wishing to park on campus outside of normal office hours can still visit the traffic office in person, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to obtain a parking pass. All temporary visitor passes are issued free of charge. The traffic office is located in the Department of Public Safety in Crisp Hall, which can be accessed via Hurt Street past Clement Hall.

Parking passes are not needed to attend large events such as commencement, sporting events or Summer Orientation and Registration. During these events, lots used by event attendees are not ticketed for failure to register.

Visitors who do receive tickets for failure to register are not charged parking fines but are required to sign the ticket and return it to the traffic office within 14 days.

For more information, contact Scott Robbins, director, UT Martin Department of Public Safety, at sdrobbins@utm.edu or 731-881-7775.
UTM Vanguard Theatre presents “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike”

February 16 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  http://www.wenkwtpr.com

The UT Martin Vanguard Theatre presents its spring production, “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” by playwright Christopher Durang, February 22 through 27 at 8 p.m., in the Vanguard Little Theatre inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building. Sunday, Feb. 24, will offer a 3 p.m. matinee viewing instead of the 8 p.m. show time.

Tickets are on sale now for $15 for adults and $5 for UT Martin and local students.

Tickets can be purchased through the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts from 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Contact the office at 731-881-7400, or visit room 201 of the Fine Arts Building to claim tickets.

The Vanguard Box Office will open one hour before each performance for will-call pick up and last-minute ticket purchases.

This performance is not recommended for young children, and adults with children who are not able to remain in a purchased seat may be asked to leave.

For more information, contact the department office at 731-881-7400.
UTM offers ACT prep course

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students looking to improve their scores can register for an ACT review course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Feb. 24-March 17, on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years and will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science.


The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/act.php.

Personalized reading clinics at UTM

The UT Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students in grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade-level reading standards.

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UT Martin kicks off 18th annual Civil Rights conference

February 18, 2018 by Brittany Hardaway

MARTIN, Tenn — The University of Tennessee at Martin kicked off their 18th annual Civil Rights conference.

The conference started Sunday and will go until February 24th, on the main campus in Martin. The 2018 conference will center on the theme "50 Years After Dr. King's Assassination: From Dream to Woke. Bobby Seale, who's the co-founder and first chairman of the Black Panther Party, will serve as keynote speaker at 7 p.m. on Feb. 22nd in Watkins auditorium of the Boling University center.
High school students ‘prepare for takeoff’ at UT Martin preview day

February 19, 2018 by Josh Robinson

MARTIN, Tenn. — High school juniors and seniors visited the University of Tennessee at Martin Monday for a test flight.

“This is the chance for students to see the academic side of things,” Assistant Director of Admissions Mary Wiggins said.

UT Martin gave high school students a chance to test out becoming a Skyhawk.

“I’m going to tour my academic program,” Allison Ogg, from Adams, said. “And I’m going to learn how I’m going to study next year.”

Students met with admissions counselors and then split into groups based on their planned major.

WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News spoke with some of the visiting juniors and seniors to find out why they think UT Martin is the right choice for them.

“I like UT Martin because it’s a smaller school and I would get to know my professors a lot more,” Jaleah Little, from Lexington, said.

“I live in a small town, and this just feels homey to me and I love the campus and everything about it,” Ogg said.

They toured the buildings where the majority of their classes would take place and got to sit in on classes and ask teachers and current students about their majors.

Students and university leaders hope the event helps them decide if UT Martin is the right fit for them.

“I’m hoping I can figure out what major I want to do,” Little said. “If drama is good enough, I’ll pick that as my major.”

They also got to eat lunch with their departments’ chair holders.
Union City businessman participates in 2018 WestStar Leadership Program

Portis Tanner of Union City is a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2018 class.

Tanner, who serves as chief operating officer of Westan Insurance Group Inc., currently serves on the boards of the Obion County Chamber of Commerce, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Tennessee, Poplar Meadows Country Club and the Community Concert Association of Obion County.

He is a recipient of the Presidential Citation Award from the Insurors of Tennessee and the Volunteer of the Year Award with Boys & Girls Clubs of Obion County.

The WestStar Leadership Program, created in 1989, is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program.

Boasting 798 graduates since its inception, WestStar continues to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants.

The 2018 class is the 29th in program history.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at (731) 881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.

Henry County students on UT Martin honors list

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the fall 2017 chancellor's honor rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; College of Business and Global Affairs; College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences; College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for chancellor's honor roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the chancellor's honor roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Henry Countains that made the honor roll include:
• Buchanan — Katelyn N. Caldwell and Rachel G. Ragan, high honors.
• Cottage Grove — Taryn A. Marter, highest honors; Kayla L. Wood and Clay T. Wyrick, high honors.
• Henry — Stephanie A. England, highest honors: Sarah M. Dicus and Molly J. Rowlett, high honors; Charles E. Clayton, Abigail N. Conger and Holly N. Potts, honors.
• Thomas A. Bomar, Kristen D. Chenoweth, Kimberly B. Dolliver, Jacey H. Guarino, Hannah G. Gwaltney, Charles A. Haney, Alex J. Lancaster, Carly S. Milton, Mariah M. Purcell, Lawrence E. Sims, Vincent L. Vine and Cody G. Watson, high honors; and
• John T. Bomar, Rhett A. Braham, Matthew H. Counce, Andrew K. Key, Dakota W. Parsons and Brooks W. Wimberly, honors.
• Puryear — James D. Wilson, high honors; Baylee D. Pafford, honors.
• Springville — Margaret E. Fuson and Kara D. Hoskins, highest honors; Coleson T. Papszycki, high honors; Shelby L. Susewitt, honors.

THE PARIS POST-INTELLIGENCER TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018
Local Residents Participate in WestStar Leadership Class

MARTIN — Joseph Butler, Brent Dillahunty and Frank Tate, all of Carroll County, are members of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2018 class. Butler is the executive consultant at Savant Learning Systems and the executive consultant and director of community engagement at Bethel University. He serves on the boards of the United Way of West Tennessee, Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County, Huntington Vision Council and the Lions Club. Butler is a graduate of Leadership Carroll County.

Dillahunty is the general manager of the West Tennessee Public Utility District. He serves on the boards of the West Tennessee Gas Association and the Tennessee Energy Acquisition Corp.

Tate is the executive director of McKenzie Industrial Development. He served 10 years in the U.S. Navy and currently participates in the Tennessee Valley Authority Rural Leadership Institute. Tate is the recipient of the Enlisted Surface Warfare Pin, Expedition Warfare Pin, Navy Commendation Medal and three Good Conduct Medals.

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http://www.thunderboltradio.com

UT Martin’s Educator Preparation Program Report Card

The program maintained a category-two ranking in the 2016-17 state report card.

The Report Card covers three domains: candidate profile, employment satisfaction and provider impact. Providers are awarded a performance category score from one to four based on the providers’ ability to successfully prepare Tennessee educators, with four being the highest score.

The current report reflects teacher data from 2013 to 2016.

The report showed the largest score declines for UT Martin in provider impact or teacher effectiveness.

Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver says UTM’s teacher-education program made quality-enhancement changes based on the last report card, and the data largely shows improvement. But, the university accepts this report and will continue to look for ways to improve its teacher-education program.
Bobby Seale speaking at UTM

Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, will serve as keynote speaker of the 18th-annual University of Tennessee at Martin Civil Rights Conference beginning at 7 p.m., Feb. 22, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Seale co-founded the Black Panthers in the 1960s with fellow activist Huey Newton. The pair established the party’s 10-point program, “What We Want, What We Believe,” which declared, “We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our black community.” Seale and Newton quickly led the Black Panthers to international headlines with their militant stance for black freedom.

The Black Panthers challenged police brutality in California communities and protested the state government’s decision to make the open carrying of weapons illegal. The party also established a variety of “Serve the People” programs, including the Free Breakfast Scholarship Program which, at its height, served thousands of children in Oakland, California, and other areas of Black Panther activity.

UT Martin is one of two universities nationally to host an annual civil rights conference. Events run through Feb. 24 and include a variety of speakers, discussion panels and performances to mark the 50-year anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

For more information, contact Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history and conference organizer, at 731-881-7465 or email dbarber@utm.edu. A complete list of conference events is available online at utm.edu/civilrights.

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Personalized reading clinics at UTM

The UT Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students in grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade-level reading standards.
UT Martin recognized as top school for veterans

The University of Tennessee at Martin has recently been recognized as a 2018 Military Friendly School by Victory Media and as a top school in the 2018 Military Advanced Education and Transition Guide to Colleges and Universities.

Designation as a Military Friendly school identifies those institutions which take special care to provide programs to help student-veterans and their families adapt to the expectations of college life.

The Military Friendly Schools list, published annually by Victory Media, is in its 16th year and combines data from federal agencies, veteran students and institutional surveys to create a comprehensive guide for veterans and their families. More than 1,300 schools participated in the 2017-18 survey cycle and 849 earned the Military Friendly designation, according to a Victory Media press release.

The 2017-18 Military Friendly Schools list was included in the December 2017 issue of G.I. Jobs magazine and can be found online at militaryfriendly.com.

UT Martin has also been included as a top school in the 2018 Military Advanced Education and Transition Guide to Colleges and Universities. MAE&T is a journal of higher education designed for service members and veterans seeking to transition from military life to the civilian sector.

For more information on the services available for student-veterans at UT Martin, contact Johnny Dyer, veterans service coordinator, at 731-881-7744 or email jdyer16@utm.edu.

BUSINESS ON THE FARM — Jay Yeargin, a farmer from Greenfield stopped by UTM Thursday to speak to the NAMA (National Agri-Marketing Association) Club. Yeargin talked to the students about the day-to-day business and marketing involved in an agricultural operation. The NAMA Club consists of agriculture and business students. They appreciated Yeargin coming by and look forward to having him back again.

Martin resident to graduate, have article published

Cassie Hood of Martin will graduate from Southern Illinois University School of Law in May. She began her education at the University of Tennessee-Martin, where she graduated magna cum laude in 2015 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science.

She is in the process of having an article published with the “ABA Journal for Tennessee,” regarding Tennessee Voter ID laws.
New county seal receives national award

Weakley County recently received national attention when its new county seal was highlighted in the National Association of Counties Newspaper. Selected from one of 3,069 counties nationwide, Weakley County was honored to have the new seal featured in the Feb. 5 edition of the NACo Newspaper biweekly publication.

Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum unveiled the new seal design and applauded designer and UT Martin University Scholar Rachel Melton at the Weakley County State of the County Address held in Watkins Auditorium at UTM in October 2017.

Melton is also a frequent contributor to the Weakley County Press.

"In collaboration with Ms. Melton, we worked to identify a design that truly represents each piece of our county’s multifaceted past, present, and future into one unified and cohesive image. We knew it had to be meaningful and represent all of us, and I believe that this design showcases those qualities that make Weakley County, Martin, Sharon, Greenfield, Dresden, Gleason, and all of our communities special – from Dukedom to Stafford Store," said Bynum.

Included in the highlight was a brief history about Weakley County’s establishment and the symbolism within the design that is specific to the county and its municipalities. The field in the background features lines representing the original districts that made up Weakley County. The nine stars in the design symbolize the nine districts that currently make up Weakley County. The field, tractor and barn at the buck left are a nod to Weakley County’s history in agriculture.

The water tower image salutes the cities in Weakley County and each eye-catching and unique water tower in each community. The power lines at the right of the locomotive acknowledge the fact that the county is one of a few in the state with a county-owned and operated electric system.

The locomotive exemplifies Weakley County’s rich history in rail, and the tri-star at the front of the train illustrates the county’s unity, connection and commitment to the state.

See County Seal, Page 12

COUNTY SEAL, From Page 1

of Tennessee. The color of the sky represents the dawning of each new day in Weakley County, with the locomotive moving ever forward.

NACo is a national organization that unites America’s 3,069 county governments and brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public’s understanding of county government, and exercise exemplary leadership in public service.

For more information about NACo, visit http://www.naco.org.
Bobby Seale to speak Thursday

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The party also established a variety of “Serve the People” programs, including the Free Breakfast Scholarship Program which, at its height, served thousands of children in Oakland, Calif., and other areas of Black Panther activity.

The party also created free health clinics for black communities, highlighted the prevalence of lead poisoning in black communities and raised national awareness of sickle cell anemia through sickle cell testing programs.

UT Martin is one of only two universities nationally to host an annual civil rights conference. Events run through Feb. 24 and include a variety of speakers, discussion panels and performances to mark the 50-year anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

For more information, contact Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history and conference organizer, at 731-881-7465 or email dbarber@utm.edu. A complete list of conference events is available online at utm.edu/civilrights.

TOWN HALL — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s first Town Hall Meeting was held Feb. 8 in Watkins Auditorium. Chancellor Keith Carver addressed questions from the audience as well as those sent via email from the UT Martin extended campus centers, alumni and other viewers. Question topics included the economic impact of UT Martin on West Tennessee, future steps in the provost search, the effectiveness of the Student Government Association and budget concerns, among others. A reporter from WBBJ-TV in Jackson was also present and spoke with several audience members about their participation. Carver said he was pleased with the meeting attendance and plans to hold another town hall this time next year.
Local AP reporter offers tips for objective journalism

Meg Kinnard Hardee, a political and legal affairs reporter with The Associated Press who bylines as Meg Kinnard, speaks with UT Martin students about the current state and future of journalism.

Meg Kinnard Hardee, a political and legal affairs reporter with The Associated Press who bylines as Meg Kinnard, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin last week to speak with students from the university's department of communications. Her presentations stressed the importance of objective journalism and reliable information sources.

"You really can't come to the answer of whatever the problem is unless you're listening to the other side," she said. "You don't have to go all the way to where they are, and you don't have to stay there, but you do at least have to ingest what they are saying in a thoughtful way and respect it."

She also urged students to stay at the forefront of new technology and be prepared to adapt to changing news formats.

"There is no such thing as 'just a radio journalist'... Everybody is multiformat these days. While you're in school, you have all these training tools available to you. Use them. Practice with them; be comfortable with them," she said. "Tomorrow Fox News could be calling wanting you to commentate on whatever they are talking about."

Kinnard, who served as UT Martin's Fall 2017 commencement speaker, is celebrating 12 years with The Associated Press and has reported on all levels of politics — from local to international — from her home base in South Carolina. She reported extensively on the 2016 presidential race and traveled with both the Sanders and Rubio campaigns.

Kinnard grew up in Memphis and is the only grandchild of the late 8th-District Congressman Ed Jones. She and her husband, Geoffrey Hardee, are co-authors of the upcoming biography "Grassroots Politickin': The Life and Legacy of Ed Jones."

Hardee and Hardee are dedicated UT Martin supporters and have contributed to several university scholarships and special funds, including the Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series.

This series is responsible for the appearance of Dr. Temple Grandin, renowned animal behaviorist and autism spokesperson, on the UT Martin campus last week.

Kinnard holds a bachelor of science in foreign service in international politics/ international security studies from the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and has completed internships with The Washington Post and the United States House of Representatives Committee for Government Reform.
UT-Martin stays at top of rankings

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Educator Preparation Program maintained a category-two ranking in the 2016-17 state report card. The annual EPP report card, issued this week by the Tennessee State Board of Education, measures the effectiveness of teacher-education programs.

The Teacher Preparation Report Card covers three domains: candidate profile, employment satisfaction and provider impact. Providers are awarded a performance category score from one to four based on the providers' ability to successfully prepare Tennessee educators, with four being the highest score. The current report reflects teacher data from 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 completers.

UT Martin EPP scores show improvement in each of the three domains scored in the current report.

"Based on data in recent years, a variety of modifications have been applied to our program," said Cindy West, UT Martin College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences dean. "We anticipate these actions will provide a positive impact on future report cards."

Additional changes made since the last report include: hiring a full-time assessment coordinator to track detailed candidate, completer and program data to use for data-informed decision making; increased efforts to recruit students from diverse backgrounds; and also increased efforts to recruit students interested in teaching high-need areas such as math, science and special education.


UT Martin earned its best total score of four in the employment domain, which measures placement and retention. The candidate profile domain included score increases for ACT scores, high-demand endorsements and racial diversity, but the total score remained as category one.

The University of Tennessee at Martin will continue to offer mentoring support for teacher-education completers in the field who may have received low Tennessee Value Added Assessment System or TVAAS scores.

UT Martin maintains tier-two status

For the Independent Appeal

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Personalized reading clinics at UTM

The UT Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students in grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade-level reading standards.

Bobby Seale speaking at UTM

Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, will serve as keynote speaker of the 18th-annual University of Tennessee at Martin Civil Rights Conference beginning at 7 p.m., Feb. 22, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Seale co-founded the Black Panthers in the 1960s with fellow activist Huey Newton. The pair established the party’s 10-point program, “What We Want, What We Believe,” which declared, “We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our black community.” Seale and Newton quickly led the Black Panthers to international headlines with their militant stance for black freedom.

The Black Panthers challenged police brutality in California communities and protested the state government’s decision to make the open carrying of weapons legal. The party also established a variety of “Serve the People” programs, including the Free Breakfast Scholarship Program which, at its height, served thousands of children in Oakland, California, and other areas of Black Panther activity.

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UTM offers phlebotomy courses

Community members seeking careers in the health-care field are encouraged to register for a 90-hour phlebotomy technician program offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 1-May 31, at the University of Tennessee of Martin’s main campus.

This program prepares students to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Classroom and lab work include terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, hands-on practice, and training techniques to perform puncture methods safely.

The registration fee for this course is $1,799 and includes textbooks and supplies. The National Healthcare Association certification exam is given at the end of class and is an additional $105 paid directly to the National Healthcare Association.

For specific course requirements or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php.

UTM offers ACT prep course

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships.

High school students looking to improve their scores can register for an ACT review course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Feb. 24-March 17, on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep-classes for more than 20 years and will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science.


The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com.

For information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/act.php.
**Vanguard Theatre To Present Spring Play**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present its spring production, “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” by playwright Christopher Durang, at 8 p.m., Feb. 22-27, in the Vanguard Little Theatre inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building. Sunday, Feb. 24, will offer a 3 p.m. matinee viewing instead of the 8 p.m. show time.

This production centers on the experiences of Vanya and Sonia, who have never left their childhood home, and their world-traveling sister Masha and her boyfriend, Spike. The play was originally presented as a Broadway musical.

Tickets are on sale now for $15 for adults and $5 for UT Martin and local students. Tickets can be purchased through the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts from 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Contact the office at 731-881-7400, or visit room 201 of the Fine Arts Building to claim tickets.

The Vanguard Box Office will open one hour before each performance for will-call pick up and last-minute ticket purchases.

This performance is not recommended for young children, and adults with children who are not able to remain in a purchased seat may be asked to leave. For more information, contact the department office at 731-881-7400.

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**New Weakley County Seal Featured in National Association of Counties Newspaper Publication**

Weakley County recently received national attention when its new county seal was highlighted in the National Association of Counties [NACo] Newspaper. Selected from one of 3,069 counties nationwide, Weakley County was honored to have the new seal featured in the February 5th edition of the NACo Newspaper bi-weekly publication. Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum unveiled the new seal design and applauded designer and UT Martin University Scholar Rachel Melton at the Weakley County State of the County Address held in Watkins Auditorium at UTM in October 2017.

“In collaboration with the Ms. Melton, we worked to identify a design that truly represents each piece of our county’s multifaceted past, present, and future into one unified and cohesive image. We knew it had to be meaningful and represent all of us, and I believe that this design showcases those qualities that make Weakley County, Martin, Sharon, Greenfield, Dresden, Gleason, and all of our communities special – from Dukedom to Stafford Store,” said Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum.

Included in the highlight was a brief history about Weakley County’s establishment and the symbolism within the design that is specific to the county and its municipalities: The field in the background features lines representing the original districts that made up Weakley County. The nine stars in the design symbolize the nine districts that currently make up Weakley County. The field, tractor and barn at the back left are a nod to Weakley County’s history in agriculture. The water tower image salutes the cities in Weakley County and each eye-catching and unique water tower in each community. The power lines at the right of the locomotive acknowledge the fact that the county is one of a few in the state with a county-owned and operated electric system. The locomotive exemplifies Weakley County’s rich history in rail, and the tri-star at the front of the train illustrates the county’s unity, connection and commitment to the state of Tennessee. The color of the sky represents the dawning of each new day in Weakley County, with the locomotive moving ever forward.
Increase marked at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin has seen its first increase in spring semester enrollment since 2011.
Total university headcount for the spring 2018 semester is up 1.6 percent as compared to the spring 2017 semester.
UT Martin has specifically seen increases in the number of transfer (10.4 percent increase), first-time freshmen (7.7 percent) and dual/concurrent enrollment students (25.9 percent) as compared to last spring.
“Our admissions and recruiting teams have been working very hard, and we are pleased to see this increase in our spring semester enrollment,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. “It is no secret that overall enrollment has been trending down in recent years, but this bump, along with our record-setting freshman-to-sophomore retention rate and large first-time freshman class, proves we are heading in the right direction once again.”

This news comes on the heels of a study that places UT Martin sixth in the state in LendEDU’s third-annual College Risk-Reward Indicator. LendEDU, a student loan comparison service, evaluates the average student loan debt per borrower as compared to the average early career pay for university graduates to determine institution standing.
Average early career pay can also be defined as the median salary for alumni with fewer than five years of work experience. The top-ranked school in Tennessee is Vanderbilt University.

Rodeo Pageant slated at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Rodeo Booster Club will sponsor the Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant March 17 at Watkins Auditorium in the University Center.
The pageant is open to all girls from birth to age 20. Contestants will be judged in formal/evening gown only.
Doors will open at noon. Pageant will be as follows: birth-12 months at 1 p.m., 1-3 years at 1:30, 4-6 years at 2, 7-9 years at 2:30, 10-12 years at 3, 13-15 years at 3:30 and 16-20 years at 4.
Registration is at the door only. $25 for beauty with side categories available for an additional cost.
The winner of the 16-20 division is required to participate in UTM Rodeo Week activities. Junior, Teen and Miss Division queens will be recognized at UTM Rodeo performances April 12, 13 and 14.
For more information, contact Beth Weldon at (731) 225-1227.

Vanguard Theatre’s spring play slated

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present its spring production, “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” by playwright Christopher Durang, at 8 p.m. Thursday through Tuesday in the Vanguard Little Theatre inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.
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Keynote speaker is Seale

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The party also created free health clinics for black communities, highlighted the prevalence of lead poisoning in black communities and raised national awareness of sickle cell anemia through sickle cell testing programs.
UT Martin is one of only two universities nationally to host an annual civil rights conference. Events run through Saturday and include a variety of speakers, discussion panels and performances to mark the 50-year anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
UT Martin maintains category-two ranking on state report card

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"Based on data in recent years, a variety of modifications have been applied to our program," said Cindy West, UT Martin College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences dean. "We anticipate these actions will provide a positive impact on future report cards."

Additional changes made since the last report include: hiring a full-time assessment coordinator to track detailed candidate completer and program data to use for data-informed decision making; increased efforts to recruit students from diverse backgrounds; and also increased efforts to recruit students interested in teaching high-need areas such as math, science and special education.

The report showed the largest score declines for UT Martin in provider impact or teacher effectiveness.

"This is not the outcome we had hoped for," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. "Our teacher-education program made quality-enhancement changes based on the last report card, and the data largely show improvement. But, we accept this report and will continue to look for ways to improve our teacher-education program."

UT Martin earned its best total score of four in the employment domain, which measures placement and retention. The candidate profile domain included score increases for ACT scores, high-demand endorsements and racial diversity, but the total score remained as category one. The university will continue to offer mentoring support for teacher-education completers in the field who may have received low Tennessee Value Added Assessment System or TVAAS scores.

The complete report card for all Educator Preparation Programs is available at the Tennessee State Board of Education website at http://teacherprepreportcard.tn.gov.

Community may request UT Martin visitor passes

Alumni, community members and other guests to the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus now have a new way to obtain visitors' parking passes.

One-day parking passes can be requested online at utm.edu/parking and will be verified during normal office hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Once verified, a PDF pass will be emailed to the requestor and can be printed and displayed on the vehicle's dashboard.

These printed passes are only valid for the single day displayed on the printout, and a new pass will need to be requested for each additional visit.

Visitors wishing to park on campus outside of normal office hours can still visit the traffic office in person, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to obtain a parking pass.

All temporary visitor passes are issued free of charge. The traffic office is located in the Department of Public Safety in Crisp Hall, which can be accessed via Hurt Street past Clement Hall.

Parking passes are not needed to attend large events such as commencement, sporting events or Summer Orientation and Registration. During these events, lots used by event attendees are not ticketed for failure to register.

Visitors who do receive tickets for failure to register are not charged parking fines but are required to sign the ticket and return it to the traffic office within 14 days.

For more information, contact Scott Robbins, director of UT Martin Department of Public Safety, at sdrobbins@utm.edu or (731) 881-7775.
Dr. Grandin encourages different types of minds

Dr. Temple Grandin, an internationally-known animal behaviorist and autism advocate, spoke last week at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Her presentation, titled "Developing Individuals Who Have Different Kinds of Minds," was sponsored by the Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series.

Dr. Grandin focused her comments on the value of individuals who see the world differently than those around them, such as those on the autism spectrum and those with other learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

"We've got to help the minds that are different succeed. We need these minds that are different, and we must not screen them out because the world needs all kinds of minds," she said.

Dr. Grandin gave examples from her own life to illustrate the need for creative classes such as woodworking, welding, sewing and theater in schools. She has invented many restraint systems and handling facilities for the livestock industry, and those pursuits began with an early exposure to construction and art.

“When I was a little kid, 4 years old, I had no speech. I had all the full-blown symptoms of autism. Nobody thought I would go anywhere, but my ability in art was always encouraged. Take the thing the kid is good at and build on it; build on the area of strength," she said. “I've seen too many kids (who) are becoming their disability.”

Dr. Grandin is currently a professor of animal science at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. Her specialties include the behavior and handling of cattle and pigs; the design of livestock handling facilities and restraint systems; and the study of animal welfare in the meat industry.

Her presentation is available through archived video on the OVC Digital Network.

The Ed and Llew Jones Distinguished Lecture Series was originally created in 1989, and Dr. Grandin is the 15th speaker in the series. The program was recently reinstated in part by Meg Kinnard Hardee and

(see related story, Page 7), the only granddaughter of former Congressman Ed Jones, and her husband, Geoffrey Hardee, in honor of Meg's grandparents.

For more information on Dr. Grandin's appearance, contact Dr. Emalee Buttrey, assistant professor of animal science, at (731) 881-7255 or ebuttreys@utm.edu; or Sara Rachels, Paul Meek Library, at (731) 881-7083 or srachels@utm.edu.
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UTM’s educator preparatory program stays at category two

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The complete report card for all Educator Preparation Programs is available at the Tennessee State Board of Education website at http://teacherprepreportcard.tn.gov.

Theatre honor society to host Weakley Co. film festival

The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honors Society will host Weakley County Filmfest at 7 p.m., April 28, in the Little Theatre, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building. The event will feature live screenings of submitted films from local producers. The submission deadline for short film entries is March 16.

Submitted films should be shot entirely in Weakley County with a total runtime of three to five minutes. Winners will be notified by April 16, and the director of the first-place film will receive $100 and a commemorative plaque. Second and third-place winners will receive $50 and $25, respectively.

Films can be shot in any genre, but there are some restrictions on content and copyrighted material. Complete rules and submission guidelines can be found at filmfreeway.com/WeakleyCountyFilmFestival. The submission fee is $10 per entry, and any funds not used to finance cash prizes will be donated to the UT Martin Alpha Psi Omega chapter.

All submissions should be entered online at filmfreeway.com/WeakleyCountyFilmFestival. There is no charge to attend the screening.

For more information, contact Kevin Shell, festival director and UT Martin assistant professor of theatre, at 731-881-7487 or kshell1@utm.edu.
Spring rodeo season gets underway tonight

From Sports Information

The spring college rodeo season starts up this weekend for the University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo squad as it will travel to Meridian, Miss., for a rodeo hosted by East Mississippi Community College tonight through Saturday.

This three-day event is the first of four rodeos this spring for UT Martin, which has not competed as a team since Nov. 2-4 at Southern Arkansas.

UT Martin also visits Arkansas-Monticello on April 5-7 before hosting the 50th Annual Spring College Rodeo takes place at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion on April 12-14.

The rodeo team rounds out the regular season at Northwest Mississippi (April 19-21) before the College National Finals Rodeo occurs on June 10-16 in Casper, Wyo.

UT Martin men’s team currently ranks third in the Ozark Region (and 21st nationally) with 1,708.33 points.

Meanwhile, the UT Martin women’s squad is fourth in the Ozark Region and 16th in the nation in total points (1,110).

Jonny Walker ranks second regionally and 11th nationally with 555 points in bareback riding, followed closely by Houston Herbert’s 340 points, which is good enough for fourth place.

Ryan McDaniel ranks fifth in the Ozark Region with 110 points in bull riding.

UT Martin boasts three cowboys in the top-10 in the region in tie down roping, paced by Chase Thrasher (285 points, third).

He also ranks 20th nationally in that category, while Colt Matthews (180 points) and Hunter Styles (150 points) rank seventh and eighth, respectively, in the Ozark Region.

Robbie Van Holten’s 215 points in steer wrestling is good enough for sixth place in the Ozark Region, while Ross Mitchell (235 points, fourth in header), Clay Tilley (130 points, eighth in header).

Patrick Houchins (240 points, fourth in heeler) and Will McCraw (130 points, eighth in heeler) each rank amongst the region’s best in team roping.

Houchins’ score of 240 points is good enough for 24th place nationally.

On the women’s side, Ashley Brooks has piled up 490 points in barrel racing to rank second in the Ozark Region and sixth in the nation.

The duo of Casey Allen (310 points, fifth) and Kenzley Wilson (190 points, sixth) also represent the UT Martin women’s team in the top-10 while Allen’s point total is the 22nd-best mark in the country.

Summer Conley (60 points) and Raegan Taylor (30 points) each accumulated points in the barrel racing event throughout the fall campaign.

Kayla Lombardo comes in at 10th place in goat tying, amassing 100 points on the season so far.

This weekend’s rodeo is the sixth hosted by East Mississippi Community College.

There will be approximately 250 cowboys and cowgirls representing teams from 14 colleges and universities in seven states.

Gates open at 7 nightly during the three-day. Tickets are $10 at the gate and admission for children the age of five and under is free for those planning to make the trip.
Medical Courses Set At UT Martin

Community members wishing to prepare for a career in healthcare are invited to register for the pharmacy technician program or phlebotomy technician program offered at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center. The pharmacy technician program is scheduled to be held from 5:30 p.m. through 8:45 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 13th through May 3rd. This is a comprehensive 50-hour course designed to prepare students to enter the pharmacy field. Students will learn dosage calculations, I.V. flow rates, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement. The course will prepare students to take the Pharmacy Technician Board’s exam. The registration fee for this course includes textbooks and supplies. An optional 80-hour clinical is also available.

The 90-hour phlebotomy technician program will be held from 6 p.m. through 8:45 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, March 12th through July 9th, and prepares students to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Classroom and lab work include terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, hands-on practice, and training techniques to perform puncture methods safely. The registration fee for this course includes textbooks and supplies. The National Healthcare Association certification exam is given at the end of class and is an additional fee paid directly to the National Healthcare Association. The phlebotomy technician course will not meet May 28th or July 4th. For specific course requirements or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/ripley.php.

UT Martin Hosts Free Tax Event

The United Way of the Mid-South is scheduled to provide Free Tax Preparation at the UT Martin Ripley center, located at 315 South Washington Street, Saturday, February 17th and February 24th, 9 a.m. through 1 p.m.; Saturday March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st, 9 a.m. through 1 p.m.; and Saturday, April 7th, 9 a.m. through 1 p.m. Participants should bring a social security card, photo ID, Insurance 1095-W-2’s, 1099’s and all tax documents. For more information call 901-415-2790.

Bobby Seale speaking at UTM

Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, will serve as keynote speaker of the 18th-annual University of Tennessee at Martin Civil Rights Conference beginning at 7 p.m., Feb. 22, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Seale co-founded the Black Panthers in the 1960s with fellow activist Huey Newton. The pair established the party’s 10-point program, “What We Want, What We Believe,” which declared, “We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our black community.” Seale and Newton quickly led the Black Panthers to international headlines with their militant stance for black freedom.

The Black Panthers challenged police brutality in California communities and protested the state government’s decision to make the open carrying of weapons illegal. The party also established a variety of “Serve the People” programs, including the Free Breakfast Scholarship Program which, at its height, served thousands of children in Oakland, California, and other areas of Black Panther activity.

UT Martin is one of two universities nationally to host an annual civil rights conference. Events run through Feb. 24 and include a variety of speakers, discussion panels and performances to mark the 50-year anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

For more information, contact Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history and conference organizer, at 731-881-7465 or email dbbarber@utm.edu. A complete list of conference events is available online at utm.edu/civilrights.
ACT prep course to be held at UTM Parsons

Preparing for the ACT on a one’s own can be challenging and overwhelming. High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for an ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, March 3, at the UTM Parsons Center.

Course instructor Alex Beene currently serves as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education programs in three counties. Beene will prepare students for the ACT by working through each section and teaching time management. He also will address the most commonly missed questions and give advice on how to answer them correctly.

Since 2013, Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have been awarded scholarships totaling more than $4.2 million in value. Those who participate in his courses increase their composite test scores by an average of 3.4 points.

The registration fee for this course is $45 per person. For more information or to register, contact the UTM Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondeg/education/general.php and select the Parsons location.

Lashlee joins WestStar Leadership Class

Brett Lashlee, of Benton County, has been accepted as a member of the 2018 class of the WestStar Leadership Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The 2018 class is the 29th in program history.

Lashlee, accountant and business process coordinator for Caterpillar Financial Insurance Services, currently serves on the audit board of a community non-profit, as an ambassador for Rural Tennessee Speaks, and as a mentor for Tennessee Promise. He is a recipient of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal. Lashlee is a Leadership Dickson County graduate.

The WestStar Leadership Program, created in 1989, is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. Boasting 798 graduates to date, WestStar serves West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.
Former Congressman John Tanner Donates Papers To UTM

FEBRUARY 23, 2018 AT 6:04 PM  POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Martin, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted a reception Feb. 23 to honor John Tanner, former U.S. representative for Tennessee’s 8th District, and thank him for the donation of his Congressional papers to the university’s Alliene and Jimmie S. Corbitt Special Collections. Tanner’s documents have been digitized and are now available online for research use around the world.

Tanner hopes this record of his work with the U.S. House of Representatives and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will help future generations learn from the past.

“I hope this collection of papers and so forth will benefit young people in the future,” said Tanner. “We live in a different time, perhaps, than some of the work that I did through NATO, but if people can look back and see what happened then, it might give them a better perspective of what happens now.”

“It is our mission to conserve, preserve and make available the historical record of this university and West Tennessee,” said Sam Richardson, university archivist and head of the Corbitt Special Collections. “We here at the Corbitt Special Collections consider ourselves the caretakers of the 8th District and the 8th District’s historical record. We, today, are making public a large part of that history.”

“This collection will bring great interest to researchers who are interested in Tennessee and 8th District politics, as well as national and foreign affairs in the late 20th and early 21st centuries,” Richardson continued, addressing the Tanner family. “We here at UT Martin appreciate your generous donation, and we appreciate that you have trusted us to bring that to the public.”

The Tanner documents can be accessed online through the Paul Meek Library website.

For more information, contact Karen Elmore, senior library assistant with special collections, at 731-881-7094 or kelmore@utm.edu.
MARTIN, Tenn. — Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, announced the selection of Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier as the university’s new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Cavalier most recently served as provost of Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas, and is expected to assume UT Martin duties effective July 1.

"I am excited to join a community that impressed me, during my campus interviews, as truly energized and moving in a positive direction," said Cavalier. "I am eager to partner with Chancellor Carver and the faculty, staff and members of the chancellor’s leadership team to advance UT Martin’s commitment to making a profound impact on the lives of all UTM students."

At Lyon, Cavalier was responsible for working with areas such as curriculum and program development, faculty support and shared governance, student support and persistence initiatives accreditation and assessment.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier has been chosen as the University of Tennessee at Martin’s new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Cavalier most recently served as provost of Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas, and is expected to assume UT Martin duties effective July 1.

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At Lyon, Cavalier was responsible for working with areas such as curriculum and program development; faculty support and shared governance; student support and persistence initiatives; accreditation; and assessment.
Cavalier holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, a master's degree in English from Northeastern University in Massachusetts and a doctoral degree, also in English, from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He has served in higher education administration since 2004.

Cavalier plans to arrive in Martin with his wife, Dr. Carol Acree Cavalier, and youngest son, Elijah, later this summer. The couple's two older sons, Tobiah and Benjamin, are attending universities elsewhere.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
MARTIN — When Bobby Seale and Huey Newton co-founded the Black Panther Party in 1966, they wanted to "capture the imagination" of the American people.

Seale said when he researched the number of black people in political offices throughout the United States in 1965, he found only 52 were elected to the nearly 500,000 elected positions available.

One of the reasons Seale helped create the Black Panther Party was to organize the African-American community to vote and help elect more African Americans into office in hopes of creating more sustainable change in the United States during the Civil Rights Movement.

"I'm telling the other people (in the group), we're going to have to take over these seats," Seale said. "We had the right to vote in California. We were just miserably unregistered to vote."

Seale served as the keynote speaker at the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Civil Rights Conference Thursday night. He spoke for nearly two hours on his early beginnings and the rise and fall of the Black Panther Party.

The Black Panther Party had another key goal — to protect African Americans from police brutality in Oakland. Newton and Seale learned all the gun laws in California, specifically the open-carry gun laws, so when "policing" the Oakland Police Department to keep track of potential acts of police brutality, they were not committing illegal activity themselves.

Seale said if the community saw their efforts to combat police brutality, they would be able to effectively organize enough people to create the political change the Black Panther Party sought.
At its peak, the Black Panther Party had more than 5,000 members and many offices across the United States. The party also created free health clinics, established the successful "Free Breakfast Scholarship Program" and raised national awareness of sickle cell anemia through sickle cell testing programs.

The organization declined in the 1970s after Seale was sentenced to prison for four years after being convicted of conspiracy and inciting a riot ahead of the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. In 1972, the U.S. Government reversed its decision and Seale was released.

After being released, Seale ran for mayor of Oakland in 1973, finishing in second place, but four years later Oakland elected its first black mayor, Lionel Wilson. For Seale, that meant his political organizing had been a success.

"Judge Lionel Wilson did say when he was elected, 'If it had not been for what Bobby Seale did to organize here in Oakland, California, when he ran for mayor, I would not be mayor.'" Seale said. "That was political organizing, and we did get more black politicians in the city of Oakland."

Seale said today the number of black politicians is up to 20,000, but to make further progress he encouraged those in the audience to elect more "progressive" politicians, one of the same principles he kept when he created the Black Panther Party more than 50 years ago.

"This upcoming election, I want them involved all over the country, running for some of these political seats and taking over," Seale said. "We've got to get more and more political seats."

Co-founder of the Black Panther Party Bobby Seale describes how he and his party provided 10,000 sacks of groceries and chickens to people in Oakland, California during a voter registration drive the 1960s. Seal was the keynote speaker for the 18th Annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference, Thursday, Feb. 22. (Photo: KENNETH CUMMINGS/The Jackson Sun)
UTM offers ACT prep course

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships.

High school students looking to improve their scores can register for an ACT review course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Feb. 24-March 17, on the University of Tennessee at Martin's main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years and will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science.


The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com.

For information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/act.php.

http://www.kfvs12.com

UT Martin names new provost, vice chancellor

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier was announced as the UT Martin's new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs by Dr. Keith Carver.

He is expected to assume his duties on July 1st at UT Martin.

Cavalier most recently served as provost of Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas.

"I am excited to join a community that impressed me during my campus interviews, as truly energized and moving in a positive direction," said Cavalier. "I am eager to partner with Chancellor Carver and the faculty, staff, and members of the chancellor's leadership team to advance UT Martin's commitment to making a profound impact on the lives of all UT Martin students."

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Co-founder of the Black Panther Party Bobby Seale was the keynote speaker Thursday for the 18th annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference. Seale spoke about the true history of the party's beginnings. KENNETH CUMMINGS/THE JACKSON SUN

Black Panther Party co-founder speaks

Seale details history of political party, voting, politics

Omer Yusuf
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

MARTIN — When Bobby Seale and Huey Newton co-founded the Black Panther Party in 1966, they wanted to "capture the imagination" of the American people.

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See SEALE, Page 5A
Seale

Continued from Page 3A

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Reach Omer Yusuf at (731) 425-9637, oyusuf@jacketsun.com, or on Twitter: @OmerAYusuf.
Co-founder of the Black Panther Party Bobby Seale speaks Thursday to an auditorium full of people, including students and faculty of UT Martin, for the 18th annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference.

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**UTM offers ACT prep course**

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships.

High school students looking to improve their scores can register for an ACT review course offered from 8 a.m. - noon, Saturdays, until March 17, on the University of Tennessee at Martin's main campus. Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years and will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science.

Students will use "The Official ACT Prep Guide, 2018: Official Practice Tests + 400 Bonus Questions Online 1st Edition." The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com. For information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/act.php.
SHELTON SPEAKS — Dr. Abigail Shelton (center) spoke about communicating the value of chemistry when she and two students gave a presentation at the Feb. 14 Kiwanis meeting. Pictured with Dr. Shelton are Kiwanis president Vickie Hazlewood and UT Martin professor and Kiwanian S. K. Airee.

ROGERS SPEAKS TO CLUB — At the Feb. 7 Kiwanis meeting, Dr. Jeff Rogers, professor of geography at UT Martin, shared information about BREXIT, the formal, staged exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union. The map shows the 28 current EU member states (blue), the EU candidate states (pink), the EU potential candidate states (green), and non-member states. In Dr. Rogers' talk titled "BREXIT: What and What After," he said that BREXIT has been "a political fiasco" and shared an overview of facts, tensions, and consequences of the exit, which will be official in 2019. He said that discussions of BREXIT dominated the news in Europe. Dr. Rogers was introduced for this presentation by his colleague S.K. Airee.
THE "MAGIC" OF CHEMISTRY
— Dr. Abigail Shelton, associate professor of chemistry in the Department of Chemistry and Physics at UT Martin, and students Cherie Saffold and Kristina Kaul shared insights about chemical reactions when they visited the Martin Kiwanis Club on Feb. 14. Saffold and Kaul, members of the local group Dr. Shelton advises, the Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS), entertained Kiwanians with two demonstrations that illustrated chemical properties — the first was "burning" a $10 bill after soaking it in a solution of alcohol and water and the second was mixing three clear solutions and watching the colors change from blue to yellow and back to clear again as the chemicals interacted. Dr. Shelton said that she and other students are available for outreach in area schools and want to communicate the value of knowing more about chemistry.

Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant to be held
The University of Tennessee at Martin Rodeo Booster Club will sponsor the Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant on March 17 at Watkins Auditorium in the University Center on the campus of UTM.

The pageant is open to all girls, ages birth-20. Contestants will be judged in formal/evening gown only.

Doors will open at noon, with pageants as follows: ages birth-12 months at 1 p.m.; 1-3 at 1:30; 4-6 at 2 p.m.; 7-9 at 2:30; 10-12 at 3 p.m.; 13-15 at 3:30; and 16-20 at 4 p.m.

Registration is at the door only, $25 for beauty only, with side categories available for additional cost. Winner of the 16-20-year-old division will be required to participate in UTM Rodeo Week activities and is eligible to compete in Territorial Queens Review/Strawberry Festival.

Junior, Teen and Miss division queens will be recognized at UTM Rodeo Performances on April 12, 13 and 14. For more information, contact Beth Weldon at (731) 225-1227.
Team competes in semifinals

The Everett-Stewart Civil Air Patrol CyberPatriot team placed first in the state for the all-service, gold tier of competition on Jan. 20 and advanced to the national semifinals. The team competed for the national semi-finals on Feb. 9.

The CyberPatriot team members for the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition are C/Amn Riley Cormia of Martin, C/Capt Sarah Foltz of Martin, C/Amn Destin McKeel of Martin, C/Amn Regan McMahan of Union City, and C/Amn William Scarbrough of Martin. The team coach, Capt. C. Bryan Foltz, PhD is an associate professor of Management Information Systems at The University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Ross Dickens, the dean of the School of Business and Global Affairs has graciously lent the use of a computer lab to advance the CAP cadet program.

The CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. The National Youth Cyber Education Program was created by the Air Force Association (AFA) to inspire K-12 students to pursue careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Teams of middle and high school students are placed in the role of new IT professionals at a small company and are tasked with managing the network of computers. Teams that advance to the national level are eligible for scholarships and an all expense trip to Baltimore, MD for the National Finals Competition.

The Civil Air Patrol Everett-Stewart Composite Squadron, the official U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, meets the second and fourth Thursday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Everett-Stewart Airport terminal. Membership is open to all individuals 12 years of age and older, and those interested are invited to attend a meeting. Questions may be addressed to Capt. Laura Foltz at laurafoltz@gmail.com.

For additional information about the Everett-Stewart Composite Squadron, visit the Facebook location of Everett-Stewart Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol or website at https://sites.google.com/a/tnkap.us/tn195.

Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force's Total Force. In this role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 aircraft, performs about 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 80 lives annually. CAP’s 57,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions, at the request of federal, state, and local agencies. CAP also plays a leading role in aerospace/STEM education, and its members serve as mentors to 24,000 young people participating in CAP’s Cadet Programs. Visit www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com for more information.
Trenton Gazette

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

UT MARTIN STUDENTS recently attended and competed at the 2018 Southeast Journalism Conference at Harding University. The students brought home several awards for their work with the campus radio station and newspaper. Pictured are (front row, from left) Jillianne Moncrief, of McLemoresville; Ashley Shores, of Lebanon; Ashton Priest, of Union City; Holly Seng, of Union City; (back row) John Thornton, of Atoka; Kait Scott, of Martin; Emma Bruner, of Martin; Sarah Knapp, of Moscow; Rachel Moore, of Ashland City; Brooke Boshers, of Mt. Pleasant; Jason Repath, of White House; Matt Herod, of Humboldt; and Shane Wofford, of Trenton.

Trenton student wins Southeast Journalism Conference award

The University of Tennessee at Martin's student-run radio station and campus newspaper recently competed at the 2018 Southeast Journalism Conference at Harding University in Searcy, Ark.

Shane Wofford, a senior from Trenton, won second place in the on-site Radio News Reporting competition. Matt Herod, of Humboldt, also represented UT Martin at the conference.

For the fourth year in a row, WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk” was named Best College Radio Station in the South. WUTM is the first to accomplish this feat in the history of the conference and has won the category eight of the last 11 years. WUTM also received first place in the Best Audio News Program for the third consecutive year.

“WUTM has placed in this category every year since its creation in 2011. This was a tremendous showing by our students and student media at the conference, said Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of Communications at WUTM faculty adviser. “Our students won in almost every area of communications. They did a great job.”

New provost chosen for University of Tennessee at Martin

www.seattletimes.com

Originally published February 28, 2018 at 12:23 am

By The Associated Press

The Associated Press

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee at Martin will soon have a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

He is Philip Acree (AY'-cree) Cavalier, who most recently was provost of Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas. He’s expected to begin his work at Martin effective July 1.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver announced the selection recently.

Cavalier has served in higher education administration since 2004.
NEW PROVOST — Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier is shown during his open forum presentation Jan. 25 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He was recently selected as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Cavalier selected as new provost at University of TN at Martin

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier has been selected as the University of Tennessee at Martin’s new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

His selection was recently announced by Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver.

Cavalier most recently served as provost of Lyon College in Batesville, Ark., and is expected to assume UT Martin duties effective July 1.

“I am excited to join a community that impressed me, during my campus interviews, as truly energized and moving in a positive direction,” Cavalier said. “I am eager to partner with Chancellor Carver and the faculty, staff and members of the chancellor’s leadership team to advance UT Martin’s commitment to making a profound impact on the lives of all UTM students.”

At Lyon, Cavalier was responsible for working with areas such as curriculum and program development; faculty support and shared governance; student support and persistence initiatives; accreditation; and assessment.

Cavalier holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, a master’s degree in English from Northeastern University in Massachusetts and a doctoral degree, also in English, from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He has served in higher education administration since 2004.

“I appreciate Dr. Rich Helgeson (former dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences) for stepping up to fill the provost position this past year, and I wish him well as he returns to the faculty in the fall. I would also like to thank Dr. Philip Smartt (search committee chairperson and professor of natural resources management) and the rest of the search committee for their tireless efforts to find the best person to lead UT Martin’s academic areas,” Carver said in a campus message. “I am confident Dr. Cavalier is this person, and I look forward to welcoming him and his family to campus this summer.”

Cavalier plans to arrive in Martin with his wife, Dr. Carol Acree Cavalier, and youngest son, Elijah, later this summer. The couple’s two older sons, Tobiah and Benjamin, are attending universities elsewhere.

Local students tackle ACT test at UTM

(Editor’s Note: The following was submitted by South Fulton High School student Lance Sambilloza)

Students around our area took the ACT test at the UTM Campus in Martin, Tenn. Feb. 10.

Every student seemed energetic and are ready to take the four-hour test.

This big event is important for the students because it can help them shape their futures after high school.

The actual test is kind of like a culminating experience because preparation for the test begins months prior to the actual test.

Many students prepare for the test by studying ACT study guides or even taking classes to help them learn how to score better on the test. Students then have to register for the test, online, several weeks prior to the chosen test date.

On the day of the test, students should arrive early and prepared with their id, entry ticket, pencils, and an approved calculator.

All needed identification is checked then students are grouped into rooms so the test can actually be administered.

South Fulton students, along with many other area students, are given an opportunity to take the ACT one time, free of charge, at their school.

This opportunity gives our students an advantage in that they know what to expect if they choose to take the test again at UTM.

This nerve wracking experience is just one of the ways that students work to advance to the next stage of their educational career: college.
Bobby Seale Speaks At UTM

Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, spoke Feb. 22 on the UT Martin main campus as part of the university's 18th-annual Civil Rights Conference. Seale co-founded the Black Panthers in the 1960s with fellow activist Huey Newton. UT Martin is one of only two universities nationally to host an annual civil rights conference, and the 2018 event focused on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

2018 MISS UTM RODEO PAGEANT

The University of Tennessee at Martin Rodeo Booster Club will sponsor the Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant Saturday, March 17, at Watkins Auditorium in the University Center on the campus of UTM. The pageant is open to all girls, ages 0-20. Contestants will be judged in formal/evening gown only. Doors open at 12:00 pm with pageants as follows: 0-12 months at 1:00, 1-3 years at 1:30, 4-6 years at 2:00, 7-9 years at 2:30, 10-12 years at 3:00, 13-15 years at 3:30, and 16-20 years at 4:00. Registration is at the door only, $25 for beauty only with side categories available for additional cost. Winner of the 16-20 division required to participate in UTM Rodeo Week activities and is eligible to compete in Territorial Queens Review/Strawberry Festival. Junior, Teen and Miss Division Queens will be recognized at UTM Rodeo Performances April 12, 13, and 14. For more information, contact Beth Weldon at (731) 225-1227.

New provost chosen for University of Tennessee at Martin

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Summer Weldon, winner of the 2018 Miss Rodeo USA competition, has been riding horses on her family's sprawling Bermuda hay farm on the outskirts of Martin, Tennessee, since she was 3. Now 20, the avid competitor still remembers the freedom and exhilaration she got from riding "Dandy," her small Shetland pony.

"I have been hooked on horses every since," she said.

By the time she started elementary school, Weldon was already showing horses, a competition she said was fun but not as exciting as the rodeos she often attended with her horse-enthusiast parents.
She fell in love with barrel racing, competing and winning competitions throughout Tennessee by the time she was in middle school.

At about the same time, the dark-haired belle began entering area beauty pageants until she discovered Rodeo Queen Pageants — a contest that melded her two favorite things, horsemanship and pageantry.

She was hooked again. Rodeo Queen Pageant participants compete in several categories, including personality, appearance, horsemanship, ability to answer interview questions and speech lasting 5–7 minutes.

Of the 20 Rodeo Queen Pageants she has competed in, she's won 15 of them.

"The ones I lost just pushed me harder, driving me to do better next time," she said.

Last year, Weldon made the four-hour trip to Decatur to compete in the Morgan County Sheriff's Rode Queen Competition because winning the competition would put her one step closer to the Miss Rodeo USA competition.

Weldon gave her all, nabbing the Division 7 title and qualifying to compete at the national Miss Rodeo USA competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Riding against 12 young women from across the United States, Weldon then racked up enough points during the weeklong competition to take the crown.

For the speech portion of the competition, she drew inspiration from her brother's best friend, who suffers from cerebral palsy, and a friend who was left as a paraplegic after being thrown from a horse.

"Seeing them work through their limitations was humbling and inspiring," she said. "I want to promote the idea that even if you have a physical or mental disability, you can still live a full, productive life."

In addition to winning the crown, Weldon also gained a platform.
Speaking by cellphone on her way back from a competition in Arkansas that also included a brief stop in Texas, Weldon explained the next year of her life basically belongs to Miss Rodeo USA and being ambassador for the International Professional Rodeo Organization.

She'll be gone nearly every weekend of the year, traveling to states as far-flung as California, a commitment that required her to take a couple of semesters off of college. The University of Tennessee at Martin sophomore is studying cellular and molecular biology, with plans to become a physical therapist like her parents.

“Different IRPA rodeos will hire me to go around to local schools, hospitals and other community groups to get people to fill the stands at their local rodeos,” she said. “I'm their public relations person for the year."

It's also her job to kick off the rodeo, riling up the crowd as she gallops by on the back of her quarter horse, Baby Girl, a job she will proudly do at the upcoming MCSR, April 13 and 14 at the Celebration Arena in Priceville.

"We always have Miss Rodeo USA at our rodeos. This year, we are lucky enough that the winner is one of our own," Terrie Wright, member of the MCSR Queen Committee, said.

According to Wright, the organization is looking for "new faces" to compete in the local queen pageant which will lead up to the April rodeo. The pageant consists of seven age divisions, ranging from ages 3 to 26 and is open to non-Morgan County and out-of-state residents.

The deadline to enter the pageant is March 17. The pageant and horsemanship portion of the competition will take place on March 24 at Shoal Creek Baptist Church, 1077 Shoal Creek Road, Decatur. For more information about the MCSR Queen Pageant, visit www.morgancoso.com/rodeo-queen.html or contact Wright at 256-679-7545.
Martin’s Lofaro battling rare blood disease

Brandon Shields
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

MARTIN — “You’re sick. There’s no cure. You can’t beat this.”

Those were the three statements that resonated with Joe Lofaro in October of 2015 when he was diagnosed with Erdheim Chester’s Disease (ECD).

Lofaro said his response took a few seconds to sink in.

“My mother and brother were there, and we sat for a minute; I cried for about 30 seconds and then I said,

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Lori Beth Spaulding is a therapist at Sidelines in Martin who works with Joe Lofaro in maintaining his balance.

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‘OK, let’s go beat this,’” Lofaro said.

Lofaro said his diagnosis causes him to want to raise awareness for ECD, but also for rare diseases in general. The last day in February is Rare Disease Day, which was first established as a day of observance in Europe in 2008.

Lofaro is one of three people in Tennessee with ECD. There are 20 in the United States, and 600 in the entire world with the diagnosis.

That’s one reason it took about 2½ years to officially be diagnosed, as other possibilities were ruled out at hospitals in Jackson, Nashville and other states.

Lofaro’s short answer to describe ECD is a “slow cancer of the blood.” The more scientific answer is it’s a disease that causes over-production of white blood cells that can lead to organ failure or deterioration of bones and tissue in various organs.

The brain is one of the organs potentially affected by the condition, and that’s one that’s affected Lofaro the most.

He was checked for stroke as he’s had speech and balance issues throughout the process that began in April of 2013 with what he thought was the flu. Brain scans indicated he had multiple lesions on his brain stem, which caused the lack of balance and slurred speech.

He went through various diagnostic tests, including multiple spinal taps, to try to figure out the root of the problem before ECD was the final diagnosis.

“It was frustrating, just not knowing why all this was happening,” Lofaro said. “And I usually tell people I’m fine and everything’s good, but there were some days that was a lie — because it’s one thing to be sick and a totally different thing not knowing why you’re sick.”

Lofaro said there’s no known cause for him to develop ECD.

“I don’t guess it matters as long as it’s not something I can pass on to my children, which I can’t,” Lofaro said.

A longtime journalist at various newspapers in Middle and West Tennessee before working at UT Martin in their sports information and communications departments, Lofaro is now retired as his condition caused him to go on disability last year.

“I’m not used to that yet,” Lofaro said. “But I deal with it. I’m still able to get around, but I haven’t driven a car in a few years.

“My mind still works well. I can still remember things. My speech just gets slurred later in the day when I get tired. But you know what? I’m going to keep fighting, and I still plan to beat this thing.”

Joe Lofaro
Martin resident

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