The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 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).

Adams - Benjamin J. Mimms, Honors; William T. Thomas, Highest Honors.

Cedar Hill - Austin E. Anderson, Honors; Trisha N. Crutcher, Highest Honors.


Goodlettsville - Christopher Barrow, Highest Honors; Gwendalynn M. Bracey, Honors.

Greenbrier - Kenneth A. Abel, High Honors; Erin T. Keenan, Honors; Emily A. Masencup, Highest Honors; Hailey E. Williford, Honors.

Pleasant View - Dewayne A. Massey, Honors; Timothy C. Minton, Honors.

Portland - William M. Alexander, Highest Honors; Trey D. Hinton, Honors; Elizabeth F. Sapp, Highest Honors.

Springfield - Tamara L. Beard, High Honors; Ragan L. Sloan, Honors.

White House - Rebekah J. Mansfield, Highest Honors; Gabrielle M. Zizzi, Highest 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. Submitted
2017 WESTSTAR CLASS GRADUATES – Members of the 2017 WestStar Leadership Class graduated Tuesday, June 20, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A 5:30 p.m. reception was followed by dinner and the graduation ceremony. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program. Members of the 2017 WestStar graduating class are (seated, l to r) Nicole Kincade, Union City; Charleen Burpo, Kenton; Vanessa Wright-Hayes, Somerville; Christine Warrington, Humboldt; Patricia Jones, Finger; Gwendolyn Kilpatrick, Mason; Libby Wickersham, Rutherford; Dr. Heather Martin, Humboldt; Elizabeth Russell Owen, McKenzie; Rachel Grear, Ripley; Vanessa Patrick, Milan; (standing, second row, l to r) Bradley Arnold, Milan; Wes Rodgers, Halls; Charley Brown, McKenzie; Blake Walley, Somerville; Nick Nichols, Brownsville; Donna Vick, Camden; Jim Coy Houston, Dyersburg; Ray Deming, Henderson; Dr. Larry Bailey, Jackson; Randi French, Paris; Sandy Tarkington, Dyersburg; Dr. Bobby Smith, Jackson; Dr. Todd Winters, Martin; Kimberly Douglass, Lexington; Dr. Kimberly Martin, Dyersburg; Michael Naifeh, Covington; Rob Goad, Martin; (back row, l to r) Russ Phillips, Memphis; Dr. Brian Donavant, Martin.

WestStar Leadership program graduates 2017 Class

MARTIN, Tenn. — Members of the 2017 WestStar Leadership Class graduated Tuesday, June 20, during an event held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A 5:30 p.m. reception was followed by dinner and the graduation ceremony. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program.

This marked the program’s 28th class and brings the total to 799 graduates since WestStar was established in 1990. The 2017 class included 30 participants who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Each WestStar class is chosen annually by the program’s board of trustees. Selection is based on leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee’s development. Participants are selected from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement.

Dr. Charley Deal, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and WestStar executive director, welcomed approximately 150 class members, alumni and guests. He thanked the program’s corporate sponsors, offered a “year in review” of WestStar activities beyond the program sessions and joined the program’s board of trustees to present graduation plaques.

Among those attending the event was UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, a 2009 WestStar graduate who participated in his first WestStar graduation as chancellor. “Tonight is really more than just an event,” he told the audience. “It truly is a celebration. . . . It’s a celebration of good leadership and best practices and what we can learn from each other. It’s a celebration of our region, of West Tennessee.”

Elected officials attending the graduation included city and county mayors and members of the Tennessee General Assembly. Tennessee lawmakers present for the graduation were Sen. Delores Gresham (R-Somerville), Sen. John Stevens (R-Huntingdon), Sen. Mark Norris (R-Collierville) and Rep. Jimmy Eldridge (R-Jackson).

Deal also announced several WestStar awards, including the program’s two major recognitions:
- C.P. Boyd Leadership Award – Jim Coy Houston, of Dyersburg, a Farm Bureau Insurance agent. The award, named for the late Haywood County community leader and educator C.P. Boyd, is the person selected by the class who best reflects compassion and leadership for West Tennessee.
- Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award – Sen. Mark Norris, a 1999 WestStar graduate. The award is named for the late Jimmy Daniel, 1990 WestStar graduate, founding trustee member and a field representative for the Tennessee Unionqvist administration. Selection criteria include a WestStar graduate who has had a positive impact in the recipient’s city or county during the past five years and a strong record of leadership in West Tennessee.

Following recognition of the graduates, Deal closed the event by reminding the class of a quote by President John Quincy Adams: “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” Applications for the 2018 WestStar class are being accepted, and members of the new class will be selected this fall.
SGC's McGaugh attends Governors School at UTM

UT Extension would like to welcome Dustyn Watson as their new Ag/4-H Agent. Dustyn is a graduate of UT Martin and will begin working on July 1. We will have a "Meet and Greet" day on July 7 at the UT Extension office at 71 West Main in Decaturville. Please come join us as we welcome Dustyn to our community.

MCGAUGH ATTENDS GOVERNORS SCHOOL — Jamie McGaugh, a student at South Gibson High School, participated in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the month of June. Students had opportunities to visit regional agricultural producers and take introductory courses in agricultural business or natural resources management. Two of the state's 11 Governor's School programs are hosted at UT Martin. For more information, contact Suezane Speight, TGSAS administrative assistant, at 731-881-7211.
KOONCE ATTENDS GOVERNORS SCHOOL:
Kelsea Koonce, a student at Dyer County High School, participated in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the month of June. Students had opportunities to visit regional agricultural producers and take introductory courses in agricultural business or natural resources management. Two of the state's 11 Governor's School programs are hosted at UT Martin. For more information, contact Suzane Speight, TGSAS administrative assistant, at 731-881-7211.

Adam Shell (right), of Dyersburg, received the 2017 recipient of the Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program. He is pictured with (from left) his parents, Tony and LeAnn Childress, and friend, Jordan Collins.

Shell recipient of WestStar Leadership Scholarship

Adam Shell, of Dyersburg, is a 2017 recipient of the Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program.

The scholarship was established in honor of Dunagan, co-founder of the WestStar Leadership Program and UT Martin chancellor emeritus, to benefit a UT Martin student who demonstrates proven leadership skills and displays further leadership potential. Preference is given to those students who display high academic achievement and have a record of community or university involvement.

Recipients are selected each spring by the WestStar board of trustees and announced at the program's graduation banquet in June.

Shell is a senior studying agricultural engineering at UT Martin and is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He works part-time on his family's cattle farm and spends summers working with his extended family's row crop enterprise.

For more information, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298.
Students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2017-2018 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Local students are:
- LaQueena M. Cox of Humboldt, will be a freshman. She received the Judy Kraus Arnold Memorial Scholarship.
- Joshua Michael Matthias of Humboldt, son of Brad and Jennifer Winberry, will be a junior. He received the Stephen T. Wright Memorial Scholarship and the Buford/Beatrice Irwin Business Administration Scholarship.
- Haley E. Riggs of Medina, daughter of Darren and Kim Riggs, will be a senior. She received the Jessie (Mutt) Parrish Scholarship and the Fats Everett Memorial Scholarship.

SGC’s McGaugh attends UTM Governors School

Jamie McGaugh, a student at South Gibson High School, participated in the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the month of June. Students had opportunities to visit regional agricultural producers and take introductory courses in agricultural business or natural resources management. Two of the state’s 11 Governor’s School programs are hosted at UT Martin. For more information, contact Suezane Speight, TGSAS administrative assistant, at 731-881-7211.
Orientation, registration set for UTM freshmen

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Summer Orientation and Registration sessions for incoming freshmen July 15 and Aug. 4.

Any students planning to begin in the fall 2017 semester who have not yet registered for classes must attend one of these two dates. SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen.

There is no charge to attend SOAR and no tuition will be due until the start of the fall semester. SOAR registration is first-come, first-served, and space is limited. Students must have received a tentative or final acceptance letter to register.

Visit utm.edu/soar for more information and for registration instructions.

Each SOAR session begins with check-in and an administrative fair from 8:45 a.m., with an official welcome to follow. At 9:15 a.m., students will meet with their orientation leaders and begin a rotation of informational sessions on academic options, financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and other important topics.

Students will begin registering for classes at 1:30 p.m., at which point parents and families can attend a parent panel session.

If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending an on-campus session, contact Mary Wiggins in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7740 as soon as possible to arrange alternate registration plans.

A specialized session for transfer and adult students will be held July 21, also in the Boling University Center. Activities begin with registration from 8:30 a.m. and a variety of informational sessions begin at 9. Topics covered include career planning and development, campus technology, financial aid and veteran affairs issues.

For information on the admissions or registration process, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.
Local student attends Governor's School

Clint Isbell, a student at McNairy Central High School, participated in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the month of June. Students had opportunities to visit regional agricultural producers and take introductory courses in agricultural business or natural resources management. Two of the state's 11 Governor's School programs are hosted at UT Martin. For more information, contact Suezane Speight, TGSAS administrative assistant, at 731-881-7211.

Ray Receives Nick Dunagan WestStar Scholarship

Allie Ray, of Ramer, is a 2017 recipient of the Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program.

The scholarship was established in honor of Dunagan, co-founder of the WestStar Leadership Program and UT Martin chancellor emeritus, to benefit a UT Martin student who demonstrates proven leadership skills and displays further leadership potential. Preference is given to those students who display high academic achievement and have a record of community or university involvement.

Recipients are selected each spring by the WestStar board of trustees and announced at the program's graduation banquet in June.

Ray is a sophomore studying accounting and finance at UT Martin. She has been heavily involved in the revitalization of the planetarium at McNairy Central High School and was part of the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership Program in 2015. She also served as treasurer for the UT Martin chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority during her freshman year.

For more information, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298.

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Ray is a sophomore studying accounting and finance at UT Martin. She has been heavily involved in the revitalization of the planetarium at McNairy Central High School and was part of the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership Program in 2015. She also served as treasurer for the UT Martin chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority during her freshman year.

For more information, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298.
Selmer UT Martin campus designated as VETS campus

The University of Tennessee at Martin, recently designated a "VETS Campus" by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, is taking additional steps to recruit and support members of the Tennessee National Guard that are seeking to earn a four-year degree.

Governor Bill Haslam's Tennessee STRONG Act, made official by the Tennessee General Assembly in early May, emphasizes the importance of recruiting National Guard members, increasing Tennessee's educational competitiveness with surrounding states and expanding opportunities available for those who serve the state and country.

The act provides tuition reimbursement to service members who meet certain qualifications and are already using federal tuition assistance to obtain their degrees.

This additional assistance is used to fill any gaps the service member may experience in the cost of his or her education and supports the governor's Drive to 55 initiative.

UT Martin is reaching out to regional National Guard armories to let service members know about admissions procedures, financial aid opportunities and the campus' student-veteran support network. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is also helping service members and veterans understand their eligibility for Tennessee STRONG and post-9/11 G.I. Bill funding.

UT Martin also operates educational outreach centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer, and Somerville, all of which are offering increased services for service members.

Its courses will be expanded to give service members in all areas greater access to the university's selection of online degree programs, including the UT Martin Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, which is often a convenient option for adult students. Various testing options will also be offered at the five centers to help service members in those areas receive additional course credits when applicable.

UT Martin will also work together with the Tennessee National Guard to emphasize educational benefits to high school students who may be interested in joining the service.

For more information contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020. For information on a specific UT Martin educational outreach center, find your desired center location at utm.edu/conect.

Lund presents research on concussions in Nashville

Rebecca Lund of Martin recently attended the Academic Business World and Learning and Administration International Conferences in Nashville to present her undergraduate research titled "The Cost of a Concussion: An Exploration of NFL Liability Issues."

Lund is a spring 2017 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and received bachelor's degrees in both accounting and finance during the May 6 commencement exercises. She completed two years of undergraduate research alongside Drs. Paula Moore, Richard Griffin and Patrick Baker, all with the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs, as part of the University Scholars Honors Program.

"I chose this topic (of NFL concussions) because it allowed me to incorporate elements of law, accounting and finance into my project. Also, this lawsuit continues to dominate both the sports and national news despite the appellate court's ruling last year," said Lund. "Although the settlement reached ... will compensate thousands of retired players, any current or future players that attempt to receive compensation for his injuries will be barred from making a claim. The NFL will have to take steps to limit its liability to these players."

Lund's research proposes two potential solutions the league could use to limit its liability toward players who experience concussions during their careers: the creation of a specialized trust or a contract clause to absolve the league of future liability.

Lund is scheduled to begin courses at Vanderbilt Law School this fall and plans to pursue a career as an attorney after completing her degree.
Local teachers attend STEM workshops at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Educational Studies sponsored 55 professional development workshops throughout the month of June to help area educators prepare not only for the coming academic year, but also for the new Tennessee standards scheduled for implementation in 2018.

The workshops, funded by a U.S. Department of Education Teacher Quality Partnership Grant, focused on a variety of subjects including classroom organization and management; the universal design for learning; elementary, middle and high school science; high school chemistry; robotics and more. More than 300 teachers from across West Tennessee attended the sessions.

Kim Crews, a ninth-grade biology teacher at Obion County Central High School, attended a session on high school STEM subjects taught by Dr. Ann Gathers, UT Martin associate professor of biology. The workshop included hands-on activities including the modeling of cell components and chromosomes to show cell division and the demonstration of osmosis and dehydration using laboratory conditions.

“The workshop gives us activities that are related to the Tennessee state standards – both the old standards we are currently testing on this year and the new standards that will go into effect in the 2018-19 school year,” said Crews. “They’re giving us some labs and activities that they do at the college level that we can also use in our classrooms to teach those standards and reinforce them so our students will hopefully do well on their end-of-course tests.”

Many of the workshops, including the high school STEM session Crews attended, sent participants home with kits of equipment to replicate the activities in their classrooms. Kits from this particular workshop included microscopes, beakers, scales, dissection kits, modeling materials and other equipment.

Educators are grateful for the extra supplies, particularly since many of these items would not otherwise be available at the grade-school level.

“We’re getting some good equipment today, so even if we can’t get the funding to have enough materials for groups of our students to use (themselves), at least we’ll be able to demonstrate the concepts to them,” said Crews.

“I’m just like a kid at Christmas,” said Tracy Shankle, with Henry County High School, finds herself on the other side of the aisle as an art teacher for pre-K through eighth grade.

“In the past years, there’s been very little offered for art, and I incorporate my art projects with standards from science, social studies and math,” she said. “There’s a big push to integrate the curriculum ... and the new standards are pushing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics).”

The TQP Grant provided approximately $225,000 worth of educational supplies to area educators through these workshops. Versions of some kits will be stored in the UT Martin STEM Center for checkout by teachers who were not able to attend the workshops in person.

For more information on the grant, the workshop schedule or the available materials, contact Tina Harrison, project coordinator, at 731-881-7201 or tharrison@utm.edu.
Principal

**STEPHEN BYRD** has been selected as the new principal at Ripley High School, according to Shawn Kimble, Lauderdale County School Superintendent. Byrd graduated in 1991 from Ripley High School and has taught history and coached football and baseball. He has served as the athletic director and assistant principal, during his 22 years of professional experience. Stephen holds a bachelor of science degree in secondary education from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master’s degree in administration and supervision from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He and his wife, the former Kim Brasfield, have two sons in Lauderdale County Schools.

"Stephen is committed to continuing the work of building positive relationships within the school and community. I am confident that he will work hard to grow professionally while maintaining high expectations that will insure postsecondary success for all students. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Byrd on his appointment as principal of Ripley High School," said Kimble.

**UTMartinsSOAR Sessions Planned**

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Summer Orientation and Registration sessions for incoming freshmen July 15th and August 4th. Any students planning to begin in the fall 2017 semester who have not yet registered for classes must attend one of these two dates. SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen.

There is no charge to attend SOAR, and no tuition will be due until the start of the fall semester. SOAR registration is first-come, first-served, and space is limited. Students must have received a tentative or final acceptance letter to register. Visit utm.edu/soar for more information and registration instructions.

Each SOAR session begins with check-in and an administrative fair from 8 to 8:45 a.m., with an official welcome to follow. At 9:15 a.m., students will meet with their orientation leaders and begin a rotation of informational sessions on academic options, financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and other important topics.

Students will begin registering for classes at 1:30 p.m., at which point parents and families can attend a parent panel session.

If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending an on-campus session, contact Mary Wiggins, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, at 731-881-7740 as soon as possible to arrange alternate registration plans.

A specialized session for transfer and adult students will be held July 21st, also in the Boling University Center. Activities begin with registration from 8 to 8:30 a.m. and a variety of informational sessions begin at 9 a.m. Topics covered include career planning and development, campus technology, financial aid and veteran affairs issues.

For more information on courses or costs, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.
A University of Tennessee at Martin alumna is the new president of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association.

The association's board of governors selected Betsy Brasher for the top spot on Friday.

Brasher graduated in 1998 and 2003 with a bachelors of science in business administration and a masters in business administration. She has served various roles in the alumni association and in UT Martin's alumni council over several years.

UTAA is part of the University of Tennessee Foundation and serves more than 370,000 students.
ON THE JOB — University of Tennessee at Martin junior Kaleigh Grady of Jackson was busy at work recently checking on one of 50 bird boxes situated along the southern shoreline of Reelfoot Lake. Miss Grady is majoring in organismal biology at UTM and, as part of her studies, she works out of the UTM Research Facility off Highway 22 West. She checked on four warbler eggs in box No. 26 while standing ankle-deep in the murky lake water. She checked on the eggs while also monitoring data loggers in the bird box that monitor the temperature of the nest.

UTM student studies warblers at lake

By KEVIN BOWDEN
Special to The Messenger
Kaleigh Grady is quick to express how much she enjoys working at Reelfoot Lake.
She is a native of Jackson and is pursuing a degree in organismal biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
As part of her studies, she has been regularly visiting the lake these past few weeks, and more specifically the 50 bird boxes that have been set up along the southern shoreline.
Miss Grady recently waded through the green, murky waters along the shoreline to check on the eggs that have been laid by warblers in some of the bird boxes. She uses high-tech equipment to monitor the temperature.
On that Saturday afternoon, The Messenger captured an image of Miss Grady while she was wearing very functional wading boots, sweatpants and a T-shirt to check on box No. 26. In that bird box there are four warbler eggs that she said appear to be doing quite well.
Miss Grady, as well as other students enrolled at UTM, use the UTM Research Facility as a base of operations.
The warblers are a migratory species of bird, according to Miss Grady, who explained once the eggs hatch and the young warblers are able to fly, they will migrate to South America in the fall.
This is Miss Grady's first year to work at Reelfoot Lake and she readily admits she is fascinated by the wildlife and the scenery.
"I love it. I really enjoy being out here and studying the birds," she said. Miss Grady, who is in her junior year at UTM, said so far this summer she has run into such native creatures as possums, raccoons, deer and (a slight gasp) some snakes. She said she has also run into quite a lot of turtles and turtle nests while checking on her bird boxes.
As for her future, Miss Grady said she is looking forward to graduating, but is not quite sure what she plans to do with her biology degree.

(Continued from Page 1)
Knoxville, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee Alumni Association’s board of governors selected University of Tennessee at Martin alumna Betsy Brasher as the organization’s new president for the 2017-18 academic year.

Brasher is a 1998 and 2003 UT Martin graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in economics and a Master of Business Administration. She currently works as a senior vice president and relationship manager for First Tennessee Bank in Memphis.

Brasher first served on the UTAA board of governors in 2009-10 as chair of the UTAA Women’s Council. In 2013-14, she served as treasurer and held positions on the UTAA finance and engagement committees. Prior to her service on the board, Brasher was active with the UT Martin Alumni Council and served as president in 2005. In 2016, she was named president-elect to serve alongside previous UTAA President Kimbrough Dunlap.

OC REPRESENTED — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program graduated its 2017 class during a ceremony recently at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Among those in attendance from Obion County were (from left) Laura Burpo and graduating class member Charlene Burpo, both of Kenton; Leadership Obion County director Phyllis Rauchle of Union City; and graduating class member Nicole Kincade of Union City. The WestStar Leadership Program is in its 28th year and has graduated 799 alumni to date. For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at (731) 881-7298.
Brasher named president of UT Alumni Association

The University of Tennessee Alumni Association's board of governors selected University of Tennessee at Martin alumna Betsy Brasher as the organization's new president for the 2017-18 academic year.

"I have had the privilege of working with Betsy for more than 10 years, and I am convinced she is a great choice to lead and represent our alumni," said Kerry Witcher, UTAA assistant vice president for alumni affairs. "Beyond dedicated, Betsy is a tremendous ambassador for UT Martin and the entire UT System."

Brasher is a 1998 and 2003 UT Martin graduate with a bachelor of science in business administration with a major in economics and a master of business administration. She currently works as a senior vice president and relationship manager for First Tennessee Bank in Memphis.

Brasher first served on the UTAA board of governors in 2009-10 as chair of the UTAA Women's Council. In 2013-14, she served as treasurer and held positions on the UTAA finance and engagement committees. Prior to her service on the board, Brasher was active with the UT Martin Alumni Council and served as president in 2005. In 2016, she was named president-elect to serve alongside previous UTAA President Kimbrough Dunlap.

Part of the University of Tennessee Foundation, the University of Tennessee Alumni Association began in 1836 and is one of the oldest alumni associations in the country.

The association has grown to serve more than 370,000 former students who have studied at UT System campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin, Memphis and Tullahoma. The UTAA board of governors, led by the UTAA president and consisting of 32 members, manages the affairs and finances of the association. The UTAA board of governors also elected three additional executive officers.

John Staley (UT Chattanooga, '93) is now president-elect. He resides in Knoxville and is president and chief executive officer of Champion Physical Therapy. Along with being past president of the UT Chattanooga Physical Therapy Alumni Association, Staley served on the UT Chattanooga Alumni Council and board of directors. He is also involved with the UTAA Career Services Career Guide Program and has served on the UTAA annual giving, communications, marketing services and engagement committees.

Delmont Jones (UT Knoxville, '97) has been elected UTAA treasurer. Jones resides in Nashville and is a recruiting manager for Ettain Group. He has been active with the Davidson County alumni chapter and served as president of the Nashville Region UT Knoxville alumni chapter. Jones has also served on the UTAA communications, engagement, marketing services and nominating committees.

Kimbrough Dunlap III is now the organization's past president and chair of annual giving. Dunlap resides in Brentwood and recently retired after the sale of his company, American Cellular. He has been an active member of the Davidson County Alumni Chapter and served as chapter president in 2008-09. He currently serves as a member of the Alumni Legislative Council and has served on the UTAA annual giving and communications committees.

For additional information, contact Dr. Chandra Harris-McCray, executive director of communications for the UT Foundation, at 865-974-2899 or by email at charrismccray@utfi.org.

BETSY BRASHER
UT Martin students compete in Clay Target Program
Tennessee State Championship

More than 1,300 youth athletes, from middle school to college, participated in the 2017 Tennessee Scholastic Clay Target Program State Championships on June 20-24 in Nashville.

The State Championships spanned five full days of co-ed competition in three shotgun shooting sports disciplines: trap, skeet and sporting clays. Individuals and teams from all corners of the state competed for titles in nearly 70 categories.

"Every year, we're impressed with the commitment of our student athletes—and the coaches and parents who support them. But this year hit a new high," said Andrew Peercy, Tennessee Scholastic Clay Target Program Manager. "The remnants of Hurricane Cindy dumped rain on competitors Thursday and Friday but they continued to shoot, unfazed, through it all."

The University of Tennessee at Martin's collegiate team took second place in skeet shooting, third place in sporting clays and second place in trap.

The Lauderdale Voice, Wednesday, July 12, 2017

UT-Martin awards scholarship

A Lauderdale County student has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2017-2018 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Cari Anne Scott, daughter of Jason and Lisa Scott, of Ripley, will be a junior. She received the Retired Accounting Faculty Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.
Register now for UTM's SOAR sessions

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Summer Orientation and Registration sessions for incoming freshmen July 14 and August 4. Any students planning to begin in the fall 2017 semester who have not yet registered for classes must attend one of these two dates. SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen.

There is no charge to attend SOAR, and no tuition will be due until the start of the fall semester. SOAR registration is first-come, first-served, and space is limited. Students must have received a tentative or final acceptance letter to register. Visit utm.edu/soar for more information and for registration instructions.

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For information on the admissions or registration process, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.

UTM recognized as affordable degree option

Four recent program rankings have cited the affordability of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s various degree programs as a major asset to those choosing to attend.

Schools.com has ranked UT Martin sixth among the “Best four-year colleges in Tennessee,” making it the top-ranked institution in the UT System.

According to the Tennessee College Guide, there are about 35 public and private universities in the state.

The website cites UT Martin’s affordability as a major factor in the ranking, stating that the university placed in the 96th percentile nationally for both middle and low-income student cost.

The UT Martin master’s degree program in educational counseling is also praised for its price tag. AffordableColleges.com has ranked the program 17th in its list of the “most affordable online master’s degrees in educational counseling.” UT Martin is the top-ranked Tennessee program on this list.

This ranking follows the program’s recent mentions by AffordableCollegesOnline.org, OnlineU.org, CollegeValuesOnline.com and BestColleges.com for price, course selection, time to completion and program quality.

Master-of-Finance.org ranks UT Martin’s Master of Business Administration degree with online cohorts for financial service professionals 16th on its list of the “Most Affordable Online MBA in Finance Degree Programs.”

UT Martin’s MBA program is also nationally ranked on MastersProgramsGuide.com’s list of the “50 Best Online MBA Degree Programs.” UT Martin is the only Tennessee school to be included in this ranking.
Robertson County student receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 10:58 am

Brittany D. Edwards, of Cross Plains, has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2017-2018 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement. Brittany, the daughter of Michelle Daily and Phillip Edwards, will be a freshman. She received the Michael and Diane Gower Scholarship. Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

Ray receives WestStar scholarship

For the Independent Appeal

MARTIN - A University of Tennessee at Martin sophomore student is the recipient of a WestStar scholarship.

Ramer's Allie Ray was awarded the Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program.

The scholarship was established in honor of Dunagan, co-founder of the WestStar Leadership Program and UT Martin chancellor emeritus, to benefit a UT Martin student who demonstrates proven leadership skills and displays further leadership potential. Preference is given to those students who display high academic achievement and have a record of community or university involvement.

Recipients are selected each spring by the WestStar board of trustees and announced at the program's graduation banquet in June. Ray is studying accounting and finance at UT Martin. She has been heavily involved in the revitalization of the planetarium at McNairy Central High School and was part of the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership Program in 2015. Ray also served as treasurer for the UT Martin chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority during her freshman year. (For more information, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298.)

Governor's School

Clint Isbell, a student at McNairy Central High School, participated in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the month of June. Students had opportunities to visit regional agricultural producers and take introductory courses in agricultural business or natural resources management. Two of the state's 11 Governor's School programs are hosted at UT Martin.
MARTIN – Members of the 2017 WestStar Leadership Class graduated during an event held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson.

A reception was followed by dinner and the June 20 graduation ceremony.

The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program.

This marked the program’s 28th class and brings the total to 799 graduates since WestStar was established in 1990.

The 2017 class included 30 participants who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Each WestStar class is chosen annually by the program’s board of trustees. Selection is based on leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee’s development. Participants are selected from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement.

Dr. Charley Deal, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and WestStar executive director, welcomed approximately 150 class members, alumni and guests. He thanked the program’s corporate sponsors, offered a “year in review” of WestStar activities beyond the program sessions and joined the program’s board of trustees to present graduation plaques.

Among those attending the event was UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, a 2009 WestStar graduate who participated in his first WestStar graduation as chancellor.

“Tonight is really more than just an event,” he told the audience. “It truly is a celebration. It’s a celebration of good leadership and best practices and what we can learn from each other. It’s a celebration of our region, of West Tennessee.”

Elected officials attending the graduation included city and county mayors and members of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Tennessee lawmakers present for the graduation were Sen. Delores Gresham (R-Somerville), Sen. John Stevens (R-Huntingdon), Sen. Mark Norris (R-Columbia) and Rep. Jimmy Eldridge (R-Jackson).

Deal also announced several WestStar awards, including the program’s two major recognitions:

• C.P. Boyd Leadership Award – Jim Coy Houston, of Dyersburg, a Farm Bureau Insurance agent. The award, named for the late Haywood County community leader and educator C.P. Boyd, is the person selected by the class who best reflects compassion and leadership for West Tennessee.

• Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award – Sen. Mark Norris, a 1999 WestStar graduate. The award is named for the late Jimmy Daniel, 1990 WestStar graduate, founding trustee member and a field representative during the Gov. Don Sundquist administration.

Selection criteria include a WestStar graduate who has had a positive impact in the recipient’s city or county during the past five years and a strong record of leadership in West Tennessee.

Following recognition of the graduates, Deal closed the event by reminding the class of a quote by President John Quincy Adams.

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader;” he said.

Applications for the 2018 WestStar class are being accepted, and members of the new class will be selected this fall.

The 2017 WestStar graduating class members and their home towns are: Bradley Arnold, Milan; Dr. Larry Bailey, Jackson; Charley Brown, McKenzie; Charlene Burpo, Kenton; Ray Deming Jr., Henderson; Dr. Brian Donavant, Martin; Kim Douglass, Lexington; Randi French, Paris; Rob Goad, Martin; Rachel Greer, Ripley; Jim Coy Houston, Dyersburg; Patricia Jones, Finger; Mayor Gwendolyn Kilpatrick, Mason; Nichol Kincade, Union City; Dr. Heather Martin, Humboldt; Dr. Kimberly Martin, Dyersburg; Michael Naifeh, Covington; Nick Nichols, Brownsville; Vanessa Patrick, Milan; Russ Phillips, Memphis; Wes Rodgers, Hallis; Elizabeth Russell Owen, McKenzie; Dr. Bobby Smith, Jackson; Sandy Tarkington, Dyersburg; Donna Vick, Camden; Blake Waley, Somerville; Christine Warrington, Humboldt; Libby Wickersham, Rutherford; Dr. Todd Winters, Martin; and Vanessa Wright-Hayes, Somerville.
Tennessee 4-H holds annual roundup for youth at UT Martin

Posted on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 11:39 am

4-Hers Compete in Project Finals, and Learn Leadership, Citizenship Skills

MARTIN, Tenn. – 4-H members from across Tennessee will gather at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 94th 4-H Roundup. More than 300 delegates representing almost every county in the state will participate in Roundup, which runs July 24 – July 28, 2017.

"UT Martin and northwest Tennessee welcome 4-H members from around the state for this traditional event," said Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor. "4-H does an exceptional job preparing young people for future leadership roles. Our university is a perfect setting for hosting project competition and recognizing the accomplishments of these top 4-H members."

The theme for 2017 4-H Roundup is "Made from Scratch." The idea is that a 4-Her grows personally and professionally in their time with the organization and always strives to be a better person.

One of the main events at Roundup is the state finals for project competitions. 4-Hers compete in events such as public speaking, livestock and photography. The competitors will have interviews with judges at Roundup, and then winners will be determined based on their performance here as well as with project books, which have already been submitted and judged.

"Roundup provides an opportunity for our high school 4-H members to further develop their presentation skills and confidence through 4-H project interviews, says Dr. Richard Clark, UT Extension Assistant Dean and department head for Tennessee 4-H. "It also serves as a venue for these youth to make memories and friendships to last a lifetime."

Delegates will also participate in All-Star Conference, the Vol State Ceremony, the election of 2018 officers and a service learning project. Roundup delegates will collect items for the Target House in Memphis, which are apartments where families receiving treatment at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital can stay. Other activities include visiting the Discovery Park of America in Obion County, and the awards ceremony and banquet – including scholarship presentations.

Ethan Harvill from Fentress County serves as this year's State 4-H Council President. "Roundup is by far my favorite 4-H event, and I'm looking forward to seeing friends from across the state, as well as being able to compete in my project area," he says. "Whether you have a love for service, or you enjoy making new friends – Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference has something for everyone."
94th Tennessee 4-H Roundup comes to Martin

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Through its mission of research, teaching and extension, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture touches lives and provides Real Life Solutions, ag.tennessee.edu.
Britton elected next Kiwanis governor

Martin Kiwanis Club member Dr. Otha Britton was elected as the next governor of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District when delegates from the district met June 23-25 at the 99th Annual Convention in Natchez, Miss.

Dr. Britton, a member of the Martin Kiwanis Club for 38 years, will serve as the governor-designate until his official one-year term as governor begins on Oct. 1. The LaMissTenn District includes 123 active clubs with membership totaling 4,249 Kiwanians (as of May 31, 2017).

In his home club, Dr. Britton has served as board member, vice president, president-elect, and distinguished president. He has also served as lieutenant governor of Division 1A and as a trustee representing West Tennessee on the District Board of Trustees. He has been actively involved in numerous projects that benefit children and communities locally and around the world.

"I desire to improve the world by serving the children and communities in which we live," he said.

A professor emeritus of computer science from The University of Tennessee at Martin, Dr. Britton served his profession for many years as a teacher and as the director of computer services.

At the district convention, Dr. Britton stated that two of his goals for the 2017-2018 year are to grow membership so that even more children can benefit from Kiwanis services and to increase the number of Kiwanians in the district who are willing to serve at the district level. He was officially installed as governor-designate by Lance M. Incitti, a trustee of Kiwanis International. At the closing session of the convention, Dr. Britton’s wife Monica presented her husband with the official governor’s pin to mark the transition from the current governor, Fred Pitts, to the new governor.

At the 2017 Kiwanis International Convention this month in Paris, France, Dr. Britton will meet with Kiwanis governors from around the world and with the president of Kiwanis International.

Delegates from the Kiwanis Club of Martin attending the convention and some of their responsibilities were as follows: Linda Ramsey, nominating speech for Governor-Elect Britton and leader of a workshop about the Key Leader programs; Jim Clark, president of the Martin Kiwanis Club, participant in the exchange of the governor and governor-elect Kiwanis banners; Anna Clark, co-leader of a workshop about publicity and Kiwanis branding; and Roberta Peacock, leader of a workshop about sharing some successful service projects.

Dr. Otha Britton is the third district governor to be elected from the Martin Kiwanis Club. Dr. Linda Ramsey served as governor in 2010-2011, and Dr. Ernie Blythe served for the 1994-95 Kiwanis year.

NEW KIWANIS GOVERNOR — Dr. Otha Britton received the official 2017-2018 governor’s pin, attached to his lapel by his wife Monica, at the closing session of the LaMissTenn District Convention in Natchez, Miss. Kiwanis International Trustee Lance M. Incitti installed the new governor and other officers. Their duties will begin Oct. 1.
Est 1873: An Illustrated History of Martin, Tennessee

By RACHEL MELTON
Special to the Press

At 11 years old, I picked up a family camera to document a vacation in the mountains. I photographed a waterfall, and entered the image in a county 4-H photography competition. I had stumbled onto a hobby that would last for me years, through multiple computers and cameras, and would lead to a variety of projects and experiments. Twelve years later, I still love photography and its unabashed attention to detail. A photograph is a way to remember a place, a person, or an event, and even with the advent of readily accessible technology, the idea of a photograph itself never grows old.

I decided to combine my interest in photography with my love of my hometown. Established in 1873, Martin is a town with a rich history. I’ve spent 20 years of my life a few minutes from the town. Growing up, trips to Dairy Queen, Cine, and other Martin businesses were part of our family routine. I grew to love the town for its size, friendly community, and rural atmosphere. Three years ago, I started college at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and became involved in the community through the League of Striving Artists, a service-learning based student art organization. Through a variety of service opportunities, including local events, murals, and design projects, I began to form my own connections with members of the community, both on campus and locally.

As a member of the University Scholars Program at UT Martin, I was tasked with choosing a two-year research based project for study. A graphic design major, I chose to focus on an arts-oriented project. I combined my interests in photography, the arts, and in the town itself for a project titled, Established 1873: An Illustrated History of Martin, TN. It is mentored by Sarah Haig, assistant professor of graphic design, and Jason Stout, associate professor of art at the university.

The intention of the project is to highlight a variety of historical locations and businesses and renew them in a contemporary style. Through a research-based process, I create graphic design illustrations and posters that are based largely on original documentary photographs. This foundation of original photography allows the pieces to retain an element of historical relevance while being something completely new. The project serves as a way to connect with community members and to build an appreciation for the use of design and the arts in preserving local history and for their importance in the future.

The project is around halfway completed. Pieces have been created that focus on University Plaza, Cine Theatre, KN Root Beer, Gil-Dove Airport, UT Martin, The Tennessee Soybean Festival, B&W & Southern Milling Companies, and the historic Martin Cigar Co., with more to follow.

Illustrations begin with a process of research centered on the location. From there, photographs are compiled into a folder, and the digital part begins. Sometimes more artistic liberty is taken, and the result is based on a drawing or stylized in various ways. Other pieces are more representational and based on the actual photograph.

One of the first pieces created for the project was based on a photograph of the University Plaza just prior to its opening. Undated, the photo features a large sign advertising the stores featured, including Walmart, Begley Drugs and Coast to Coast Hardware. In this case, the illustration is based largely on the photograph. Colors have been added, and the landscape has shifted slightly. The Walmart building has since become the present location of Rural King, and many of the other businesses have changed as well. The finished illustration features the original University Plaza advertisement in an updated way that still retains elements of its original look.

Cine Theatre, located just across from the main businesses on the plaza, has remained largely unchanged since its opening in the spring of 1987. A photograph advertising the opening shows a selection of movies which include “Lethal Weapon,” “Crocodile Dundee,” and “An American Tail.” The attached businesses that currently exist to the right of the theatre were not yet present. The illustration created from this photograph focuses solely on the theatre, and is oriented horizontally to show the length of the building. As the original photograph was black and white, the piece has been colored to resemble the current colors of the building. The red metal cross beams against a set of large windows are unmistakable.

Virginia Vaughn’s “People & Places of Downtown Martin” has been an indispensable resource. The book provides a history of well over 75 locations in downtown Martin. The late author was the Weakley County Historian from 1971-2000, and kept detailed records of Martin history as well as of Weakley County itself. Her book on the history of the town, and a copy of her book on Weakley County history, have both proven themselves useful as a resource for dates, locations, and general information.

A majority of the images that I’ve discovered were found in the Special Collections Archives at the Paul Meek Library. The collection is home to a well-organized selection of University and Weakley County Press photographic archives.

I owe many thanks to Karen Elmore, senior library assistant in Special Collections, as well as Richard Kelly of The Color Shop, The Weakley County Press, and the staff of the C.E. Weldon Public Library for their assistance in helping me locate photographs, and for providing permission for their use.

The project is still underway and will continue to be throughout the remainder of the year.

More information or photographs regarding specific historic Martin businesses and locations is welcome. For inquiries or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at rachelmelt@gmail.com.

Rachel Melton lives in Sharon and has an interest in the local community and its history. She is a senior graphic design major at The University of Tennessee at Martin. She is also member of the University Scholars Organization, president of the League of Striving Artists, and was named the 2016-2017 Registered Student Organization Student Leader of the Year.
UT Martin prepares for SOAR sessions

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Summer Orientation and Registration sessions for incoming freshmen July 15 and Aug. 4. Any students planning to begin in the fall 2016 semester who have not yet registered for classes must attend one of these two dates. SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen.

There is no charge to attend SOAR, and no tuition will be due until the start of the fall semester. SOAR registration is first-come, first-served, and space is limited. Students must have received a tentative or final acceptance letter to register. Visit utm.edu/soar for more information and for registration instructions.

Each SOAR session begins with check-in and an administrative fair from 8-8:45 a.m., with an official welcome to follow. At 9:15 a.m., students will meet with their orientation leaders and begin a rotation of informational sessions on academic options, financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and other important topics.

Students will begin registering for classes at 1:30 p.m., at which point parents and families can attend a parent panel session.

ATTENDS GOVERNORS SCHOOL — Kyla Rea, a student at Westview High School, participated in the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the month of June. Students had opportunities to visit regional agricultural producers and take introductory courses in agricultural business or natural resources management. Two of the state’s 11 Governor’s School programs are hosted at UT Martin. For more information, contact Suezane Speight, TGSAS administrative assistant, at 731-881-7211.

The Camden Chronicle

Register now for final SOAR sessions at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the final Summer Orientation and Registration sessions for incoming freshmen July 15 and Aug. 4, and for transfer and adult students on July 21. Because SOAR is required for all incoming students, any student planning to begin in the fall who has not yet registered for classes must attend one of these two sessions.

There is no charge to attend SOAR, and no tuition will be due until the start of the fall semester. SOAR registration is first-come, first-served, and space is limited. Students must have received an acceptance letter to register. Visit utm.edu/soar for more information and for registration instructions.

If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending an on-campus session, contact Mary Wiggins, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, at 731-881-7740 as soon as possible to arrange alternate registration plans. For information on the admissions or registration process, contact the UTM Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.
The University of Tennessee at Martin, recently designated a "VETS Campus" by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, is taking additional steps to recruit and support members of the Tennessee National Guard who are seeking to earn a four-year degree.

Gov. Bill Haslam's Tennessee STRONG Act, made official by the Tennessee General Assembly in early May, emphasizes the importance of recruiting National Guard members, increasing Tennessee’s educational competitiveness with surrounding states, and expanding opportunities available for those who serve the state and country.

The act provides tuition reimbursement to service members who meet certain qualifications and are already using federal tuition assistance to obtain their degrees. This additional assistance is used to fill any gaps the service member may experience in the cost of his or her education and supports the governor’s Drive to 55 Initiative.

UTM is reaching out to regional National Guard armories to let service members know about admissions procedures, financial aid opportunities, and the campus’s student-veteran support network. UTM will also work together with the Tennessee National Guard to emphasize educational benefits to high school students who may be interested in joining the service. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is also helping service members and veterans understand their eligibility for Tennessee STRONG and post-9/11 G.I. Bill funding.

UTM also operates educational outreach centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer, and Somerville, all of which are offering increased services for veterans. UTM Online courses will be expanded to give service members in all areas greater access to online degree programs. Various testing options will also be offered at the five centers to help service members in those areas receive additional course credits when applicable.

For more information on UTM options for service members and veterans, or information on general admissions requirements, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020. For information on a specific UTM educational outreach center, find your desired center location at utm.edu/connect.
UTM receives ‘Vets’ Campus’ designation

The University of Tennessee at Martin has been named a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Campus, one of only 20 Tennessee institutions to hold this designation from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC).

The “Vets’ Campus” title is a special designation given to those institutions that allocate resources to assist veterans with the transition from military service to college enrollment. The Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act, passed in 2014, established a program of recognition for higher education institutions that not only prioritize outreach efforts for veterans, but successfully deliver services necessary to create a supportive environment where veterans can prosper.

Johnny Dyer, UTM veteran services coordinator, stressed the importance of services for veterans on college campuses, speaking of his own initial experience at UTM following his military service. While he did well his first semester, he faced challenges that so many veterans face on a daily basis, and college life eventually became too difficult. This was prior to UTM implementing special services for veterans.

“I felt isolated, had adjustment issues, and suffered from PTSD. I was working a full-time job, supporting a family, and was just too proud to ask for help,” Dyer said. This ultimately led to him leaving UTM to work at Goodyear in Union City.

When Goodyear closed in 2011, Dyer returned to UTM. It was then he met Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, the Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History. Together the pair founded the Skyhawk Veteran’s Association, and began to propel UTM’s change to a campus more oriented to supporting veterans.

UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver highlighted what the “Vets’ Campus” designation means to the school, stating, “We want our veterans to know that we want them here, and we want to assist them in obtaining their degree. It’s the right thing to do.”

“Above all we know the extraordinary sacrifices made by our veterans, and want everyone to know that we have transformed this campus to bring the things that are necessary to create a veteran-friendly environment at UTM,” he said.

For more information about programs for Veterans at UTM, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Photo of soldier saluting funeral procession identified as a Martin native with UC ties

NASHVILLE — The viral photo of a soldier saluting a funeral procession while standing in the pouring rain. I always get frustrated when I see cars that don't pull to the side and stop for a procession, but this gentleman went above and beyond. I feel pretty confident that there isn't a military rule that soldiers have to do this. This made my heart happy to see the amount of respect that this gentleman showed a family that he doesn’t even know.

“Two days later, I saw the photo hit Facebook — since then it’s exploded,” Usrey said. “It’s baffling to me that something so simple caused so much attention. I guess it goes to show how simple it would be for our nation to be more united if we just treated each other using the Golden Rule.”

A mutual friend at Fort Knox contacted Ms. Hester and said they were sure they knew the soldier in the photo and contacted Usrey. The photographer and the subject of the photo connected by phone Thursday (See Page 2, Col. 1)

Soldier...
(Continued from Page One)
and Ms. Hester was able to express her appreciation personally.

After graduating as a distinguished military graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC program, Usrey served on active duty as an armor and adjutant general officer for 25 years. His assignments ranged from tank platoon leader to the executive officer to the assistant secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

He has served in the 82nd Airborne Division, United States Army Recruiting Command, 1st Armored Division, Special Operations Command Pacific, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, 1st Cavalry Division, III Corps, and the Combined Arms Support Command. Usrey’s operational and combat deployments include Operation (RESTORE) UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, Joint Task Force-Bravo, Operation JOINT GUARDIAN, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 1, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 07-09, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM XII and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM XIV.

Usrey is a native of Martin and has more than 29 years of military service.
The photo, taken by Erin Hester and posted to Facebook and Instagram, of Col. Jack Usrey standing and saluting a passing funeral procession in a small town in Kentucky has gone viral.

The photo of the Martin native has been shared more than 130,000 times, garnered more than 187,000 “Likes,” and generated more than 8,600 comments on social media.

UT Martin Chancellor on State Team to Increase Four-Year College Completion Rates

By MATT MARKGRAF · JUL 13, 2017

University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver is on a state team leading an effort to increase four-year college completion rates.

According to a release, Carver participated in the national Complete College America Summer Action Summit this week along with 36 other states discussing related national and state policies.

Nonprofit education advocacy group Complete College America states 41% of full-time students at four-year flagship schools and 19% at non-flagship schools complete bachelor degree requirements in a four-year period. They say the number goes up to 75% within a six-year period.

UT Martin implemented in 2016 a four-year academic plan for undergraduates.

http://wkms.org/
UTM chancellor chosen to represent 4-year colleges

ERIN CHESNUT
UT MARTIN

MARTIN - The Tennessee Higher Education Commission selected Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, to serve as the four-year implementation lead on Tennessee's Complete College America state team.

Carver, who is entering his 20th year of service within the University of Tennessee System, joined six other team members, including a representative of Tennessee’s two-year institutions, at Complete College America’s Summer Action Summit on Thursday and Friday to kick off the national campaign.

Teams from 36 participating states plus the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium from California met to discuss national and state-specific policies with regard to higher education and the increase of college completion rates.

According to completecollege.org, only 41 percent of full-time students at four-year flagship schools and 19 percent of full-time students at four-year non-flagship schools complete requirements for a bachelor’s degree within four years. These numbers rise to 75 percent and 48 percent, respectively, when students are given six years to complete their degrees. The Complete College Act strives not only to increase the number of Americans who finish their college degrees, but also to increase the number who finish within the intended four-year period.

UT Martin has already implemented the Soar in Four academic plan, approved by the UT Board of Trustees in June 2016, which encourages students to complete 15 credit hours per semester and complete their undergraduate degrees in four years. The tuition model also funded the creation of a new Office of Career Planning and Development, which helps students narrow their career goals and connect with potential internships and employers before graduation.

This model, combined with the efforts of the Complete College America teams, aims to help Gov. Bill Haslam’s higher education initiatives, including the Tennessee STRONG Act and the Drive to 55 campaign.

For more information on Complete College America, visit completecollege.org.

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A specialized session for transfer and adult students will be held July 21.

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NASHVILLE — The viral photo of a soldier saluting a funeral procession while standing in the rain has been identified.

Col. Jack L. Usrey is the senior Army adviser to the adjutant general at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville. While driving from Fort Knox, Ky., last week, Usrey met a funeral procession, stopped, got out of his vehicle and paid his respects to the deceased.

“I didn’t really think,” said Usrey. “I just did what my parents taught me to do growing up.”

“I stopped, got out, saluted the police escort and held my salute as the hearse and family passed by, then went on my way and didn’t give it a second thought.”

The photo, that has since gone viral, was taken and shared on Facebook and Instagram by Erin Hester of Vine Grove, Ky., on July 6. Since that time, the photo has garnered more than 190,000 “Likes,” been shared 131,498 times and generated more than 8,910 comments as of Friday afternoon.

In her Facebook post, Hester said, “I was so completely touched by this today. A funeral procession was passing by and this soldier got out of his jeep to stand at attention in the pouring rain. I always get frustrated when I see cars that don’t pull to the side and stop for a procession, but this gentleman went above and beyond. I feel pretty confident that there isn’t a military rule that soldiers have to do this. This made my heart happy to see the amount of respect that this gentleman showed a family that he doesn’t even know.”

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A mutual friend at Fort Knox contacted Hester and said they were sure they knew the soldier in the photo and contacted Usrey. The photographer and the subject of the photo connected by phone and Hester was able to express her appreciation personally.
Usrey is a native of Martin and has more than 29 years of military service.

He started his career in the Tennessee Army National Guard in 1988 as an enlisted soldier in Union City. After graduating as a distinguished military graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC program, Usrey served on active duty as an armor and adjutant general officer for 25 years. His assignments ranged from tank platoon leader to the executive officer to the assistant secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

He has served in the 82nd Airborne Division, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, 1st Armored Division, Special Operations Command Pacific, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, 1st Cavalry Division, III Corps, and the Combined Arms Support Command.

Usrey’s operational and combat deployments include Operation (Restore) Uphold Democracy Joint Task Force-Bravo, Operation Joint Guardian, Operation Iraqi Freedom I, Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09, Operation Enduring Freedom XII, and Operation Enduring Freedom XIV.

Col. Jack L. Usrey, senior Army adviser to the adjutant general at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville, salutes a funeral procession recently as it passes. He encountered the procession while driving from Fort Knox, Ky., last week.

 Courtesy of the Tennessee National Guard
MARTIN — 4-H members from across Tennessee will gather at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 94th 4-H Roundup. More than 300 delegates representing almost every county in the state will participate in Roundup, which runs Monday through July 28.

"UT Martin and northwest Tennessee welcome 4-H members from around the state for this traditional event," said Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor. "4-H does an exceptional job preparing young people for future leadership roles. Our university is a perfect setting for hosting project competition and recognizing the accomplishments of these top 4-H members."

The theme for 2017 4-H Roundup is "Made from Scratch." The idea is that a 4-Her grows personally and professionally in their time with the organization and always strives to be a better person.

One of the main events at Roundup is the state finals for project competitions. 4-Hers compete in events such as public speaking, livestock and photography. The competitors will have interviews with judges at Roundup and then winners will be determined based on their performance here as well as with project books, which have already been submitted and judged.

"Roundup provides an opportunity for our high school 4-H members to further develop their presentation skills and confidence through 4-H project interviews," says Dr. Richard Clark, UT Extension assistant dean and department head for Tennessee 4-H. "It also serves as a venue for these youth to make memories and friendships to last a lifetime."

Delegates will also participate in All-Star Conference, the Vol State Ceremony, the election of 2018 officers and a service learning project. Roundup delegates will collect items for the Target House in Memphis, which are apartments where families receiving treatment at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital can stay. Other activities include visiting Discovery Park of America in Obion County, and the awards ceremony and banquet, including scholarship presentations.

Ethan Harvill from Fentress County serves as this year’s State 4-H Council president. “Roundup is by far my favorite 4-H event, and I’m looking forward to seeing friends from across the state, as well as being able to compete in my project area,” he says. “Whether you have a love for service, or you enjoy making new friends — Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference has something for everyone.”
SUSTAINING THE COMMUNITY — Events such as community band concerts, the Tennessee Soybean Festival and art exhibits and concerts on the UTM campus have a substantial impact on Weakley County's coffers.

Photo by Linda Thurston

Fine arts, culture contribute $1.4M to annual Weakley County economy

The national “Arts and Prosperity 5” study, conducted by Americans for the Arts, recently concluded that the non-profit arts and culture sector in Weakley County is a significant contributor to the local economy, generating $1.4 million in local expenditures.

According to the study, the eight non-profit arts and cultural organizations in Weakley County that chose to participate in the study spent just over $211,500 and leveraged approximately $1.2 million in additional spending by their audiences, for a total of around $1.4 million.

These organizations and their audiences ultimately generated approximately $160,000 in local and state government revenue. This only includes organizations and audience members who responded to the survey, so the actual economic impact is likely much higher than recorded.

“We are fortunate, especially for a rural community, to have an array of opportunities to be exposed to in the arena of art and cultural experiences,” said Brad Thompson, director of community development for the city of Martin.

“The university institution here in our own backyard has pushed us, in a positive way, to expand our horizons as a community through joint celebrations, events and collaborations.”

The University of Tennessee at Martin participated in the study as one of 250 partners nationwide. Previous studies have concentrated on large metropolitan areas, but this study included rural areas for the first time.

The Tennessee Arts Commission provided a grant to fund the local research component, while students from UT Martin’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute provided the manpower to collect more than 530 surveys from audience members and participants at various local arts venues in 2016, including the Tennessee Soybean Festival as well as concerts and theatrical performances at both Westview High School and UT Martin.

Dr. Charles Bradshaw, UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, directed the grant.

The national results from “Arts and Prosperity 5” include data from more than 340 communities and regions representing all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. More than 14,000 organizations and 212,000 event attendees participated nationwide, making this the largest national arts study ever conducted. “Arts and Prosperity 5” specifically seeks to examine how the arts have advanced since the end of the Great Recession.

Project economists from the Georgia Institute of Technology analyzed the collected data and customized an analysis model for each participating region. To see complete national and local survey results, visit americansforthearts.org.
Web photo of Martin man's salute goes viral

By SABRINA BATES
Special to the Press

A humble soldier is amazed by how quickly a natural act has spread across continents thanks to virtual followers.

Martin native Col. Jack Usrey said in a phone interview Friday he never believed doing what came natural to him would have such a viral impact.

"I just did what came natural. I saw a family that was hurting and did what my parents raised me to do. It's about treating people with dignity and respect," Usrey said.

Usrey met a funeral procession while driving from Ft. Knox, Ky. on July 6. The Army colonel stopped, dressed in full uniform, in the pouring rain to stand attention as the funeral procession passed.

"I stopped, got out, saluted the police escort and held my salute as the hearse and family passed by, then went on my way and didn't give it a second thought," Usrey said.

Usrey had no idea at that time his photo was taken by an onlooker, Erin Hester of Vine Grove, Ky. Hester shared the photo on Facebook.

"I was so completely touched by this today. A funeral procession was passing by and this soldier got out of his jeep to stand at attention in the pouring rain. I always get frustrated when I see cars that don't pull to the side and stop for a procession, but this gentleman went above and beyond. I feel pretty confident that there isn't a military rule that soldiers have to do this. This made my heart happy to see the amount of respect that this gentleman showed a family that he doesn't even know," Hester said in her Facebook post.

The viral photo has been shared 130,000 times and generated more than 8,600 comments with more than 187,000 "likes."

Usrey said he has read some of the comments that span from people in Australia to Texas to San Diego, Calif.

"I am amazed and humbled by this response from a whole range of people. I wonder how did it get to this point. This experience has been humbling and shows if we all just slow down, we have an opportunity every day to help people. I saw a family was hurting and did what I was raised to do and the Army has built on that [principle]," Usrey said.

USREY,
FROM PAGE 1

"It's baffling to me that something so simple caused so much attention. I guess it goes to show how simple it would be for our nation to be more united if we just treated each other using the Golden Rule."

Usrey said he still does not know who the family is he stood at attention for in the pouring rain that day. He said judging by the responses to his viral Facebook photo, there is still good in this world and good people out there.

Col. Usrey started his career in the Tennessee Army National Guard in 1988 as an enlisted soldier in Union City. After graduating as a distinguished military graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC program, Usrey served on active duty as an armor and Adjutant General officer for 25 years. His assignments ranged from tank platoon leader to the Executive Officer to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

He has served in the 82nd Airborne Division, United States Army Recruiting Command, 1st Armored Division, Special Operations Command Pacific, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, 1st Cavalry Division, III Corps, and the Combined Arms Support Command. Usrey's operational and combat deployments include Operation (restore) Uphold Democracy, Joint Task Force-Bravo, Operation Joint Guardian, Operation Iraqi Freedom I, Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09, Operation Enduring Freedom XII, and Operation Enduring Freedom XIV and Joint Task Force-Bravo.

He resides near Nashville with his wife Cindy, a woman he met during his first quarter at UT Martin. Usrey describes his wife as the "prettiest thing I have ever seen."

The couple has two sons and one daughter. Usrey's sons are following in their father's footsteps as members of the Armed Forces.

Col. Usrey is the son of Jim and Judy Usrey of Martin.

He has served in the 82nd Airborne Division, United States Army Recruiting Command, 1st Armored Division, Special Operations Command Pacific, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, 1st Cavalry Division, III Corps, and the Combined Arms Support Command. Usrey's operational and combat deployments include Operations Restore, Uphold Democracy, Joint Task Force-Bravo, Operation Joint Guardian, Operation Iraqi Freedom I, Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09, Operation Enduring Freedom XII, and Operation Enduring Freedom XIV.

Col. Usrey is a native of Martin and has more than 29 years of military service.
SOCIAL MEDIA SENSATION — Colonel Jack Usrey stands and salutes a passing funeral procession in a small town in Kentucky. The photo, taken by Erin Hester and posted to Facebook and Instagram, has been shared more than 130,000 times, garnered more than 187,000 "likes", and generated more than 8,600 comments on social media.

Photo by Erin Hester

NEW MEMBER — Laura Taylor (right), a lecturer in the Department of Health and Human Performance at UT Martin, is the newest member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin. She was welcomed into the club at a recent meeting and is pictured here with Jim Clark, club president, and Danelle Fabinaich, membership chair. Laura is active in numerous service projects in the community, including Special Olympics. She is excited to be joining an organization whose mission is dedicated "to improving the world one child and one community at a time."
Candidates announced for King and Queen Bean

The Pilot Club of Martin is sponsoring the third annual King and Queen of the Bean contest.

The contestants for the King of the Bean Contest are Keith Carver, UTM Chancellor; David Murphy of Murphy Funeral Home; and Tommy Legins of Savant Learning Systems. The contestants for the Queen of the Bean Contest are Tara Rhodes of Styles on Broadway, Angie Kelly Hughey of The Color Shop and Michelle Arant of Savant Learning. The winners will be crowned at the Tennessee Soybean Festival’s Mayor’s Kickoff Luncheon.

Containers bearing a picture of each individual contestant will be placed at locations throughout Martin and will be interchanged in other various locations throughout the months of July, August, and the beginning of September. The contestant receiving the most votes through monetary donations will be crowned.

Voters are asked to donate generously so that they can continue helping to protect the brains of children while riding bicycles.

Members of the club ask citizens to donate generously so that they can continue helping to protect the brains of children while riding bicycles.

And be sure to vote for your next King and Queen.

From Page 1

posi their loose change and dollar bills in the container for the person they support for this honor.

This Pilot Club of Martin Fundraiser will be used towards the club’s philanthropy, Brain Awareness, specifically to purchase bicycle helmets for the young participants in the Bicycle Rodeo sponsored by Martin Pilot Club and The Optimists’ Club.
Baxter discusses Comey firing with Kiwanis

Dr. Chris Baxter, professor of political science interim chair of the department of accounting, finance, economics, and political science at the University of Tennessee at Martin, gave a presentation in June for the Kiwanis Club of Martin about the firing of Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey.

Dr. Baxter made it absolutely clear that the President has the power to hire and fire 3,000 - 4,000 federal employees, including the director of the FBI.

As Comey said, “I understand that I serve at the pleasure of the President.” Whether it was wise to fire Comey is a far different matter. Dr. Baxter discussed similar cases from the past that include the Iran-Contra investigation, Whitewater, and Watergate.

Each of these investigations took years and cost hundreds of millions of dollars. In all these cases, an overriding issue was “How do we get through this?”

Also discussed were the different attempts to curb the President’s power to fire those who are performing the investigation. This culminated in the notion of an independent counsel, one who could not be fired by the President.

Each week that Kiwanis meets (on Wednesdays at noon in the University Center), there is a program that offers insight to current events, community, and concerns involving children.

Kiwanis is dedicated to “improving the world one child and one community at a time.”
Gabrielle Marisa Hunter is passionate about several things. There is health and wellness, her career, sports and, of course, parenthood.

A single mom to son G. Hunter Harris, age 12, Hunter called her son an "inspiration."

"Being a single mother is the hardest job I've ever had in this lifetime, but he inspires me to be the best I can be," she said. "I totally credit him for me being the person I am today."

Today Hunter serves as community health coordinator and educator at the Wilson County Health Department. Her areas of focus are physical activity, nutrition and mental health.

"The most rewarding part of my job is simply the opportunity to help Wilson County become a healthier community to live in. Wilson County recently received the Governor's Healthier Tennessee designation, and I would like to think that the Wilson County Heath Council and I served as the driving force behind this initiative," Hunter said. "There were various components of this initiative which included increasing physical activity in all ages, educating citizens on healthier eating and decreasing the use of tobacco in the county. It is very rewarding when you have influenced people to get healthy and active."

Hunter takes pride when community residents make lifestyle changes. She is particularly involved in her anti-tobacco campaign.

"I advocate throughout the county the Knock Tobacco Out the Park and Dare to be Tobacco Free messages. It is imperative that we as a community are made aware of the dangers that accompany the use of tobacco. I am fulfilled each day because my job allows me to be of service to others in a fun and rewarding way," she added.

Hunter earned her bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She obtained her Master of Science in sports management at Middle Tennessee State University.

Originally from Memphis, Hunter moved to Nashville after college. She made Lebanon her home in 2007.

In her spare time, Hunter enjoys traveling and visiting new places.

She also considers herself a "true sports girl."
"I ran track in high school and college. I enjoy pushing myself in the gym to reach my personal goals," she said.

Hunter loves attending sporting events - and credits that to having a father and a brother who played in the NFL.

"My 12-year-old son is a basketball and baseball player; therefore, I absolutely adore attending his games and being his biggest cheerleader because he is truly my pride and joy."

The lady Hunter admires most is her grandmother.

"First of all, it took a village to raise me," she joked, before adding on a serious note that her grandmother is truly her "MVP."

"She instilled in me the value of hard work, never giving up when faced with adversity and to treat people like you want to be treated. She always stressed that through God all things are possible and without Him we have nothing," Hunter said.

"My grandmother is very feisty and direct and anyone that knows me knows that I possess the same characteristics. I am thankful to her for pushing me to strive to be great and instilling a passion in me to live life to the fullest. To know that my grandmother is proud of the woman I have become warms my heart."

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Students earn UTM scholarships

Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2017-2018 academic year, according to Dr. James Mankoff, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Benjamin T. Allen, son of Dr. Steve and Brenda Allen, of Trenton, will be a freshman. He received the E. C. Crafton Memorial Scholarship and the University Scholar Scholarship.

- Bethany Michelle Morris, of Bradford, daughter of Anthony and Phelicia Rodgers, will be a freshman. She received the Jerry M. and Clara Jo Arnold Scholarship.

- Danielle Evon Rickman, daughter of Ivy and Patricia Rickman, of Dyer, will be a senior. She received the Retired Accounting Faculty Scholarship.

- LaQueena M. Cox, of Humboldt, will be a freshman. She received the Judy Kraus Arnold Memorial Scholarship.

- Madison B. Dowdy, daughter of Keith and Mona Morrison, of Milan, will be a senior. She received the Bateman-Wyant Nursing Scholarship.

- Lauren Kristen Loeffel, of Milan, daughter of Carmen Cupples and Kristie Gilford, will be a senior. She received the Billie Grace Goodrich Scholarship.

- Eric A. Yates, son of Dan and Jennifer Yates, of Milan, will be a junior. He received the Buford-Beatrice Irwin Business Administration Scholarship.

- Michael Mathis, of Humboldt, son of Brad and Jennifer Winberry, will be a junior. He received the Stephen T. Wright Memorial Scholarship and the Buford-Beatrice Irwin Business Administration Scholarship.

Haley E. Riggs, of Medina, daughter of Darren and Kim Riggs, will be a senior. She received the Jesse (Mutt) Parrish Scholarship and the Fats Everett Memorial Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, July 19, 2017

UTM chancellor to serve as lead on state’s team

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission selected Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, to serve as the four-year implementation lead on Tennessee’s Complete College America state team. Carver, who is entering his 20th year of service within the University of Tennessee System, joined six other team members, including a representative of Tennessee’s two-year institutions, at Complete College America’s Summer Action Summit last week to kick off the national campaign.

Teams from 36 participating states, plus the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium from California, met to discuss national and state-specific policies with regard to higher education and the increase of college completion rates.

According to completecollege.org, only 41 percent of full-time students at four-year flagship schools and 19 percent of full-time students at four-year non-flagship schools complete requirements for a bachelor’s degree within four years. These numbers rise to 75 percent and 48 percent, respectively, when students are given six years to complete their degrees.

The Complete College Act strives not only to increase the number of Americans who finish their college degrees, but also to increase the number who finish within the intended four-year period.

UT Martin has already implemented the Soar in Four academic plan, approved by the UT Board of Trustees in June 2016, which encourages students to complete 15 credit hours per semester and complete their undergraduate degrees in four years. The tuition model also funded the creation of a new Office of Career Planning and Development, which helps students narrow their career goals and connect with potential internships and employers before graduation.

This model, combined with the efforts of the Complete College America teams, aims to help Gov. Bill Haslam’s higher education initiatives including the Tennessee STRONG Act and the Drive to 55 campaign.

UT Martin to host end of summer bash

The University of Tennessee at Martin is throwing a party July 28, and high school students from all areas are invited.

The 2017 end of summer bash will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by an official welcome at 1:30 p.m. and campus tours at 2 p.m. Students who have already taken a campus tour are still invited to Recreation Rampage from 3-5 p.m. in the UT Martin Student Recreation Center.

Students and their families are invited to learn more about UT Martin programs of study; meet faculty, staff and current students; and participate in a variety of recreational activities.

Join in the fun by registering at utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend.

For more information about UT Martin or the admissions process, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.

Students may get a chance to meet Captain Skyhawk during UTM’s End of Summer Bash.

End of Summer Bash scheduled

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McNairy County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

For the Independent Appeal

MARTIN — Two McNairy County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2017-2018 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Haleigh Elisabeth Poe, of Adamsville, daughter of Michael and Priscilla Poe, will be a sophomore. She received the Clayton Arnold Teacher Training Scholarship.

Abigail Hope Rininger, daughter of Randall and Andrea Rininger, of Finger, will be a sophomore. She received the Clayton Arnold Teacher Training Scholarship.

In addition, the following student has ties to McNairy County and has requested that your paper receive notification that they have received a scholarship award from the University of Tennessee at Martin:

Jeanne Ratcliff Reed, of Pocahontas, daughter of Jean Ratcliff and the late M. B. Ratcliff, will be a senior. She received the Langdon S. Unger Sr. Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

Trio from Halls register at UT-Martin

Three Halls residents, from left, Hailey Dale, Dontarian Dailey and Bradley Hall, registered for fall semester courses at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the university’s Summer Orientation and Registration event July 17. Members of the incoming freshman class gathered in the Boling University Center to hear more information about financial aid, fall course options, student housing and other campus services before officially beginning their college experience on move-in day, Aug. 25. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.

Local registers at UT-Martin

Nick Smith, center, of Ripley, registered for fall semester courses at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the university’s Summer Orientation and Registration event July 17. Members of the incoming freshman class gathered in the Boling University Center to hear more information about financial aid, fall course options, student housing and other campus services before officially beginning their college experience on move-in day, Aug. 25. Smith is pictured with his parents, Carrie and Brad Smith. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.
UT Martin to host Tennessee 4-H Annual Roundup July 24-28

MARTIN, Tenn. – Members of 4-H chapters across Tennessee will gather at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 94th-annual 4-H Roundup on July 24-28. More than 300 delegates representing almost every county in the state will participate in event.

“UT Martin and northwest Tennessee welcome 4-H members from around the state for this traditional event,” said Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor. “4-H does an exceptional job preparing young people for future leadership roles. Our university is a perfect setting for hosting project competition and recognizing the accomplishments of these top 4-H members.”

The theme for 2017 4-H Roundup is “Made from Scratch.” The idea is that a 4-Her grows personally and professionally in their time with the organization and always strives to be a better person.

One of the main events at Roundup is the state finals for project competitions. 4-Hers compete in events such as public speaking, livestock and photography. The competitors will have interviews with judges at Roundup, and then winners will be determined based on their on-site performances as well as their project books, which have already been submitted and judged.

“Roundup provides an opportunity for our high school 4-H members to further develop their presentation skills and confidence through 4-H project interviews,” says Dr. Richard Clark, UT Extension assistant dean and department head for Tennessee 4-H. “It also serves as a venue for these youth to make memories and friendships to last a lifetime.”

Delegates will also participate in All-Star Conference, the Vol State Ceremony, the election of 2018 officers and a service learning project. Roundup delegates will collect items for the Target House in Memphis, which are apartments where families receiving treatment at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital can stay. Other activities include visiting the Discovery Park of America in Obion County, and the awards ceremony and banquet— including scholarship presentations.

Ethan Harvill from Fentress County serves as this year’s State 4-H Council President. “Roundup is by far my favorite 4-H event, and I’m looking forward to seeing friends from across the state as well as being able to compete in my project area,” he says.

“Whether you have a love for service or you enjoy making new friends – Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All-Star Conference have something for everyone.”

Through its mission of research, teaching and extension, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture touches lives and provides Real. Life. Solutions. For more information, visit ag.tennessee.edu.
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Carver selected to represent Tennessee’s Four-Year Institutions

MARTIN, Tenn. – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission selected Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, to serve as the four-year implementation lead on Tennessee’s Complete College America state team.

Carver, who is entering his 20th year of service within the University of Tennessee System, joined six other team members, including a representative of Tennessee’s two-year institutions, at Complete College America’s Summer Action Summit on July 13-14 to kick off the national campaign.

Teams from 36 participating states plus the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands and the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium from California met to discuss national and state-specific policies with regard to higher education and the increase of college completion rates.

According to completecollege.org, only 41 percent of full-time students at four-year flagship schools and 19 percent of full-time students at four-year non-flagship schools complete requirements for a bachelor’s degree within four years. These numbers rise to 75 percent and 48 percent, respectively, when students are given six years to complete their degrees. The Complete College Act strives not only to increase the number of Americans who finish their college degrees, but also to increase the number who finish within the intended four-year period.

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This model, combined with the efforts of the Complete College America teams, aims to help Gov. Bill Haslam’s higher education initiatives including the Tennessee STRONG Act and the Drive to 55 campaign.

For more information on Complete College America, visit completecollege.org.
Members of 4-H chapters across Tennessee will gather at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 94th annual 4-H Roundup on July 24-28. More than 300 delegates representing almost every county in the state will participate in event. A number of Benton County students, volunteers, and Extension Agents will participate in the event.

"UTM welcomes 4-H members from around the state for this traditional event," said Dr. Keith Carver, UTM chancellor. "4-H does an exceptional job preparing young people for future leadership roles. UTM is a perfect setting for hosting project competition and recognizing the accomplishments of these top 4-H members."

One of the main events at Roundup is the state finals for project competitions. 4-Hers compete in events such as public speaking, livestock, and photography. Participants have been working on these projects for the past year. The competitors will have interviews with judges at Roundup, and then winners will be determined based on their on-site performances as well as their project books, which have already been submitted and judged.

"Roundup provides an opportunity for 4-H members to further develop their presentation skills and confidence through 4-H project interviews," says Dr. Richard Clark, UT Extension assistant dean and department head for Tennessee 4-H. "It also serves as a venue for these youth to make memories and friendships to last a lifetime."

Three 4-H members from Benton County will participate in the Roundup. Victoria Redlund is attending as a 4-H delegate. 4-H State Finalists Riley Walker, with a project in poultry, will compete at the event through the interview process. They have worked for a year to complete project books that were reviewed and judged based on activity in their respective project areas, citizenship, and leadership. Gary McIver, a 4-H volunteer leader from Benton County, will accompany these delegates.

Students qualified to attend the 4-H Roundup because they are All-Star members. Tennessee 4-H All Stars is the second level in the Tennessee 4-H recognition program for outstanding members. Through active participation in local clubs, 4-Hers in grades 7-12 can earn points to become members of the 4-H Honor Club. Honor Club members who have completed the 8th grade may apply for All Star membership, which is based on service.

Roundup delegates will also participate in All-Star Conference, the Volunteer State Ceremony, the election of 2018 officers, and a service learning project. Delegates will collect items for the Target House in Memphis, which are apartments where families with children receiving treatment at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital can stay. Other activities include visiting the Discovery Park of America in Obion County, and the awards ceremony and banquet — including scholarship presentations.

Student Ethan Harvill from Fentress County serves as this year's State 4-H Council President. "Roundup is by far my favorite 4-H event, and I'm looking forward to seeing friends from across the state as well as being able to compete in my project area," he says. "Whether you have a love for service or you enjoy making new friends - the 4-H Roundup has something for everyone."
UTM named Affordable Degree Option

Four recent program rankings have cited the affordability of the University of Tennessee at Martin's various degree programs as a major asset to those choosing to attend.

Schools.com has ranked UTM sixth among the "Best 4-year colleges in Tennessee," making it the top-ranked institution in the UT System. According to the Tennessee College Guide, there are approximately 36 public and private universities in the state. The website cites UTM's affordability as a major factor in the ranking, stating that the university placed in the 96th percentile nationally for both middle and low-income student cost.

UTM master's degree program in educational counseling is also praised for its price tag. AffordableColleges.com has ranked the program 17th in its list of the "most affordable online master's degrees in educational counseling." UTM is the top-ranked Tennessee program on this list.

This ranking follows the program's recent mentions by AffordableCollegesOnline.org, OnlineU.org, CollegeValuesOnline.com and BestColleges.com for price, course selection, time to completion, and program quality.

Master-of-Finance.org ranks UTM's Master of Business Administration degree with online cohorts for financial service professionals 16th on its list of the "Most Affordable Online MBA in Finance Degree Programs."

UTM's MBA program is also nationally ranked on Master'sProgramsGuide.com's list of the "50 Best Online MBA Degree Programs." UTM is the only Tennessee school to be included in this ranking.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS
THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017

KEEPING BUSY — Mike Pierce (center), farm manager at UT Martin, is joined by UT Martin students Travis Prather and Kiersten Bell for a presentation about the UT Martin Apiary Project. Pierce was introduced by Earl Wright (left), retired director of housing.

Pierce, UTM students speak at Kiwanis

Mike Pierce, farm manager with the UT Martin Apiary (Bee) Project, gave a presentation at the June 28 meeting of Kiwanis that kept members asking questions for more than 30 minutes after the usual "stop" time for a noon Kiwanis presentation.

Pierce was joined for the program by two knowledgeable UT Martin agriculture majors: Travis Prather, a senior from McKenzie, and Kiersten Bell, a sophomore from Ohio. All three commented about the project, described some interesting facts about the complexity of bees, showed numerous pictures, and demonstrated a wide array of beekeeping equipment, including a jacket and hood.

Kiwanis president Jim Clark commented: "It was an amazing presentation with numerous unknown (by us) facts about bees."

For example, Mike told about two truckloads of bees being shipped to California to be used to pollinate almonds but needing three trucks to bring them back along with their progeny.

UTM apiary honey will be available in the UTM bookstore this fall.
UTM golfer Hunter Richardson qualifies for the 117th U.S. Amateur Championship

From Sports Information

University of Tennessee at Martin rising senior Hunter Richardson continued his scorching summer on Monday with a co-medalist victory at the U.S. Amateur qualifier at Bowling Green Country Club in Bowling Green, Ky.

Richardson was part of a 97-player field and generated rounds of 67-70 to tie for the best score in the event. His top finish automatically earned him a spot in the 117th U.S. Amateur Championship, which will take place on Aug. 14-20 at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, Calif. and at the Bel-Air Country Club in Los Angeles.

"I am excited to get a chance to compete in the biggest amateur tournament in the world against the best players from all over," Richardson said. "I actually haven't been playing my best golf here recently but things worked out well for me today."

Monday's result is the latest of strong finishes in a busy summer for Richardson. That began with a U.S. Open Local West qualifier in Jackson here he shot a 67 to finish sixth in the field of 75 golfers.

He followed that with an appearance in the 69th Annual SunTrust Tennessee State Open in Gallatin shooting a 73-65-75 to place 11th out of 144 participants.

From there, Richardson took part in the 114th Annual Trans-Miss Amateur Championship in Hutchinson, Kan. An opening round 67 had him tied for first place in the 144-man field before he posted 75-73 on his final two days to tie for 28th place — one spot below Scottie Scheffler, the low amateur at the 2017 U.S. Open.

Richardson's active summer schedule continues with an appearance in the 111th Annual Southern Amateur Championship, which is held in Pinehurst, N.C. Wednesday-Sunday. Following the Southern Amateur, Richardson plans on traveling up north to visit his swing coach Heath Morden in early August. Formerly the head professional at Clarksville Country Club in Richardson's hometown of Clarksville, Morden is now the head professional at TPC Michigan, a course designed by 18-time major winner Jack Nicklaus.

"Heath deserves a lot of credit for my success," Richardson said. "I actually went to go visit him the week before our conference tournament this year as well. He's helped me out a lot throughout the years and I wouldn't be where I am today without him."

Next month will mark the second career U.S. Amateur appearance for Richardson, who also competed at the 2014 event in Johns Creek, Ga. Just months after his high school graduation, he shot a 76 in each round while perhaps planting a seed for a legendary Skyhawk career that has included three All-OVC selec-
HONORABLE MENTION — The Broadcast Education Association recognized WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," the University of Tennessee at Martin's student-run radio station, with an honorable mention in its "Signature Station of the Year" competition. Staff members in the 2016-17 school year included: (back row, from left) Jared Peckenpaugh and Shane Wofford; (middle row) Kait Scott, Julia Ewoldt, Natalie King and Ashley Shores; (front row) Holly Seng and Tori Seng.

UTM's 'Hawk' radio station wins BEA honorable mention award

The Broadcast Education Association recognized WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," the University of Tennessee at Martin's student-run radio station, as one of two honorable mention stations in its "Signature Station of the Year" competition for 2017. This is the first year WUTM has been recognized in this competition, which awards first place honors and two honorable mentions nationwide. The winners were announced during the organization's annual conference in Las Vegas, Nev., in conjunction with the National Association of Broadcasters annual convention and trade show.

Collegiate Broadcasters Inc. also recently recognized the work of four current and former WUTM staff members.

Chuck Hammer, Kayla Harmon and Jared Peckenpaugh, all 2016 UT Martin graduates, received first place in the organization's "best podcast" competition for their work on "The Bench," a sports talk program. Julia Ewoldt, a current student from Savannah, won second place in the "best audio public service announcement" category for producing a public service announcement titled "sorority designated drivers program."

WUTM is the recipient of numerous regional, national and international awards and continues to be the area's premier college radio station.

For more information, contact Dr. Richard Robinson, WUTM faculty adviser and associate professor of communications, at 731-881-7555 or robbins@utm.edu.
Carver selected for lead in TN Complete College America

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission selected Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, to serve as the four-year implementation lead on Tennessee’s Complete College America state team.

Carver, who is entering his 20th year of service within the University of Tennessee System, joined six other team members, including a representative of Tennessee’s two-year institutions, at Complete College America’s Summer Action Summit on July 13-14 to kick off the national campaign.
 UT Martin meets with city leaders about economic growth

July 21, 2017 by Mandy Hrach

MARTIN, Tenn. — It was a first-ever for the University of Tennessee at Martin.

School officials met with city leaders not to talk about recruiting students but how they can grow our communities.

"To know the state's college is behind our economic growth says a lot," said Frank Tate, who serves on the industrial development board in McKenzie.

He said it's important UT Martin wants to help in the areas where their students will work someday.

"It's invaluable that we can have regional partnership, because if one community grows, the others are going to succeed as well," he said.

New to UT Martin himself, Chancellor Keith Carver said he doesn't want the areas around the school to just be places to recruit students.

"This is really an opportunity for me to get folks in one large setting and really hear about what's happening in their areas," he said.

Carver said the goal of the meeting was to get to know the economic development leaders in the area and find common goals they all share.

"When areas are looking to grow or industry is looking to come in, maybe some intellectual capital that we have could help, or some expertise through our faculty," he said.

Carver said it's part of the university's mission to spur economic development in West Tennessee.

"I just remember how special this place is and how special West Tennessee is," he said. "I want to make sure we are doing our job to be good citizens."

Chancellor Carver said he hopes this meeting will be the first of many. He plans to host an economic development team meeting at least twice a year.
EDUCATION HONORS:

Jul 22, 2017

Feldhaus named to UT Martin Chancellor’s Honor Roll

MARTIN, Tenn. — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2017 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls. Ashton K. Feldhaus of Richmond earned made the list with Honors.

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).

UT Martin radio station recognized

The Broadcast Education Association recognized WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the University of Tennessee at Martin’s student-run radio station, as one of two honorable mention stations in its “Signature Station of the Year” competition for 2017.

This is the first year WUTM has been recognized in this competition, which awards first-place honors and two honorable mentions nationwide.

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Collegiate Broadcasters Inc. also recently recognized the work of four current and former WUTM staff members.

Chuck Hammer, Kayla Harmon and Jared Peckenpaugh, all 2016 UT Martin graduates, received first place in the organization’s Best Podcast competition for their work on “The Bench,” a sports talk program.

Julia Ewoldt, a current student from Savannah, won second place in the Best Audio Public Service Announcement category for producing a public service announcement titled “Sorority Designated Drivers Program.”

WUTM is the recipient of numerous regional, national and international awards and continues to be the area’s premier college radio station.
Students learn to build, program robots at UT Martin Jackson

July 24, 2017 by Josh Robinson

JACKSON, Tenn. — Students visited the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center Monday to build robots.

“We’re gonna build some Lego robots,” Fisher Beam, a student, said.

All this week, young builders will come to the UT Martin Jackson Center to assemble their own creations.

“It might be an awesome robot that can move or just a robot that can move its hands and legs,” Bryant Duffey, a student, said.

Monday’s robot was a drumming monkey. The parts come in kits, and the kids use a computer that shows them how to put the Legos together step by step.

Their teacher says this is just preparing them for what they'll see when they start looking for a career.

“Jobs in the future seriously are going to be in robotics, and things are less labor intensive,” James Swanger, the robotics instructor, said.

The parents were excited to see their kids having fun while learning about robots and programming.

“Last year after we did this, I saw him just get extra confident in putting Legos together by himself and trying things he hadn't tried before, so I do think it's great for critical thinking,” Paige McCormick, a parent, said.
"In the class, they use mathematics frequently to solve problems with the gears and the other intricate parts," Kayce Beam, a parent, said. "So he's really picked up on things this summer that maybe he needed a refresher course on before he starts back to kindergarten."

And once they were done building, they had a monkey that could keep a steady beat.

If you weren't able to register for this class in time, they will have another on Nov. 11.

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**Carver speaks to Women Leaders Executive Institute in Missouri**

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, served as an invited speaker July 19 during the NCAA/Women Leaders Executive Institute in Kansas City, Mo.

Carver and his co-presenter, Dr. Mark Nook, president of Northern Iowa University, spoke on the topic "Why We Hire Who We Hire." The presentation focused on the perspectives of university chancellors and presidents when filling major athletics positions, specifically the traits and qualities sought in directors and commissioners.

The Women Leaders Executive Institute is a program designed for women working in the field of intercollegiate athletics who possess the skillset and have the intention to become athletics directors or commissioners within the next five years.

Carver made the trip to Kansas City after spending July 13-14 representing Tennessee’s four-year institutions at Complete College America’s Summer Action Summit in Indianapolis, Ind.

For more information on the NCAA/Women Leaders Executive Institute, visit womenleadersincollegesports.org.
UTM tuition to rise 1.8% for 2017-18

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved a 1.8 percent undergraduate tuition increase during its annual meeting June 22 at the UT Institute of Agriculture campus in Knoxville. The increase takes effect beginning with the 2017 fall semester at UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin. The 1.8 percent in-state tuition increase reflects the Higher Education Price Index, which is the rate used throughout the UT System. This rate is below the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's three percent limitation.

UT Martin in-state tuition and mandatory fees will now cost undergraduate students an additional $148 annually for students with fewer than 60 credit hours and an additional $140 annually for students with 60 or more credit hours. New tuition and fees will be $4,309-$4,618 per semester or $8,618-$9,236 for a full academic year. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is a minimum of 12 credit hours.

The new tuition schedule is available at utm.edu/tuition.

Call the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 for information.

Fall semester classes begin August 28.

ON CAMPUS

HOUCHENS BEGINS SKYHAWK JOURNEY
Kirk Houchens (center), of Dyersburg, registered for fall semester courses at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the university's Summer Orientation and Registration event July 17. Members of the incoming freshman class gathered in the Boling University Center to hear more information about financial aid, fall course options, student housing and other campus services before officially beginning their college experience on move-in day, Aug. 25. Houchens is pictured with Abbey Howe and Mark Houchens. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.
Local students honored at UTM

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin were honored with publication of the spring Chancellor's Honor Rolls recently. Several Obion County students were among the honorees.

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 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).

Among those recognized from Obion County, listed by hometown, were:

- Hornbeak — Lucian P. Freeze, high honors; Brianna M. Hinton, highest honors; Marli M. Hogg, honors; Hailey B. Holcomb, honors; and Jessica D. LaMastus, high honors.
- Kenton — Kacey D. Baker, honors; Savanna C. Brown, honors; Mary B. Chandler, honors; Haley J. Horner, high honors; Adam T. Mayhall, highest honors; Trevor D. Mayhall, highest honors; Andrea L. Penn, highest honors; Lacey M. Petty, high honors; and Cameron B. Spencer, high honors.
- Obion — Jordan V. Albright, honors; Parker E. Albright, highest honors; Kiernan S. Coursey, highest honors; Amber L. Cunningham, high honors; Kristin S. Hale, high honors; Trenton J. Mann, high honors; and Natalie T. McCulloch, high honors.
- Rives — Jake R. Blakely, highest honors; Matthew L. Brooks, highest honors; Kaleb P. Byars, highest honors; Meagan E. Morrow, highest honors; Taylor B. Morrow, honors; Shelly N. Pate, honors; William S. Sisco, highest honors; and Rebecca M. Wisdom, high honors.
- South Fulton — Austin L. Akers, highest honors; Taylor H. Allen, high honors; Christina K. Cook, high honors; Ashley M. Higgins, honors; Jessica R. Johns, highest honors; Melanie A. Johnson, highest honors; Whitney H. Johnson, highest honors; Morgan E. Maxwell, high honors; Destinee B. Mayo, honors; Caitlyn A. McClain, high honors; James R. Moore, honors; Victoria C. Perez, highest honors; Brianna A. Rinker, high honors; Cassidy M. Ruddell, high honors; Samantha M. Simbeck, honors; Samantha St. John, high honors; and Zack S. Vaughn, high honors.
- Troy — Hailey S. Adkins, honors; Jessica B. Barry, high honors; Hailey M. Cook, honors; William C. Cousar, high honors; Ricky C. Dotson, honors; Daniel L. Finch, highest honors; Benjamin C. Kendall, highest honors; Kathrynn G. Kerr, honors; Charles R. Marshall, honors; Leandra N. Moore, high honors; Jessica L. Parnell, honors; Rebecca L. Robb, high honors; Laina L. Robertson, highest honors; Ashlyn M. Runions, high honors; Josh A. VanValkenburg, honors; Matthew D. Vanwormer, highest honors; James B. Warner, highest honors; and Nicholas K. Wilson, high honors.
- Union City — Mitchell B. Arnett, high honors; Carter G. Arnold, high honors; Brady T. Baird, high honors; Walker L. Barnes, honors; Jake A. Bell, highest honors; Brannon C. Bowe, honors; Ronda A. Brewer, high honors; Elizabeth J. Carpenter, high honors; Courtney B. Carroll, honors; David D. Ceiga, highest honors; Samuel A. Douglass, honors; Megan L. Dunn, high honors; Joshua T. Dyer, high honors; Macy S. Earley, honors; Joshua Freeman, honors; Lauren B. Futhey, highest honors; Dianna C. Gammons, high honors; Morgan E. Grisham, honors; Maria G. Guerrero, high honors; John S. Harpole, honors; Lanzer E. Harris, honors; Kelly D. Hendon, high honors; Andrew J. Horner, high honors; Darrell L. Huff, high honors; Jonathan M. Hurtado, high honors; James B. Hutchens, highest honors; Christina A. Jackson, honors; Caitlin A. Jones, high honors; Angelique M. Kendall, high honors; Sean J. Lanahan, highest honors; Danielle A. Leggett, highest honors; Timothy C. Long, high honors; Makayla Lynn, highest honors; Taylor S. Martin, highest honors; Kaycee L. Mathenia, highest honors; Angela N. Mathina, highest honors; Natalie E. Nokes, high honors; Michaela L. Parish, high honors; Mason S. Parker, highest honors; Avery A. Partin, highest honors; Summer N. Patterson, highest honors; Victoria L. Reedy, high honors; Cody A. Robertson, high honors; Holly A. Seng, highest honors; Hailey E. Slaugh, highest honors; Kendall B. Speed, honors; Julie E. Spencer, honors; Breanna N. Stephenson, honors; Dalton A. Teeter, honors; Robert A. Terrell, high honors; Macy A. Thompson, highest honors; Shawn A. Weak, honors; Brett M. Whitson, honors; Zackary A. Williamson, honors; Maitland E. Wright, high honors; and Ashley N. Yates, honors.

In addition, the honorees with ties to Obion County included:

- Clarksville — Kayla A. Barber, highest honors.
- Cordova — Brie A. Cobb, highest honors.
- Martin — Christopher L. Armstrong, honors; Alexandra B. Barnes, highest honors; Tyler A. Bolton, highest honors; Alison E. Clement, honors; Lacie A. Jones, honors; Ashton E. Priest, high honors; Connor D. Rinker, high honors; Kaitlyn R. Scott, highest honors; Jessica G. Tejeda, highest honors; Olivia M. Turner, honors; Blake A. Walton, honors; and Tori E. York, honors.
Dr. Carver guest speaker at NCAA women's event

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, served as an invited speaker recently during the NCAA/Women Leaders Executive Institute in Kansas City.

Carver and his co-presenter, Dr. Mark Nook, president of Northern Iowa University, spoke on the topic "Why We Hire Who We Hire."

The presentation focused on the perspectives of university chancellors and presidents when filling major athletics positions, specifically the traits and qualities sought in directors and commissioners.

The Women Leaders Executive Institute is a program designed for women working in the field of intercollegiate athletics who possess the skillset and have the intention to become athletics directors or commissioners within the next five years.

Carver made the trip to Kansas City after spending two days the previous week representing Tennessee's four-year institutions at Complete College America's Summer Action Summit in Indianapolis.

For more information on the NCAA/Women Leaders Executive Institute, visit womenleadersincollegesports.org.

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Final freshman registration set for Aug. 4

Students who intend to join the University of Tennessee at Martin's freshman class in the fall 2017 semester have one remaining opportunity to attend Summer Orientation and Registration, a mandatory event for all incoming students.

The final session will be held Aug. 4.

The Aug. 4 SOAR session will begin at 8 a.m. and include an administrative fair and informational sessions on academic options, financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and other important topics.

Students will begin registering for classes at 1:30 p.m.

For information on the admissions or registration process, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.
UTM worker concerned about rumors of outsourcing services

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

Jeremy Caudle, an employee in the custodial department at the University of Tennessee at Martin, last week posted a complaint on Facebook that the university was going to outsource all custodial work on campus.

"I went into work last night and find [sic] that we r [sic] going to be outsourced," said Caudle. He went on to say that the custodial staff had thought their jobs were safe even though outsourcing had been discussed.

According to UTM Chancellor Keith Carver, the issue is still undecided.

"UT Martin has not made a decision regarding the state’s facilities management contract," Carver said in a statement to the Weakley County Press on Tuesday. "Each campus within the University of Tennessee is meeting with the proposed contractor and will receive information to help determine whether contracted services would be in the best interest of the campus.

“We will present our decision to the board of trustees later this year.”

According to Bud Grimes from the Office of University Relations, the number of physical plant employees currently stands at 95.

The department provides custodial, grounds-keeping and maintenance services, among others.

“We don’t know the potential effect of outsourcing because we don’t know the details,” Grimes said Wednesday. “We expect to know more in the coming months.”

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UT Martin’s Final SOAR Session Set

Students who intend to join the University of Tennessee at Martin’s freshman class in the fall 2017 semester have one remaining opportunity to attend Summer Orientation and Registration, a mandatory event for all incoming students. The final session will be held August 4th.

The August 4th SOAR session will begin at 8 a.m. and include an administrative fair and informational sessions on academic options, financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and other important topics. Students will begin registering for classes at 1:30 p.m.

If extenuating circumstances or late acceptance prevent a student from attending this final on-campus session, contact Mary Wiggins, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, at 731-881-7740 or munger@utm.edu as soon as possible to arrange alternate registration plans.

No tuition will be due until the start of the fall semester. SOAR registration is first-come, first-served, and space is limited. Students must have received a tentative or final acceptance letter to register. Visit utm.edu/soar for more information and for registration instructions.

For information on the admissions or registration process or for information on fees, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.
UTM Trains Future Forensics Professionals

JULY 28, 2017 AT 9:56 AM POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Martin, Tenn. - College students from across the country gathered in Oak Ridge this past month to spend three weeks studying forensic science from some of the top instructors in the country and several local students participated along with the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program is hosted by the University of Tennessee Law Enforcement Innovation Center and designed in part by UTM.

“There is no other program like this in the country with the quality of instructors we bring in. This cannot be duplicated, and we are happy to share it with students from other universities,” said Dr. Brian Donavant, UT Martin professor of criminal justice and instructor of record for the collegiate academy. Donavant helped design the academy’s curriculum when the program began in 2012. He is also serving as the current interim executive director of UT Martin’s Office of Educational Outreach.

The 2017 class had a maximum enrollment of 28 students, and every seat was filled with another dozen names on the waiting list. Students from California, Nebraska, Connecticut, Utah, Wyoming and other areas joined those from Tennessee to complete the elite academy that will put them ahead of their fellow criminal justice graduates.

Participating students receive a crash-course in fingerprinting, blood spatter analysis, crime scene investigation, DNA analysis and anthropology, among other subjects. The three-week collegiate academy is a condensed version of the 10-week academy completed by law enforcement professionals each year.

All participating students must apply and be admitted to UT Martin in order to enroll in the academy and receive nine hours of college credit in return for their investment. Students are also required to create a portfolio demonstrating the skills they learn during the academy, and some have presented these portfolios at conferences across the country.

For more information on the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program or the UT Martin criminal justice curriculum, contact Donavant at bdonavant@utm.edu or 731-881-3510.

Photo: Melanie Allen, of Milan, and Kelly Hendon, of Union City, both seniors at the University of Tennessee at Martin, are shown locating and photographing evidence during an exercise in the University of Tennessee Arboretum in Oak Ridge.
Young builders battle robots at UT Martin Jackson Center

July 28, 2017 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff (http://www.wbbjtv.com/author/wbbj7/eyewitnessnewsstaff/)

JACKSON, Tenn. — Students at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center wrapped up their week of building robots this Friday.

All week, the students have been learning how to build and program robots.

They got to battle the robots against each other Friday and show their parents everything they learned.

These students also have big plans for putting all this knowledge to use in the future.

"Probably use it to explore the depth of the ocean," said 6th grader Nash Roberson. "Or save lives in dangerous situations."

The next Battle Bots Camp is Sept. 30.
UTM trains future forensics specialists

ERIN CHESNUT
UT MARTIN

MARTIN – College students from across the country gathered in Oak Ridge this past month to spend three weeks studying forensic science from some of the top instructors in the country. The National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program is hosted by the University of Tennessee Law Enforcement Innovation Center, and designed in part by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“T here is no other program like this in the country with the quality of instructors we bring in. This cannot be duplicated, and we are happy to share it with students from other universities,” said Dr. Brian Donavant, UT Martin professor of criminal justice and instructor of record for the collegiate academy. Donavant helped design the academy’s curriculum when the program began in 2012. He is also serving as the current interim executive director of UT Martin’s Office of Educational Outreach.

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Participating students receive a crash-course in fingerprinting, blood spatter analysis, crime scene investigation, DNA analysis and anthropology, among other subjects. The three-week collegiate academy is a condensed version of the 10-week academy completed by law enforcement professionals each year.

“They are getting the same training that a law enforcement officer would get if they went through a forensic program, and actually they’re getting more training than most officers have had in their careers,” said Dan Anselment, lead instructor for the academy. “For these students to get this type of training, they’re already going to be a step ahead for any agency, any employer they may go to.”

Melanie Allen, a UT Martin senior from Milan, has made a career in crime scene investigation a lifelong goal.

“I was five, and I walked in and my parents were watching CSI and I said, ‘I’m going to do that.’ I’ve stuck with it ever since,” she said. Allen was one of seven UT Martin students to complete the academy this year, and she immediately recognized the value of the unique hands-on experience.

“This will help me a lot…. This is all hands-on. We’ve done fingerprinting and photography. Next week we’re doing blood spatter. We’ve done DNA, and now we’re doing anthropology,” she said. “I will have more training than the normal person would (when applying for jobs), so this will definitely set me apart.”

“I think this gives you a good head start for when you actually get your career started. When your agency does send you out for more training, you’ll have a good start because you already know what to do,” said Brandon Bookout, a UT Martin senior from Gleason. Bookout plans to graduate in the spring and pursue a career in evidence recovery, so the academy provided a real-world look at what his future may hold.

While many participants originally became interested in forensic science by watching television shows such as “CSI,” “Bones” and “Law and Order,” participation in the academy shows them the reality of crime scene investigation and the true work involved to process evidence and convict a criminal.

“The reality with a television show is that they have to take what is factual and speed it up and make it work in 45 minutes,” said Anselment. “So when they do a search for fingerprints or blood, the reality is that most of us will go at least a year before an agency can even get a fingerprint looked at. So everything in television is accelerated. Then, especially with computer systems, they’ll make it look like we have all this technology that we don’t have; it simply doesn’t really exist.”

While the work involved in crime scene investigation may not be as glamorous as it may appear on the screen, there are unexpected benefits to living in a culture saturated with high-tech crime television.

“The plus side for the investigator is that bad guys who watch those shows think we can do these things, so they end up sometimes confessing because they think we can do something that we actually can’t, because they’ve seen it on the show,” Anselment said. “That’s where we coin the phrase, ‘the CSI effect’. I’ve also sat on grand juries where they legitimately ask good questions that they would have never known to ask had they not watched a CSI show.”

Students from all parts of the country traveled to participate in this one-of-a-kind experience. Cooper Elam, a senior at Eureka College in Illinois, is one of five Eureka students to enroll in the academy this year through a special partnership between UT Martin and Eureka College.

“The knowledge I’ve gained in just a week and a half of being down here is something I never would have gained just in a classroom. The hands-on stuff you can do here with the state-of-the-art lab facility they have, and having the different experts come is something nobody will be able to experience anywhere else,” he said.

Not all participating students plan to specialize in crime scene investigation, and skills learned during the academy can be applied to a wide variety of criminal justice fields. Marissa Munger, a student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and native Maryland resident, plans to gain a master’s degree in computer science and pursue a career in cyber security.

“I had an internship with the security administration at the Smithsonian in (Washington) D.C. From that internship last summer, I learned that it’s better to be out there in the field… instead of just sitting in an office and making judgments,” she said. “If a cyber-attack is related to a physical attack, it’s nice to have this background knowledge.”

All participating students must apply and be admitted to UT Martin in order to enroll in the academy and receive nine hours of college credit in return for their investment. Students are also required to create a portfolio demonstrating the skills they learn during the academy, and some have presented these portfolios at conferences across the country.

“This is the sixth year we’ve hosted this collegiate academy, and we only have 137 graduates,” said Donavant. “That tells you how selective this program is. Not only are we extending out and offering this course to students in other places, but we’re actually attracting students to relocate and work here, and that contributes to Tennessee’s economy and quality of life.” Several students from previous academy classes have relocated to the Volunteer State and are giving their talents back to the state and the university system that trained them.

For more information on the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program or the UT Martin criminal justice curriculum, contact Donavant at bdonavant@utm.edu or (731) 881-3510.