UTM’s Lester named a ‘legend’

Former UT Martin two-time All-American Lester Hudson will be honored at this week’s OVC basketball tournaments as the league will honor institutional basketball legends for the second year in a row.

Hudson was a two-time OVC Male Athlete of the Year and two-time OVC Player of the Year at UTM from 2007-09. He became just the second Skyhawk to earn All-American honors and first at the Division-I level (since 1992).

Hudson helped lead the Skyhawks to 22 wins, their first-ever OVC regular season championship and first-ever Division-I postseason appearance as a senior.

That season, he set the OVC record for most points in a single season (880), ranking second in the nation with 27.5 points per game. That trailed only Davidson’s Stephen Curry for the nation’s scoring crown.

Hudson made a splash on the national scene during his debut season in 2007-08. He notched the first quadruple-double in NCAA Division-I history with 25 points, 12 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 steals against Central Baptist on Nov. 13, 2007. He also set the OVC’s single-season record with 124 three-pointers made as a junior.

Despite the fact that he was only a two-year member of the Skyhawk program, Hudson finished just two points shy of the program’s all-time scoring record. He also owns the two best seasons in program history in points, field goals made, three-point field goals made and steals.

Hudson became the first UTM men’s basketball player to be selected in the NBA Draft when the Boston Celtics took him in the second round (No. 58 overall) in 2009.

It has played for the Celtics (2009-10), Memphis Grizzlies (2009-10, 2011-12), Washington Wizards (2010-11), Cleveland Cavaliers (2011-12) and Los Angeles Clippers (2014-15) in his NBA career.

The 6-foot, 190-pound combo guard is currently playing with the Liaoning Flying Leopards in the Chinese Basketball Association. He is a five-time CBA All-Star and is the reigning two-time CBA Most Valuable Player, earning the award in both 2014 and 2015.

A year ago each OVC member institution identified both a male and female legend to be honored through signage and announcements at the 2015 and 2016 Championships. Last year, former Skyhawk women’s basketball great Heather Butler was honored.

The OVC Tournament will once again take place at historic Municipal Auditorium in downtown Nashville, beginning Wednesday and running through Saturday. The Skyhawk women’s team has earned an OVC regular season title and the No. 1 seed, opening the tournament’s first round on Wednesday at 12 p.m. The UT Martin men’s team has clinched the OVC West championship and the No. 2 seed, as it will take the floor in the semifinals on Friday at 8:30 p.m.

OVC Mingle

The conference is inviting fans attending the postseason tournament to attend the “Music City Mingle” event between the afternoon and evening sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The event will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, one of two headquarters for this year’s championship. The hotel is located less than two blocks from Municipal Auditorium, the site of this year’s tourney.

Fans can enjoy drink specials and camaraderie with fellow fans between the women’s afternoon session and men’s evening session on each of those days.

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UT Martin’s McMillan OVC Coach of the Year

http://www.wpslocal6.com

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Shonda Butts of SIU-Edwardsville has been named the Ohio Valley Conference player of the year, and UT Martin’s Kevin McMillan has been voted the league’s coach of the year.

The OVC announced the league’s award winners Tuesday night.

Butts, the preseason player of the year, led the OVC averaging 21 points a game. She is the first player from SIU-Edwardsville to be named player of the year.

McMillan joined Teresa Phillips of Tennessee State as the only coaches to win the OVC award in back-to-back years. This is McMillan’s third overall award after coaching UT Martin (21-8) to a third straight regular season title.

By Jeff Bidwell

http://www.wpslocal6.com

Posted: Mar 01, 2016 10:11 PM CST
Updated: Mar 01, 2016 10:11 PM CST
NASHVILLE — University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro said Monday that a bill to freeze tuition at the state's colleges and universities isn't needed because of UT's new commitment to hold tuition increases to the costs of inflation.

He also said the legislation could harm the university by depriving it of money needed to hire and retain faculty.

The commitment to hold tuition to the higher education price index is part of the university's efforts to restructure its business model to recognize that state appropriations likely will never return to their previous percentage of higher education's overall budget and that student tuition and fees cannot continue to rise at the pace they were.

DiPietro said the state provided 62 percent of the UT system's unrestricted revenues in 1995 — a number decreased to 39 percent last year. He said the UT system's state appropriations as a share of the overall state budget have declined from 6 percent to 4 percent over the last 20 years. "And we went through a $125 million reduction in budget due to the great recession, just UT, from 2008 to 2012. So it's shifted: we've transferred the cost over a time frame from the state to the students," he said.

Lawmakers are considering two tuition-freeze bills. One backed by Senate Speaker Ron Ramsey, R-Blountville, would freeze tuition and fees for two years and after that, require unanimous votes of the universities' governing boards for any tuition and fee increase totaling more than 2 percent above the consumer price index. A second bill would freeze tuition at current rates for four years.

"Two years ago we said we were going to try to bring tuition under control and we've certainly done that. Last year's tuition (increase) was 3 percent, the lowest in more than 30 years. The reality is, we woke up and smelled the coffee on this previously and we don't think we need this legislation to keep our tuitions modest

"We have a long-term projection over 10 years to keep tuition at the cost of inflation so we don't really think there's a need for doing it," he said. And UT's Chattanooga and Martin campuses face tremendous competition to keep rates low from the state's nearby community and technical colleges, where new high school graduates can attend tuition-free under the new Tennessee Promise program.

DiPietro said most UT students receive some kind of institutional support and the Hope Scholarship, "so the true cost of attendance is much lower" than the posted rates.

He said that if the four-year freeze legislation is enacted, UT would lose more than $80 million by the fourth year. The other bill would result in losses of about $10 million the first year and $20 million the second year.

"In other states that have gone through a (tuition) capping process, I think you find out what happened is they have not worked well because at the end of however long their cap is, there's usually really big jumps in tuition rather than a commitment to stay at the costs of inflation.

"And there's some arguments that we would have trouble maintaining faculty, or at least numbers of faculty because of a need to take vacant positions and cannibalize them to keep the very best faculty and to hire new people at market rates. When you're hiring new professors, you have to be at market levels. So that's a problem," DiPietro said.

Compounding that, he said, is the way the state traditionally pays for salary increases on its college campuses. While the state obviously pays the full costs of pay raises for general government employees, it has in recent years funded only about 55 cents of every dollar of pay raises at its colleges and universities, requiring each institution to come up with the other 45 cents. And that forces them to turn to tuition and fees.

The two-year freeze bill also requires campuses to freeze tuition for incoming freshmen, starting in 2018, so they pay the same rates through four undergraduate years. UT Knoxville instituted a similar plan starting with freshmen arriving for fall semester 2013, keeping tuition stable for them provided they take a minimum 15 hours per semester.

But that plan was created more as an incentive for students to complete their undergraduate degrees in four years, DiPietro said. "It's a completion agenda. I would argue that if students complete on time, they save a lot more money than the cost of tuition – like revenue they would lose from not having a job. It also motivates them to complete on time because if you complete on time, you won't see a tuition increase in the program."
The University of Tennessee at Martin's student-run radio and television stations and campus newspaper excelled at the 2016 Southeast Journalism Conference held Feb. 18-20 on the Austin Peay State University campus in Clarksville.

WUTM 90.3 FM, "The Hawk," UT Martin's student-run campus radio station, was named "Best College Radio Station in the South" for the second consecutive year. The station has received this honor five times in the past seven years and has ranked in the top three positions every year since 2007.

WUTM also received first place in the "Best College Audio News (Podcast)" category for the first time. The station has ranked in the top three positions in this category since it was created in 2011. UTM TV, the campus television station, received third place in "Best College Television Station."

The Pacer, the university's student newspaper, received ninth place in the "Best College Newspaper" category.

"I am, as always incredibly proud of our students. They work for student media at UTM because they believe in the free flow of information, and they want the best experience they can get before entering the work force," said Tomi Parrish, instructor of communications and faculty adviser to The Pacer. "They don't do it to win awards, so this kind of recognition is particularly sweet."

Students who attend the Southeast Journalism Conference participate in two types of competitions: Best of the South and on-site challenges. In the Best of the South competition, students submit material in a variety of categories prior to the conference for third-party review. A total of 35 schools participated in this portion of the conference.

In on-site competitions, students must complete a variety of hands-on activities in their chosen categories and think on their feet to deliver the best day-of-performance. Twenty-three schools entered students in the various on-site contests, and students are able to compete in more than one category.

The individual awards for the Best of the South competitions are as follows:
- Best Radio Hard News Reporter: Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge, first place;
- Best Radio News Feature Reporter: Natalie King, a senior from Wingo, Ky., third place;
- Best Radio Journalist: Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, third place;
- Best News-Editorial Artist/Illustrator: Joey Plunk, a junior from Bells, third place;
- Best Television Hard News Reporter: Ashleigh Burton, a senior from South Fulton, fourth place;
- Best Magazine Page Layout and Design: Jared Peekenpaugh, a senior from Finley, sixth place.

The individual awards for on-site competitions were:
- Radio News Reporting: Burton, first place;
- Current Events: Chuck Hammer, a senior from Martin, second place;
- Opinion-Editorial Writing: Ashton Priest, a sopho-
UTM...
From Page 1
more from Obion, second place;
• Arts and Entertainment Writing: Chance Farmer, a senior from Union City; second place;
• Public Relations Team Competition: Laura Crossett, a junior from Jackson; Lyndsey Hayslett, a senior from Union City; and Barriana Woods, a junior from Memphis, second place;
• Television Anchoring: Seng, third place.

The UT Martin delegation was named the third place on-site championship team overall with six individual awards. This is the highest finish UT Martin students have earned since the university began participating in the conference.

“This was an exceptional performance at the conference by our students in all areas of mass communications. The students competed against others from eight states, representing much larger programs in some cases,” said Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser. “It was particularly gratifying to see us do so well in the area of television, and Rodney Freed certainly deserves the credit for that.

The UT Martin Department of Communications is housed within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and includes concentrations in broadcasting, news editorial, media design and public relations.

For more information about WUTM, contact Robinson at 731-881-7555 or by email at rrobin@utm.edu. For more information about The Pacer, contact Parrish at 731-881-7558 or by email at tommcm@utm.edu.

APPALACHIAN LIFE –
The exhibit, “Vanishing Appalachia,” is on display now through April 15. Pictured is Marvin “Popcorn” Sutton, a moonshiner from Haywood County, N.C., photographed in 2007 by Don Dudenbostel.

Appalachian life on display in the J. Houston Gordon Museum

The newest exhibit at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s J. Houston Gordon Museum provides a glimpse into the lives and culture of Appalachia during the past 50 years.

The exhibit, “Vanishing Appalachia,” is on display now through April 15. Photographer Don Dudenbostel and field researcher Tom Jester documented many places, practices and personalities of the mountains, including moonshining, Mennonite communities, religious traditions, tourist courts and other typical mountain scenes. The photographs are accompanied by captions and field recordings.

The J. Houston Gordon Museum is located inside the Paul Meek Library to the left of the main lobby. The museum is open to the public from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., weekdays. There is no admission charge.

For more information, contact the museum at 731-881-7094 or by email at specoll@utm.edu.
Boy Scouts earn chemistry merit badges

The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society hosted a chemistry merit badge clinic for 16 area Boy Scouts on Feb. 6. The clinic included mini-lectures, demonstrations, a chemical magic show and tours of the UT Martin laboratory facilities. Six Scouts from Troop 28 in Paris were among the participants. From left on the front row are SMACS member Michaela Short; Scouts Liam McDavid, Jacob Long, Dalton Michael, William Powers, Alex Strickland and Paul Tusa; (back row) SMACS members Amber Taylor and Jacob Thompson; and S. K. Airee, professor of chemistry and SMACS faculty adviser.
SGC students visit UT Martin

LOCAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN JUNIOR/SENIOR DAY AT UT MARTIN – Samuel Walgren (second from left) and Seth Gibson (second from right), both of South Gibson County High School, attended Junior/Senior Day on Feb. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students interested in attending UT Martin were invited to participate in the full Skyhawk experience, which included campus tours, a women's basketball game, an administrative fair and opportunities to meet with faculty members in their academic areas of interest. Each student is pictured with his mother, Delynn Walgren (left) and Jennifer Gibson (right). The university will host Spring Preview Day on March 19 for interested students and families.

Basic digital photography course offered at UT Martin Parsons Center

Community members interested in digital photography are encouraged to register for a basic digital photography course offered 6-9 p.m., Mondays, March 14-April 4, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center.

This course will prepare students to improve their photography skills ranging from family snapshots to professional techniques. The course will focus on camera features and functions, exposure, composure, depth of field, focus, lighting exercises, and action and close-up shots.

Roger Hughes will instruct the course. Hughes is a retired special agent in charge of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation who has spent years photographing major crime scenes. He began studying fine art imaging at the University of Tennessee and the Rocky Mountain School of Photogra-

Print and email handouts will be available. Email and class evaluations of student images will also be utilized.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
in attending UT Martin were invited to participate in the full Skyhawk experience, which included campus tours, a women's basketball game, an administrative fair and opportunities to meet with faculty members in their academic areas of interest. UT Martin will host Spring Preview Day March 19 for interested students and families. For information, visit utm.edu/departments/admissions/preview_day.php.

Exhibit features Appalachian life

The newest exhibit at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s J. Houston Gordon Museum provides a glimpse into the lives and culture of Appalachia during the past 50 years. The exhibit, “Vanishing Appalachia,” is on display now through April 15. Photographer Don Dudenbostel and field researcher Tom Jester documented many places, practices and personalities of the mountains, including moonshining, Mennonite communities, religious traditions, tourist courts and other typical mountain scenes. The photographs are accompanied by captions and field recordings. The J. Houston Gordon Museum is located inside the Paul Meek Library to the left of the main lobby. The museum is open to the public from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays.

There is no admission charge. For more information, contact the museum at (731) 881-7094 or by email at specoll@utm.edu.
AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP — Mary Helen Driver was recently presented a $500 scholarship check from Union City Masonic Lodge 538 Free & Accepted Masons. The Gray/Goddard/Culp scholarship is presented each year to a relative of any Union City Mason. The check was presented to her by her grandfather, Bobby Driver (left), and Pete Quinton, secretary/trustee of the lodge. Miss Driver is a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she is majoring in education, and works at Kare Bear Preschool in Union City.

SCHOLARSHIP GIVEN — Taylor Allen (second from left) of South Fulton recently received a $500 college scholarship from Troy Chapter 432 Order of the Eastern Star. The check was presented by Heather Sharp (left), worthy matron of the chapter. Also on hand were Cheryl Cleek, chapter secretary, and Jim West, chairman of the scholarship committee. Miss Allen, the daughter of Amy Prather of South Fulton, is currently at junior majoring in elementary education at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She has a future goal of teaching in the primary grades. The Troy OES chapter’s scholarship is awarded each year to a college junior or senior who is a graduate of either an Obion County or Lake County school. The scholarship was first given in 2007.
Mobile energy classroom to be created with grant

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin $147,000 to finance the creation of a mobile classroom to educate students and the public about the conservation and production of types of energy.

The mobile classroom project, led by John Cole, UT Martin lecturer, and co-authored by Drs. Paula Gale and Rachna Tewari, all of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, will include both static and hands-on demonstrations of current energy production, conservation and renewable technology.

"The idea is to provide visual and hands-on education in energy, energy conservation and renewable energy to the general public, K-12 students and interested university students," Cole said.

The classroom will be able to visit regional schools, civic clubs and organizations, community centers and area festivals to meet interested students.

"The ability to take our knowledge and resources out into the community is instrumental to the continued development of our young people and our region," said Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor. "We are confident this project will inspire students of all ages to better understand how much we depend on effective and efficient energy to sustain life on our planet and how young people can become leaders in this industry."

The grant is one of 12 awarded by the USDA through the Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture program and is intended to "support research, education and outreach activities at non-land-grant colleges and universities to further agricultural research and teaching," according to USDA.
County Commission Approves $250,000 over Five Years to UT Martin in Somerville

Commissioner Reggie Howard asked if everything is signed and committed and if things start falling apart after that, is there is an out for the county. If we make one or two payments and it crashes, could we pull our money back at that point, maybe our county attorney can facilitate something.

Mayor Taylor said Somerville is going in with good faith and if UT Martin signs on, they have good faith and this is what we are doing in good faith. None of these have failed around the state where they have started, he said.

Leggett said for clarification, if UT Martin signs an agreement does their signature commit the state of Tennessee to their agreement. Somerville city administrator Bob Turner answered him, saying in committing to an agreement and committing to the lease for 10 years, there is a paragraph in every agreement with the state that says if they decide to remove the funding, it will cease to exist. I don’t know where we would be at that point, he said. However, the Town of Somerville is going to borrow $2 million for the project.

Turner said the agreement states UT Martin will pay us $250,000 a year in rent, which is the same $250,000 they are seeking from the government. I know UT will work hard to get donations over the next year to reduce that rent amount.

He said we will know on April 15th or whenever the legislature lets out if this is a done deal. If it’s not approved, the town will use its resources to keep that building going for another year until the next legislative session. Turner said we are waiting on an appointment with Governor Haslam to talk about this so he will put the $250,000 in his budget. Also the agreement has to go to the state building commission to be signed off.

Turner was asked by Goodroe if the public library is going to move out there and he replied not at this time. Turner stated there is 50,000 SF out there and 20,000 of that is for UT Martin, about 5000 for UT Extension and 5000 for Fayette Literacy. That leaves about 15,000 SF that is available for the library if they want it but would require extensive renovation.

Commissioner Homer Bunker said I think this is a great opportunity for us to have a state school in Fayette County. Commissioner Ed Allen said I’m not clear that if UT decides to pull out in year three or year four, will we be bound for the subsequent payment of $50,000. Mayor Taylor said we have made a good faith effort and they have done what they said they would do. I’d like to see us help them out on it but that is up to the commission on how to work it. He said this is a resolution that would only be binding on the county, with no interlocal. When they get a contract, I’d like an interlocal set up and it would be legally binding, he said.
WestStar Leadership Program Alumni
The WestStar Leadership Program received the 2015 Regional Business Award at the Fayette County Chamber award banquet held last Saturday. Several alumni of the program were at the banquet. Left to right are Charlie Deal, Rossville Mayor Judy Watters, Somerville Mayor Ronnie Neill, Virginia Grimes, Lisa Hawkins, Molly McCarley, Shannon Cotter, Alexandra Wardlaw, Myles Leifer, Senator Dolores Gresham, UT Interim Chancellor Dr. Robert Smith, and Fayette County Mayor Skip Taylor. (Photo by Jim Larkin)

Gaines member of WestStar class
Maurice Gaines of Lauderdale County is a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2016 class. Gaines is the Mayor of Lauderdale County. He currently serves as vice chairman of the HTL Advantage board and as a member of the Memphis Area Association of Governments executive board, the Delta Human Resources executive board and the Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce.
Japanese Students Visit Weakley County Courthouse

DAVID FISHER
News Writer

A group of Japanese students stopped in downtown Dresden on Monday for a tour of the Weakley County Courthouse and to learn more about how American governmental offices operate.

Upon their arrival, the students were greeted by Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum, who gave a brief talk and answered questions concerning the inner workings of local government. This included a brief explanation of the purpose of each public office inside the courthouse.

Professor Tom Johnson, instructor of the Intensive English Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin, said, "I'm working with this group of students from at the University of Economics in Takasaki City, Japan, who are here for a three-week cultural experience."

He explained the students study regional policy and economics, with plans to someday work as public officers. For this reason, they seek to understand how our government works in the areas of public service and banking.

"While they're here, they practice their English," Prof. Johnson said. "They also seek to experience cultural activities. So, we try to provide historical and cultural places for them to visit in the area."

Prof. Johnson stated, so far, the students have visited the UT Credit Union in Martin, the Casey Jones Village & Museum in Jackson, and Reelfoot Lake State Park. They also stopped by Memphis to watch an NBA Grizzlies basketball game, eat a meal at Charlie Vergos' Rendezvous Restaurant, and visit the Pyramid.

Prof. Johnson noted students from the University in Takasaki come to UT Martin twice a year. One group comes during the winter and another in late summer. The size of the current group is 24, but the number varies slightly from year to year. Takasaki, located in southwestern Gunma Prefecture in the northern Kantō region of Japan, covers an area of 459.16 square kilometers (177.28 square miles). The city has an estimated population of 371,750 and a population density of 810 persons per square kilometer.
UT Martin Chancellor’s Advisory Council Addresses Progress

The University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor’s Advisory Council, comprised of University of Tennessee Board of Trustees members and representatives from the student and alumni communities, met February 25 in the Dunagan Alumni Center to discuss the university’s progress toward key goals.

The most prominent topics of discussion included an accreditation update, a new tuition model for out-of-state students, enrollment goals and the creation of on-campus living-learning communities.

UT Martin’s accreditation concerns primarily involve the documentation of student learning outcomes and the use of this evidence to make informed future decisions. According to Interim Chancellor Bob Smith, UT Martin faculty and staff participated in workshops and training seminars to better understand the documentation procedures required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and almost all areas have completed preliminary reports.

A team of SACSCOC representatives will visit the campus in October to evaluate the university’s progress and make a decision regarding accreditation status. “Our goal is to come off probation status and move forward,” said Smith. “We will be moving forward as a much stronger institution because of these changes.”

Smith also used the meeting to present a new tuition model for out-of-state students which would help UT Martin become a more feasible financial option for students from other states. Smith hopes the board of trustees will approve a 33 percent reduction to out-of-state tuition and the creation of a new scholarship to further reduce costs for high-quality students who agree to live on campus and purchase a university meal plan. If this model is approved, future out-of-state students could save up to 56 percent on the cost of education.

The chancellor’s second major initiative mimics the University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s 15/4 plan, to be known locally as the “Soar in Four” proposal, which encourages students to register for 15 credit hours per semester and graduate in four years in order to save money and make the most of their university education.

According to Smith, 32 percent of UT Martin students’ debt is incurred in the fifth and subsequent years, and students who stay in college beyond four years spend almost $21,000 more per year than those who finish sooner. This money, along with additional loan costs and lost income potential, would more than offset the additional costs for the new program.

Jamie Mantooth, executive director, Enrollment Services and Student Engagement, presented details of the university’s enrollment efforts and projections for the coming fall 2016 semester. UT Martin spring enrollment is more promising than in previous years, and Mantooth expects to see improvements in the fall as well.

In conjunction with the enrollment effort, the university has also partnered with O’Brien Advertising, based in Denver, Colo., to develop a new marketing plan to reach potential students. The campaign began in mid-February and continues in West Tennessee and other targeted areas.

On-campus living-learning communities will be a new addition to campus life beginning with the fall 2016 semester. Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for academic affairs, is leading an effort to develop a program where students with the same major can live and interact in close proximity to each other in order to enhance productivity and collaboration with those in similar fields.

The program is based on the results of a student survey conducted in the spring of 2015 where 1,000 current campus residents were asked about their housing experience. According to Toston, this survey “indicated that they (students) want a more robust campus living experience and that they are interested in learning communities.”

Faculty in the areas of music, agriculture, criminal justice, engineering, nursing and pre-medical studies will recommend students who may benefit from involvement in the inaugural communities, which will be housed in Cooper Hall. Each area will have a special community room to create a space where staff, students, faculty, recruiters, professionals and community members in a particular field can interact and learn from each other.

Petra McPhearson, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration, gave an overview of the university budget and capital projects. The university has been able to regain some of the tuition revenue lost from a low fall 2015 enrollment and will be able to utilize those funds to finance deferred maintenance projects and other university needs.
Community members interested in careers as pharmacy technicians are encouraged to enroll in a 50-hour pharmacy technician training course. The class will be offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Thursdays, March 17-June 23, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center. This program prepares students to enter the pharmacy field and take the certification exam. Pharmacy technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other healthcare settings. Course content includes reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will also learn dosage calculations, IV flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement.

Student tuition for this course is $1,199, which includes textbooks and supplies. For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
Local students participate in Junior/Senior Day at UT Martin

Chad Edwards (left) and Danielle Harstin (center), both of Selmer, attended Junior/Senior Day on Feb. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students interested in attending UT Martin were invited to participate in the full Skyhawk experience, which included campus tours, a women’s basketball game, an administrative fair and opportunities to meet with faculty members in their academic areas of interest. Edwards and Harstin are both juniors at McNairy Central High School. They are pictured with Chad’s mother, Christie Edwards. The university will host Spring Preview Day on March 19 for interested students and families. For more information, visit utm.edu/departments/admissions/preview_day.php.

Huntingdon man accepted to leadership class

Dr. Brock Martin of Huntingdon is a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2016 class.

Martin is the owner of Southern Chiropractic and Acupuncture in Huntingdon. He currently serves as vice president of the Huntingdon Lions Club and is a Tennessee Promise mentor.

He is also a member of the Huntingdon industrial board, the Tennessee Chiropractic Association board of directors and the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Martin has also successfully completed both the Henry and Carroll County leadership programs.

The WestStar Leadership Program, created in 1989, is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. Boasting 739 graduates, WestStar continues to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. The 2016 class is the 27th in program history.
UT Martin freshman Myah Taylor (above) and Skyhawk women’s head coach Kevin McMillan were among several UTM players named All-OVC earlier this week. Taylor, a former Dyersburg High School standout, was tabbed for the All-Newcomer team after averaging 9.3 points and 19 minutes per game coming off the bench. She has scored in double figures 13 times. McMillan guided his team to a third straight league regular season title in taking his second straight top coach award. UTM headed into the conference tournament with a 21-8 overall record and 14-2 mark in league play.
McMillan, UTM trio top women’s OVC list

NASHVILLE — UT Martin was well-represented in the postseason awards handed out at the Women’s Basketball Celebration hosted prior to the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament on Tuesday night.

UT Martin head coach Kevin McMillan was named OVC Coach of the Year, while senior forward Haley Howard earned All-OVC first team honors and junior Jessy Ward garnered a spot on the second team.

Freshman Myah Taylor capped off postseason honors for the night, earning a spot on the All-Newcomer squad.

With McMillan’s award, he continues to make history not only at UT Martin but also in the OVC.

McMillan earned his second consecutive top coach honor, marking just the second time in league history that a coach has won the award in back-to-back seasons — matching Tennessee State’s Teresa Phillips from 1992-94. Leading a team which featured just seven healthy scholarship players for much of the conference season, McMillan led the Skyhawks to a 14-2 mark and the team’s third consecutive league title.

With an overall record of 21-8, the Skyhawks notched their fifth 20-win season under McMillan, just three wins off the single-season wins mark of 24.

A native of Whiteland, Ind., Howard posted a dazzling senior campaign in her second season in a Skyhawk uniform. After averaging just 3.4 points per game last year, Howard transformed her game into becoming one of the team’s top performers.

Howard has scored in double figures in 22 games while tallying 20 points or more on nine occasions. Posting an 89 percent clip from the free throw stripe, Howard ranks second in the conference in free throw percentage while sitting fourth in three-point field goals made per game (2.3), seventh in scoring (14.7 ppg) and ninth in field goal percentage (46.6).

Howard posted a four-game stretch midway through the conference season where she tallied four consecutive games with 21 points or more, including career-high 25-point performances against Southeast Missouri and Austin Peay. She tallied her first career double-double at Cincinnati, scoring 18 points while grabbing 12 rebounds. Howard is just the seventh player in program history to earn All-OVC first team honors.

A native of Clarksville, Ward improved over her promising sophomore campaign where she earned All-Newcomer honors, shooting her way onto the All-OVC second team. Ranking second on the team with 13.6 points per game, Ward has been efficient from beyond the arc throughout her career, scoring 558 of her 753 career points from beyond the arc.

This season, Ward ranks fifth nationally in both three-point field goals per game (3.41) and three-point field goals made (99).

Ward has scored in double figures in 19 games this season while eclipsing the 20-point plateau on six occasions. She kicked off the season with a new career-high, tallying 29 points on 11-of-18 shooting against North Dakota.

A native of Dyersburg, Taylor has played major minutes down the stretch for the Skyhawks, averaging 19.1 minutes per game in her debut season. Despite earning just one start on the season, Taylor has contributed 9.3 points per game off the bench while scoring in double figures in 13 contests.

Taylor heads into the OVC Tournament riding a season-long seven game streak where she scored in double figures, including a 19-point performance against SIUE. She began her career by tallying 22 points at North Dakota in the season opener.
Pharmacy Technician Certification Program

A 50-hour pharmacy technician training course will be offered from 8 a.m. til noon, Thursdays, March 17th through June 23rd, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center. Community members interested in careers as pharmacy technicians are encouraged to enroll.

This program prepares students to enter the pharmacy field and take the certification exam. Pharmacy technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies, and other healthcare settings. Course content includes reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will also learn dosage calculations, IV flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement.

Student tuition for this course includes textbooks and supplies.

For more information or to register contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.
UTM McWherter Institute participates in arts study

Students from the UT Martin Ned Ray McWherter Institute are participating in a national study called “Arts and Economic Prosperity 5”.

The study measures the economic impact of festivals, art shows, exhibitions and performances on more than 300 counties nationwide, including Weakley County.

McWherter Institute students are contributing by identifying community organizations that sponsor non-profit arts and cultural events and collecting data from people in attendance.

Participants hope to collect at least 800 surveys at events across Weakley County.

UTM associate professor of English and principal investigator of the study, Dr. Charles Bradshaw, says the study allows the students to provide a valuable service for the area, demonstrating the very real economic benefits that arts and culture events provide for Weakley County.

WestStar does county survey

The WestStar Leadership organization will be conducting a survey about Henry County this month.

The leadership program, based at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will be doing community assessments for 21 West Tennessee counties, including Henry.

Paris Mayor Carlton Gerrell and Henry County Clerk Donna Craig both recently completed WestStar training.

They sent an email to the Henry County community Friday encouraging countians to participate in the assessment “so we can assure services and programs needed by the citizens of our great county are provided.”

The assessment is available in two formats:

- Electronically at https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0zhnimoAioSYYqR.
- Manually at Rhea Public Library and at the Family Resource Center.

The surveys should be completed by March 25, according to Gerrell and Craig.

For questions or more information, contact the WestStar office at 731-881-7298 or by email at weststar@utm.edu.
UTM named to Top 50 schools for high school students seeking college credit

UT Martin has been included in the top 50 schools for high school students seeking college credit and among the top 30 colleges for those with ISTP personality types, as determined by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator.

Collegecounselorservices.com included UTM in its online list of “50 great schools where high school students can get college credit,” published in February. The schools listed were awarded points based on accreditation of concurrent enrollment programs, cost per credit hour, number of courses offered, number of high school partners and additional credit-earning options beyond concurrent enrollment.

Concurrent, or “dual,” enrollment is where a high school student can take university courses for college credit before receiving the high school diploma. These course options allow students to earn college credit at a reduced cost, save money and ultimately finish their degrees in less time.

At UT Martin, high school students can earn credit through onsite partnerships at their respective schools or through online or on-campus options. The university offers 12 online dual enrollment courses and 16 options through the extended campus centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer.

UT Martin has also been recognized as a good choice for those with ISTP personality types as determined by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. ISTP stands for “introverted, sensing, thinking, perception,” which is how the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator categorizes personality. Degreematch.org created a list of 30 colleges with fewer than 10,000 students enrolled that provide an environment compatible with the preferences of students with this personality type.

The website gathered information from the National Center for Education Statistics and U.S. News & World Report to rank schools by the overall cost of attendance, student-faculty ratio, U.S. News & World Report ranking and available ISTP areas of study. UT Martin offers a hands-on environment and many fields of study that may appeal to those with this personality type.

UTM named among top 50 for dual enrollment

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For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.
Westview seniors take top honors in engineering contest

By JAHAAAN JONES
Special to the Press

They say that the third time is the charm. For Bruce Hicks, 17, and John Sterrett, 16, both of Martin, not only is the third time the charm, but so were the first, second and fourth.

Bruce and John have competed in the Engineering Day Competitions, held on the campus of University of Tennessee at Martin, since they were freshmen at Westview High School, a total of four years straight now. This year, seniors Bruce and John placed first in the bridge building competition for the fourth time. The competition was comprised of bridge building, egg drop and paper airplane contests; Bruce and John placed second in the egg drop contest. The competition has specific rules and directions to ensure that all participants understand the purpose and have an equal playing field. The rules themselves encourage the students to think critically and find the simplest way to achieve the desired results.

The balsa wood bridge contest declares that the bridge with the largest ratio of mass held by the bridge, divided by the mass of the bridge, is the winner. Bruce and John built the bridge with the largest ratio, having a mass of 325 grams and loading the bridge with 48435.5 grams for a score of 149.03. Their bridge beat out competitors from Greenfield, Trinity Christian and Bruceton-Hollow Central High School.

When asked how Bruce got involved with the competitions, Bruce’s mother Kim Hicks said that Bruce just emailed UT Martin’s Department of Engineering Associate Professor Dr. Jeffrey McCullough, Ph.D. Dr. McCullough kept Bruce updated with the dates of competition and other engineering information.

Bruce says that he has always liked engineering but knew for sure around sixth grade that it was his future. Bruce, who also plays the trumpet, is a section leader and first chair for Westview’s marching, jazz, and concert bands and loves calculus. Planning to major in electrical engineering, Bruce has an all inclusive national merit scholarship for Mississippi State this fall.

Brian Hicks, Bruce’s little brother of Martin Middle School, participated in the engineering competition this year for the egg drop contest and placed first among primarily high schoolers. Brian says that he would love to do more exercises and contests inside the school instead of once a year.

John Sterrett is the son of engineers Doug and Laura Sterrett, who are co-founders of the Engineering Day Competition. John is also a senior at Westview and plays the trombone as a section leader and first chair for the marching, jazz and concert bands as well.

John plans to attend East Tennessee State University in Johnson City in the fall majoring in exercise science.

Founded some 20 years ago in the late 1990s by Doug and Laura Sterrett, this year the Engineering Day awards were staffed and organized by the Sterretts, Dr. Jeff McCullough, Lee Bennett, Mohammad Obadat, and Ray Witmer. The organizers say that they plan to continue the competitions as long as people are willing to participate. Although it is primarily thought to be for high school students, Ray Witmer says that the competition is open to high school, middle school and even grade school students.

The participants and staff want to see more involvement from not only schools all over West Tennessee, but individuals, parents and teachers.

Any school wanting to participate would be sent rules for each competition as well as any other necessary changes and information. Scheduling has been an issue as most schools are testing around the time the Engineering Day competition takes place.

By keeping engineering and science alive in schools, there is encouragement of the brain to continually develop and grow while allowing the hands to create endlessly. Allowing this kind of stimulation throughout the entire education journey for children as young as kindergarten leads to a more fun and beneficial future.

For more information about how to get involved with the Engineering Day Competitions, contact Dr. Jeff McCullough Ph.D. at jsmccullough@utm.edu or (731) 881-7585.
EGG DROP CONTEST — Among the events held during the Engineering Day Competitions at the University of Tennessee at Martin was an egg drop contest. Winners included (from left) Brian Hicks, Bruce Hicks and John Sterrett.

ENGINEERING DAY — The University of Tennessee at Martin recently hosted the Engineering Day Competitions. Among those serving as judges for the event were (from left) Lee Bennett, Dr. Jeff McCullough, Ray Witmer, Laura Sterrett and Mohammed Godgat.
Local residents accepted into

2016 WestStar leadership class

Greg Dozier, Elizabeth Pritchett and Art Sparks, all of Obion County, are members of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2016 class.

Dozier is the business development manager of Leaders Credit Union and currently serves on the boards of the Obion County Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, Adult Leadership Obion County and the Obion County Joint Economic Development Council. Dozier is also a Leadership Obion County graduate and a recipient of the Tennessee Soybean Festival Service Award. Sparks is a partner in the accounting firm of Alexander Thompson Arnold, PLLC. He currently serves on the boards for the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the Discovery Park of America and as chair of the Joint Economic Development Council for Obion County. Sparks is also a Leadership Obion County graduate, a recipient of the UT Martin Distinguished Service Award and was named “Accounting’s Finest” by Business Tennessee magazine.

The WestStar Leadership Program, created in 1989, is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. Boasting 739 graduates, WestStar continues to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. The 2016 class is the 27th in program history.

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

LOCALS PARTICIPATE IN STUDY — Students from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute will participate in a national study called “Arts and Economic Prosperity 5” during the 2016 calendar year. The study will measure the economic impact of festivals, art shows, exhibitions and performances on more than 300 counties nationwide, including Weakley County. Pictured are (from left) Becca Lund of Martin; Grace Robinson and Carol White, both of the Tennessee Arts Commission; Elizabeth Francisco, of Dresden; Emily McCartney, formerly of Greenfield, and Dr. Charles Bradshaw, UT Martin associate professor of English.
University of Tennessee at Martin alumni Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin (U.S. Army, retired) and Col. Henry “Hawk” Ruth III (U.S. Army, retired) have been nominated to join the U.S. Army Cadet Command Hall of Fame, located in Ft. Knox, Ky.

The Hall of Fame is being established in honor of the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Army Cadet Command, which manages Reserve Officer Training Corps programs across the country. Cavin and Ruth were locally honored for their service to the nation and UT Martin on Feb. 25 during halftime of the UT Martin basketball game against Tennessee State. They will be officially inducted during a national ceremony June 10.

Cavin received a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and a designation as a distinguished military graduate from UT Martin. He later received a Master of Arts degree in management from Webster University in St. Louis, Mo., and is also a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Cavin served as an air defense military officer for much of his career. He also served as both deputy commanding general and commanding general for the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery, and later as commander of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

In his final assignment as commander of the U.S. Army Accessions Command at Fort Monroe, Va., he was responsible for meeting recruiting goals within the Army active and reserve components; managing and conducting recruiting operations; and developing policies for initial military training and direct commission and appointments.

Cavin served in Kuwait during Operation Desert Thunder in 1997, and his career awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal and the Legion of Merit. After retirement from the armed forces, Cavin became vice president of international air and missile defense strategic initiatives and vice president of corporate business development for the Army and Air Missile Defense Programs.

He received the University of Tennessee at Martin Outstanding Alumni Award in 1999 and the 2015 Nashville Business Journal Outstanding Veteran Award.

Ruth is a Knoxville native and a member of the UT Martin ROTC Hall of Fame. In addition to his UT Martin degree, he is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and the Joint Forces Staff College. He received a master’s degree from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

He served in Vietnam as an infantry platoon leader and armor cavalry platoon leader, and has held command posts in Ft. Bragg, N.C.; Ft. Campbell, Ky.; and in Korea. Ruth also served in counter drug operations in the Panama Canal Zone and completed two different tours in the Pentagon. He is recognized as a founding member and company commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, also known as the “Night Stalkers.”

Ruth has received more than 23 military awards and decorations, including the Soldier’s Medal, the highest award for valor during peacetime. He also holds the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star and Master Aviator Wings.

Since his retirement, he has appeared as a military analyst on Fox News Network, is president of the AAAA Air Assault Chapter and owns a defense consulting firm, Hawk Assault Group. Ruth has remained active in the UT Martin community since his graduation in 1970 by providing Army aircraft displays, speaking at ROTC commissioning ceremonies and serving as a mentor to cadets and football team members.
Students at UTM institute to participate in arts study

Students from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute will participate in a national study, “Arts and Economic Prosperity 5,” during the 2016 calendar year.

The study will measure the economic impact of festivals, art shows, exhibitions and performances on more than 300 counties nationwide, including Weakley County.

UT Martin’s NRMI students will contribute by identifying community organizations that sponsor non-profit arts and cultural events and collecting data from people in attendance. Participants hope to collect at least 800 surveys at events across Weakley County.

“This study allows McWherter students an opportunity to observe how creativity and expression are integral components of communal life,” said Dr. Charles Bradshaw, UT Martin associate professor of English and principal investigator of the study.

“It also allows the students to provide a valuable service for the area, demonstrating the very real economic benefits that arts and culture events provide for Weakley County.”

“Arts and Economic Prosperity 5” is the largest national arts study ever conducted and the fifth in the past 20 years to measure the impact of arts spending on local jobs, income paid to local residents and revenue generated to local and state governments.

According to Americans for the Arts, the most recent national study was completed near the end of the Great Recession. This new study will examine how the arts have advanced during economic recovery and growth.

The study is hosted by Americans for the Arts, the nation’s leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education, and is locally funded by a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission.

For more information about the study, contact Bradshaw at (731) 881-7327 or by email at cbradshaw@utm.edu.

Trio performance, faculty recital set for next week at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host two public performances next week.

The University Trio will present a program at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, while Dr. Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music, will give a recital at 7:30 p.m. March 19. Both performances will take place in the Blankenship Recital Hall of the university’s Fine Arts Building.

The University Trio is comprised of UT Martin Department of Music faculty members Dr. Elaine Harris, professor of music, on piano, and Charles Lewis, adjunct professor, on the flute, as well as Dr. Krista Frye, adjunct professor of music at Bethel University, on clarinet.

The group will perform a variety of works including composer Eric Ewazen’s “Palisades Suite,” which musically explores the four seasons of nature, and Gwyneth Walker’s “Full Circle.”

Dr. Amy Yeung, UT Martin professor of voice, will join the trio as a soprano in Catherine McMichael’s “Dog Chronicles,” a whimsical look at dogs and their masters.

Dr. Wayne Crannel, director of the choral/vocal area at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, will accompany Mancusi during his faculty voice recital titled “Letters, Love and All That Jazz.”

Crannel served as Mancusi’s vocal instructor during the latter’s days at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. The pair will present a concert of solos, duets and vocal ensembles.

Both events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.
UT-Martin Honor Band Students Selected

Five Fayette Academy band students were recently selected for the University of Tennessee at Martin's 37th Annual Honor Band Festival. The Fayette Academy Band is under the direction of Daniel Hinson. Pictured left to right are Matthew Krosp, Madison Morris, Jacob Cronogue, NeeNee Lyons, Johnathen Glover, and Emya Park.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT - Taylor Allen, second from left, of South Fulton was recently presented a $500 scholarship from Troy, Tenn. Chapter #432, Order of the Eastern Star. The check was presented by Heather Sharp, left, Worthy Matron of the Chapter. Allen is the daughter of Amy Prather of South Fulton and is a junior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, majoring in elementary education. Her goal is to teach in the primary grades. Also pictured are Cheryl Cleek, secretary of the Chapter and Jim West, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. The Troy OES Chapter's scholarship is awarded each year to a college junior or senior who is a graduate of an Obion County School or a Weakley County School, first given in 2007. (Photo submitted)

LOCAL BOY SCOUTS EARN CHEMISTRY MERIT BADGES AT UT MARTIN CLINIC - The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society hosted a chemistry merit badge clinic for 16 area Boy Scouts on Feb. 6. The clinic included mini-lectures, demonstrations, a chemical magic show and tours of the UT Martin laboratory facilities. A Scout from Troop 43 in Fulton was among the participants. Pictured, front row, left to right, are Boy Scout Linus Pulley; middle row, SMACS members Amber Taylor, Sofia Oliva, Michaela Short and Benjamin Ide; Dr. Phillip Davis, professor of chemistry and clinic coordinator; and back row, SMACS members William Kuenzinger and Jacob Thompson. (Photo submitted)
LOCAL STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN JUNIOR/SENIOR DAY AT UT MARTIN – Andre Gregor, right, of South Fulton, attended Junior/Senior Day on Feb. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students interested in attending UT Martin were invited to participate in the full Skyhawk experience, which included campus tours, a women’s basketball game, an administrative fair and opportunities to meet with faculty members in their academic areas of interest. Andre is a junior at the University School of Jackson. He is pictured with his mother, Dr. Belinda Merritt. The university will host Spring Preview Day on March 19 for interested students and families. For more information, visit utm.edu/departments/admissions/preview_day.php. (Photo submitted)

WUTM NAMED BEST COLLEGE RADIO STATION IN THE SOUTH – WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the student-run campus radio station at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was named the “Best College Radio Station in the South” at the 2016 Southeast Journalism Conference, held Feb. 18-20 on the Austin Peay State University campus in Clarksville. This is the second consecutive year for the station to receive this award. Pictured are student staff members WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk” was named the Best College Radio Station in the South for the second year in a row at the 2016 Southeast Journalism Conference at Austin Peay State University. Pictured are student staff members, front row, left to right, Holly Seng, business and traffic director; Tori Seng, news director; Sydney LaFreniere, support and development director; Julia Ewoldt, administrative assistant; back row, Kayla Harmon, sports director; Ashleigh Burton, production director; Ashley Shores, digital media director; and Chuck Hammer, program director. (Photo submitted)
UTM Radio, Television stations awarded for outstanding journalism

The University of Tennessee at Martin's student-run radio and television stations and campus newspaper excelled at the 2016 Southeast Journalism Conference held Feb. 18-20 on the Austin Peay State University campus in Clarksville.

WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," UT Martin's student-run campus radio station, was named "Best College Radio Station in the South" for the second consecutive year. The station has received this honor five times in the past seven years and has ranked in the top three positions every year since 2007.

WUTM also received first place in the "Best College Audio News (Podcast)" category for the first time. The station has ranked in the top three positions in this category since it was created in 2011. UTM TV, the campus television station, received third place in "Best College Television Station."

The Pacer, the university's student newspaper, received ninth place in the "Best College Newspaper" category.

"I am, as always, incredibly proud of our students. They work for student media at UTM because they believe in the free flow of information, and they want the best experience they can get before entering the work force," said Tomi Parrish, instructor of communications and faculty adviser to The Pacer. "They don't do it to win awards, so this kind of recognition is particularly sweet."

Students who attend the Southeast Journalism Conference participate in two types of competitions: Best of the South and on-site challenges. In the Best of the South competition, students submit material in a variety of categories prior to the conference for third-party review. A total of 35 schools participated in this portion of the conference.

In on-site competitions, students must complete a variety of hands-on activities in their chosen categories and think on their feet to deliver the best day-of-performance. Twenty-three schools entered students in the various on-site contests, and students are able to compete in more than one category.

The individual awards for the Best of the South competitions are as follows: Best Radio Hard News Reporter: Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge, first place; Best Radio News Feature Reporter: Natalie King, a senior from Wingo, third place; Best Radio Journalist: Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, Tenn., third place; Best News-Editorial Artist/Illustrator: Joey Plunk, a junior from Bells, third place; Best Television Hard News Reporter: Ashleigh Burton, a senior from South Fulton, fourth place; and Best Magazine Page Layout and Design: Jared Peckonough, a senior from Finley, sixth place.

The individual awards for on-site competitions were: Radio News Reporting: Burton, first place; Current Events: Chuck Hamner, a senior from Martin, second place; Opinion-Editorial Writing: Ashton Priest, a sophomore from Obion, second place; Arts and Entertainment Writing: Chance Farmer, a senior from Union City, second place; Public Relations Team Competition: Laura Crosett, a junior from Jackson; Lyndsey Hayslett, a senior from Union City; and Barriana Woods, a junior from Memphis, second place; and Television Anchoring: Seng, third place.

The UT Martin delegation was named the third place on-site championship team overall with six individual awards. This is the highest finish UT Martin students have earned since the university began participating in the conference.

"This was an exceptional performance at the conference by our students in all areas of mass communications. The students competed against others from eight states, representing much larger programs in some cases," said Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser. "It was particularly gratifying to see us do so well in the area of television, and Rodney Freed certainly deserves the credit for that. These awards represent a lot of excellent work and it's great that (the students) received accolades for it."

The UT Martin Department of Communications is housed within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and includes concentrations in broadcasting, news editorial, media design and public relations.

For more information about WUTM, contact Robinson at 731-881-7555 or by email at robins@utm.edu. For more information about The Pacer, contact Parrish at 731-881-7558 or by email at tomirc@utm.edu.

UTM’s first Spring Preview Day is March 19

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it’s like to be a Skyhawk on March 19 at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s first Spring Preview Day of the year.

Attendees will find out about financial aid and scholarships, student organizations and housing options, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study. Families will also be able to speak with current students and tour UT Martin’s campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9-9:30 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9:30, followed by campus tours from 10:30-noon. The afternoon will be spent visiting academic departments of interest.

A second Spring Preview Day will be held May 14 for those who are unable to attend the March 19 date. Visit utm.edu/departments/admissions/preview_day.php to register for either date. There is no fee to attend.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admittance@utm.edu.
RHS/UTM students receive free software

UTM dual credit students at Riverside High School qualify for Microsoft Office 365 Pro Plus Student Advantage. The free software is another advantage of being a UTM student. Each student enrolled in the UTM Dual Enrollment program is eligible for the software package. The package includes Excel, OneNote, Outlook, Word, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher, and Lyne and can go with the students on their laptops. Several Riverside students have already received their software. Pictured (Front row L to R) Auston Phillips, Jacqueline Lazzari and Zach Mills; (Back row L to R) Phillip Jones (History Instructor), Hunter Jordan, Allie Oxford and Jacob Carroll.

UT Martin spring preview day set

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it's like to be a Skyhawk on March 19 at the University of Tennessee at Martin's first spring preview day of the year.

Attendees will find out about financial aid and scholarships, student organizations and housing options, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study. Families will also be able to speak with current students and tour UT Martin's campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum.

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Ned Ray McWherter Institute To Participate In National Arts Study

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“This study allows McWherter students an opportunity to observe how creativity and expression are integral components of communal life,” said Dr. Charles Bradshaw, UT Martin associate professor of English and principal investigator of the study. “It also allows the students to provide a valuable service for the area, demonstrating the very real economic benefits that arts and culture events provide for Weakley County.”

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University of Tennessee at Martin alumni Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin (U.S. Army, retired) and Col. Henry “Hawk” Ruth III (U.S. Army, retired) have been nominated to join the U.S. Army Cadet Command Hall of Fame, located in Ft. Knox, Ky. They were locally honored for their service to the nation and UT Martin on Feb. 25 during halftime of the UT Martin basketball game against Tennessee State. Pictured after the presentation are (from left) Capt. David Hadzima, UT Martin ROTC adviser; Dr. Bob Smith, interim chancellor; Cavin; Ruth; and Lt. Col. Lowell Howard Jr., professor of military science and leadership.

UT Martin Alumni Added To U.S. Army Cadet Command Hall Of Fame

University of Tennessee at Martin alumni Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin (U.S. Army, retired) and Col. Henry “Hawk” Ruth III (U.S. Army, retired) have been nominated to join the U.S. Army Cadet Command Hall of Fame, located in Ft. Knox, Ky.

In his final assignment as commander of the U.S. Army Accessions Command at Fort Monroe, Va., he was responsible for meeting recruiting goals within the Army active and reserve components; managing and conducting recruiting operations; and developing policies for initial military training and direct commission and appointments.

Cavin served in Kuwait during Operation Desert Thunder in 1997, and his career awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal and the Legion of Merit. After retirement from the armed forces, Cavin became vice president of international air and missile defense strategic initiatives and vice president of corporate business development for the Army and Air Missile Defense Programs.

He received the University of Tennessee at Martin Outstanding Alumni Award in 1999 and the 2015 Nashville Business Journal Outstanding Veteran Award.

Cavin is a Knoxville native and a member of the UT Martin ROTC Hall of Fame. In addition to his UT Martin degree, he is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and the Joint Forces Staff College.

He received a master’s degree from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

He served in Vietnam as an infantry platoon leader and armor cavalry platoon leader, and has held command posts in Ft. Bragg, N.C.; Ft. Campbell, Ky.; and in Korea. Ruth also served in counter drug operations in the Panama Canal Zone and completed two different tours in the Pentagon. He is recognized as a founding member and company commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, also known as the “Night Stalkers.”

Ruth has received more than 23 military awards and decorations, including the Soldier’s Medal, the highest award for valor during peacetime. He also holds the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star and Master Aviator Wings.

Since his retirement, he has appeared as a military analyst on Fox News Network, is president of the AAAA Air Assault Chapter and owns a defense consulting firm, Hawk Ruth Group. Ruth has remained active in the UT Martin community since his graduation in 1970 by providing Army aircraft displays, speaking at ROTC commissioning ceremonies and serving as a mentor to cadets and football team members.
Department of Music To Host Two Public Performances March 13-19

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host two public performances during the week of March 13-19. The University Trio will present a program at 7:30 p.m., March 15, and Dr. Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music, will give a recital at 7:30 p.m., March 19. Both performances will take place in the Blankenship Recital Hall of the university’s Fine Arts Building.

The University Trio is comprised of UT Martin Department of Music faculty members Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, on piano, and Charles Lewis, adjunct professor, on the flute, as well as Dr. Krista Frye, adjunct professor of music at Bethel University, on clarinet.

The group will perform a variety of works including composer Eric Ewazen’s “Palisades Suite,” which musically explores the four seasons of nature, and Gwyneth Walker’s “Full Circle.” Dr. Amy Yeung, UT Martin professor of voice, will join the trio as a soprano in Catherine McMichael’s “Dog Chronicles,” a whimsical look at dogs and their masters.

Dr. Wayne Crannel, director of the choral/vocal area at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, will accompany Mancusi during his faculty voice recital titled “Letters, Love and All That Jazz.” Crannel served as Mancusi’s vocal instructor during the latter’s days at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. The pair will present a concert of solos, duets and vocal ensembles.

Both events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

UT Martin’s J. Houston Gordon Museum

Vanishing Appalachia On Display Now - April 15

The newest exhibit at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s J. Houston Gordon Museum provides a glimpse into the lives and culture of Appalachia during the past 50 years.

The exhibit, “Vanishing Appalachia,” is on display now through April 15. Photographer Don Dudenbostel and field researcher Tom Jester documented many places, practices and personalities of the mountains, including moonshining, Mennonite communities, religious traditions, tourist courts and other typical mountain scenes. The photographs are accompanied by captions and field recordings.

The J. Houston Gordon Museum is located inside the Paul Meek Library to the left of the main lobby. The museum is open to the public from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., weekdays. There is no admission charge.

For more information, contact the museum at 731-881-7094 or by email at specoll@utm.edu.

Pictured above is Marvin “Popcorn” Sutton, a moonshiner from Haywood County, N.C., photographed in 2007 by Don Dudenbostel.
Dr. David Boland, chosen as the new principal at Lamar County high school, said “I am ready to roll up my sleeves and go to work,” after his unanimous appointment at a called meeting of the board of education last Tuesday.

Boland is presently serving his fifth year as principal at Cook County Middle School in Adel but has a background in administration at the high school level. He said he is “looking forward to getting back into the high school atmosphere,” especially given Lamar County’s reputation as a welcoming community where schools emphasize well-rounded students.

“I believe in shared leadership,” Boland said. “I am anticipating a leadership team where we discuss issues and come to a team decision. The teachers will work with me, not for me.”

Among his introductory duties at Lamar High, he said, is reviewing applications for the head football coach’s position. He anticipates a decision sometime soon.

Being a head football coach is more than just teaching and running games, Boland believes. He names his high school head coach, Jim Sroggins, as “the best Christian man I know - he is still my mentor and is still coaching at a little town in Florida, after coaching for more than 50 years.” The decision is an important one for now and the future, he said.

Boland played high school football at Terry Parker High School in Jacksonville, Fla. and in college at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He also held an administrative post and coached football at Brantley County High School in Nahunta.

Other sports he has coached include wrestling, golf and basketball, and he was advisor to a chapter of the Technology Student Association.

Boland says he is honored to take the principal’s position. He loves the high school level, with lots of sports and extra-curricular activities, and appreciates the “higher-level education courses offered at Lamar High.” Dr. Boland and his wife of 19 years, Stacy, plan to move to Lamar County in the months ahead and will enroll their children in Lamar County schools, said superintendent Dr. June Wilson. Victoria Boland is now a sophomore and Bryce Boland is in eighth grade.

“You can include that we are looking for a house,” Boland told The Herald Gazette.

He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, holds a master’s degree in educational technology from National University, earned his specialist degree at Albany State College and has a PhD from Trident University.

Boland signed his contract just after the board meeting, effective July 1, 2016. His base salary will be $110,739.00. The amount represents some savings to the board of education because “having a PhD and more than 20 years of experience raises the amount of state funds for the salary,” said Wilson.

Wilson said the resignation of present principal Matt Adams ends June 30, 2016, “which the standard for all 12-month employees.”

Wilson said in the school system’s press release, “While his last seven years have been in middle school administration, Dr. Boland’s first 16 years in education were all at the high school level, as an alternative school director, summer school director, engineering and technology teacher, special education teacher and health and physical education teacher.

“During Dr. Boland’s five years at Cook Middle School, the school’s CCRPI scores have increased almost 15 percent.”

Spring Preview Day To Be Held

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it’s like to be a Skyhawk on March 19th at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s first Spring Preview Day of the year.

Attendees will find out about financial aid and scholarships, student organizations and housing options, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study.

Families will also be able to speak with current students and tour UT Martin’s campus, which is a Level 1 Certified Arboretum.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9:30, followed by campus tours from 10:30 until noon. The afternoon will be spent visiting academic departments of interest.

A second Spring Preview Day will be held May 14th for those who are unable to attend the March 19th date. Visit utm.edu/departments/admissions/preview_day.php to register for either date. There is no fee to attend.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.
Coed presents research in Nashville

A CHS graduate was one of seven students from the UT System accepted by the Tennessee Board of Regents to present undergraduate research during the Posters at the Capitol event in Nashville on Feb. 25. Melanie M. Patterson is a senior health and human performance major at UTM.

Patterson is mentored by UTM assistant professor Dr. Ajit Korgaokar, who guided her in conducting the research presented in her poster titled Effects of Whole Body Vibration Training on Knee Osteoarthritis. Her research centers on the use and effects of a vibration plate in treatment for athletes and others with severe knee pain. The plate stimulates muscle contractions and places pressure on bones to increase muscle mass and bone density.

“This program was a great opportunity to share our creative research and significant discoveries from emerging problems to transform our communities in Tennessee,” said Patterson.

Every February, undergraduate researchers from across Tennessee convene at the Capitol to share their projects with state legislators. In its 11th year, this event provides students a forum to showcase their work and gain access to state leaders.

“The projects represent significant discoveries and achievements that build new knowledge, solve emerging problems, and expand creative thinking essential to a healthy, productive society,” says Joseph A. DiPietro, UT president. “Our undergraduates’ areas of expertise reflect world-class research that elevates our students and advances the frontiers of knowledge. We’re pleased to showcase these students’ work.”
UT Martin alumni find 'calling' with Final Flight

By NATHAN MORGAN
Special to the Press

Hunting days begin before dawn. A convoy of pickup trucks weaves down a meandering farm road somewhere in Obion County until headlights find a boat dock and a handmade sign: “Powers Landin’.”
The group abandons the pickups in favor of jonboats for the final leg of the journey. In the summer, this field is dry farmland; today it looks more like a lake.

The smell of coffee fills the air as sausage patties hiss on the griddle. This is duck hunting in style. Complete with two shooting days, a kitchen, electricity and satellite television, this floating fortress is home away from home for Jon Ed, Tripp and Kelley Powers for the 60 days between Dec. 1 and Feb. 1.

“If we just had a little more space on this side we could fit a couple of reclin-ers,” joked Kelley as the group waited for breakfast to finish.

Hunting for the Powers brothers is not just pleasure – it’s also business. Jon Ed ('95), Tripp ('97) and Kelley ('02) are co-owners of Final Flight Outfitters Inc., a retail, mail-order and e-commerce company specializing in anything and everything outdoors. Their 25,000-square-foot facility is located halfway between Martin and Union City at the corner of state Route 431 and Meek Road. And yes, it’s that Meek.

Dr. William Paul Meek, former executive officer, dean and chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, is their great-great-uncle. The Meek family once owned nearly 1,000 acres of land in the area, including the property where Final Flight sits today.

In fact, part of the existing building, now the main entrance of Final Flight, was once a convenience store, lunch room and service station owned and operated by J.R. (James Russell) Meek, Paul’s brother and the great grandfather of Jon Ed, Tripp and Kelley.

For the brothers, though, the UT Martin connection runs deeper than their relation to Paul Meek. All three graduated from UTM with degrees in agricultural business.

The oldest, Jon Ed, began his career with an agricultural chemical company before graduation, a job he credits to connections made during his time in Martin.

“UT Martin is a phenomenal school for getting your bachelor’s degree and then going on from there,” said Jon Ed. “It is a huge ag school … and it was founded that way, but a lot of folks that don’t have an ag background, or are maybe not from here, they don’t really realize that.”

Tripp, the middle brother, spent his time after graduation doing everything he could to avoid the family business – farming.

“All through college I never wanted to farm,” said Tripp. But after getting a taste of “the real world,” Tripp reevaluated his career choice and began farming after all.

The youngest, Kelley, was the last to cross UT Martin’s commencement stage, and by that time Final Flight was already beginning to take shape.

A Business Takes Flight

While growing up, Jon Ed remembers visiting sporting goods stores every time the Powers family went on vacation.

“That was like the highlight of the trip,” said Jon Ed. At the time, rural West-Tennessee didn’t have much to offer in the way of outdoor retailers.

There was no Internet, and ordering items elsewhere wasn’t easy. Even as a kid, Jon Ed dreamed of one day owning a sporting goods store – a dream his brother Kelley also shared.

“When you grow up around here, it’s kinda in your blood,” said Jon Ed about the outdoors and waterfowl hunting.

During his time at UTM, Kelley began entering duck calling competitions to become a better caller and hunter. “It’s a crazy red-neck hobby,” joked Kelley. Having never called competitively, Kelley didn’t know what to expect. But, he figured if he won some big contests he may eventually be able to capitalize on the winnings.

“This might be a way that I could get into the outdoor industry,” thought Kelley. It was far out there, but Kelley was motivated to make it work. “If I can win a big contest – maybe if I go and knock on the door of a company CEO … he would already know my name before I made that introduction. And then when I made the introduction, I would already be a leg up on somebody else,” he said.

But it wasn’t until 1999, when Kelley won the World Championship Goose Calling Contest in Easton, Md., that Jon Ed’s dream began to get some traction.

“That opened up a whole lot of doors and the possibility of starting a store,” said Jon Ed about his brother’s win. From there Kelley went on to win the World Goose Champion of Champions, the pinnacle of duck calling competitions. He is

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POWERS FEATURED — The Powers family has a strong connection to northwest Tennessee, with an extensive farming operation, as well as an internationally-known outdoors business — Final Flight Outfitters. The ever-growing business is located in the Midway Community between Martin and Union City. The business is owned and run by brothers (from right) John Ed Powers, Kelley Powers and Tripp Powers (partially obstructed). The brothers and their business are featured in the Winter/Spring edition of the Campus Scene magazine, which focuses on University of Tennessee at Martin alumni.

the youngest person to ever win the title.

Following his world championship wins, Kelley began to take the contests, and the opportunities they provided, a little more seriously. He realized that all the competitions he attended also had outdoor retail events associated with them. This was the opportunity he had been waiting for.

Kelley, with help from Jon Ed, began working with various retailers and setting up displays at the events he attended. The pair would buy products from the vendors, most of which were mom-and-pop operations, and resell them for a profit.

"Fortunately for us, people trusted us. At the time we didn’t have credit references, we didn’t have a whole lot of financial support, but you know, people that knew of us in the industry already knew that we were ‘good folks,’” said Kelley.

Some of the vendors they worked with included Higdon Decoys, Final Approach, Avery Outdoors, Outlaw Decoys and Mossy Oak. But perhaps the most interesting vendor they worked with was a company by the name of Duck Commander — the brand made famous by A&E’s hit reality show, Duck Dynasty.

“They were one of the first vendors we worked with, and we were friends with them. But, that was way before Duck Dynasty,” said Jon Ed. During that time, the entire Powers family became close with Phil, Miss Kay and the rest of the Robertson crew.

“They were almost like an extended family to us,” said Jon Ed.

In fact, during one of the Robertson’s visits to Obion County, Willie Robertson joked with Tripp about starting a reality show with him. Willie and Tripp even came up with some potential story ideas for the show, one of which was eventually featured in Duck Dynasty, season one, episode four — “Frog in One.”

“We had talked about going to a golf course to catch frogs and having the game warden chase us on a golf cart,” said Tripp. In the episode, Willie ditches his kids’ career day to go play golf with his brother, Jase. Later that night, the Robertsons return to the golf course to hunt prized bullfrogs they’d seen earlier in the day. Unfortunately for them, country club security
Final...

From Page 1

is also there, and they are captured and detained.

Although they occasionally still talk to the Robertson's, Jon Ed, Kelley and Tripp have moved on. "They're so busy, I hate to bother them," said Tripp.

From Humble Beginnings

During the early years, when the Powers would return from an outdoor show, they would pack all their product into an old florist trailer that had been parked on the family farm for as long as they could remember.

During hunting season, people would call and ask to meet them at the storage trailer. They would then go through the boxes, find what they needed and make the sale. This continued for several years until the brothers began to outgrow the trailer's confines.

By chance, the convenience store that their great grandparents, and eventually grandparents, once operated was still in the family. The brothers took over the vacant building and moved all their product to the new store.

"Basically, the store became a bigger storage trailer," said Jon Ed.

For a while, they used the store primarily as a meeting place. Eventually, however, as business grew, they began having "seasonal" hours, working around duck season.

They would open every year around the beginning of November and close in February. However, the hunting always came first.

"From daylight to noon, we were duck hunting -- that was just the way it was gonna be -- we didn't care," said Kelley. The store would open after that.

"At first, we didn't see the big picture," said Kelley. "The big picture for us was what's the wind gonna be tomorrow and were ducks gonna fly," he added.

"It was just kinda started as a hobby -- 'Okay, we'll see where this goes' -- I'd like to say we had grand plans of all this, -- but we didn't. If you had told us then we'd be what we are today, it would have scared us off," said Jon Ed.

From there, sales began to increase, to the point that the brothers began opening the store year-round. They would expand to make room for new product, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Brotherly Love

The Powers brothers have always known their places in the business. It was not something they discussed or planned; it just happened.

"It's funny with the three of us because of us kinda do different things, or have really different interests. Tripp is more of a 'hands-on' type of person and numbers and you know that kinda stuff, ... Kelley is the computer guy, and I guess with me being the older brother I'm kinda the 3,000 feet type of big picture guy," said Jon Ed.

More specifically, Jon Ed oversees the operation. Tripp serves as the accountant, inventory analyst and day-to-day operations manager, and Kelley manages advertising, the catalog, website and print media.

They're not involved in each other's business daily. "Now on big decisions, we, obviously, all consult. With all the other stuff, we just do the job that needs to be done," said Kelley.

However, working with your brothers is not always perfect.

"It can be interesting," said Jon Ed. "You hang around here a little bit, and you'd see some things. You'll see some arguments and stuff, it's not without that," he added.

"Obviously it can be challenging, and it can be fun too. There's a trust factor, you know? You always know where everybody's mind's at," said Kelley.

"It just works," said Jon Ed.

Help from UTM

In addition to members of their family, the brothers also employ about 35-40 part-time employees -- most of whom are students from UT Martin.

"I've always said this -- it seems like when first-time students -- they drive to Martin, they move into the dorm, they register for classes and then they come to Final Flight to put in an application. Well, to shop and to put in an application," joked Kelley.

The brothers agree: the benefit UTM students provide to their business is invaluable. "Our business would not function without UT Martin students," said Kelley. "We really pride ourselves in picking employees who know the products. That's helped boost our business," said Jon Ed.

They also give their UTM employees a lot of responsibility, which they say is a great learning tool. And in the end, they do whatever they can to help their employees find full-time jobs -- whether at Final Flight or somewhere else.

"I always say, 'Hey, if you can put up with us for four or five years, then you can work for anybody,'" said Kelley.

(This article was reprinted with permission from UTM Campus Scene.)
Local alumnus pilots aircraft to safe landing after bird strike

When a bird flew into the engine of a United Airlines jet bound from Houston to Germany on Sunday, it was a University of Tennessee at Martin alumnus who safely piloted the aircraft back to a Texas airport.

Sammy McCollum of Woodland Mills said Obion native Wayne Lanier was captain on the flight, one he makes on a routine basis.

McCollum and Lanier attended school together and are long-time friends who correspond regularly. They also jointly own a plane housed in Obion County.

“He sent an email yesterday saying it was his 'second attempt to get to Munich,’” McCollum said Tuesday morning.

United spokesman Maddie King told the Associated Press on Monday that nobody was hurt and the carrier made other arrangements for the passengers to fly to Munich.

See Local, Page 14

CLOSE CALL — University of Tennessee at Martin alumnus Wayne Lanier is shown next to an engine on a United Airlines jet he was piloting to Germany Sunday from Houston. Lanier safely returned the jet to George Bush Intercontinental Airport after a bird flew into the engine.

Local...

From Page 1

King said Flight 102 left George Bush Intercontinental Airport late Sunday afternoon when the bird strike happened. She had no immediate information on the type of bird strike or damage to the plane, which carried 184 passengers and 13 crew members.

The Boeing 767 landed in Houston around 6 p.m. Sunday.

Lanier, who lives in Willis, Texas, attended UT Martin before joining the Navy, where he was an aviator. He has more than 30,000 flight hours and plans to retire in a year, McCollum told The Union City Daily Messenger.
By DONNA RYDER
Special to The Press

Taelyn Wilkins of Union City was just a little 2-month-old baby when she was diagnosed with Wilms' tumor — a rare kidney cancer that primarily affects children.

Her mother, Marley Wilkins, and her grandmother, Corrine Kennedy of Union City, said it was a surprising and devastating diagnosis that took the little girl's right kidney at such a young age.

The diagnosis was confirmed by Dr. Susan Brewer of Martin, but it was an alert nurse — Jan Adams — at the Obion County Health Department who actually found the tumor on Aug. 24, 2012, they said. Taelyn was sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis the following Monday, where the tumor was removed and she underwent nine months of chemotherapy treatments.

Wilms' tumor most often affects children ages 3 to 4 and becomes much less common after age 5, according to staff at the Mayo Clinic.

Ms. Wilkins said it was a trying time. For the first four months, they stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in Memphis because Taelyn had to be at the hospital every week for the chemotherapy.

Taelyn's sister, Star Lynn Dixon, now 6, was unable to stay with them because of Taelyn's weakened immune system. Star Lynn's father lived in Memphis and she was able to stay with him and his family. She was only able to see her mother and new baby sister a few hours each week. Plus, Ms. Wilkins said, postpartum depression was "just kicking in." After the initial four months of weekly chemotherapy, the treatments decreased in frequency and they asked to be allowed to come home.

Taelyn is now 3 and her cancer is in remission.

Friday evening, the little girl was in very high spirits as she found out that she was the recipient of a Make-A-Wish Foundation trip to Walt Disney World in Florida.

She will get to take her mother, grandmother, Star Lynn and her little sister, 17-month-old Stormie Toombs.

Last year, Ms. Wilkins said Taelyn's caseworker at St. Jude told them she was old enough to apply for the wish program. She said Taelyn loves all princesses and is a "girly, girl" who loves wearing make-up, earrings and fingernail polish. She said the girls have known since last April when the family was interviewed, that something was going to happen, but until Friday, they didn't know exactly what wish would be granted.

Members of Chi Omega at the University of Tennessee at Martin helped Make-A-Wish Foundation officials with the reveal.

They transformed The Venue at Centerpoint Business Solutions on South Home Street in Union City into a mini-carnival, complete with a princess cake and cupcakes provided by E.W. James and Sons Supermarket. The girls even gave Taelyn a special Minnie Mouse shirt, complete with her name. In addition to gifts from Make-A-Wish, including movies and a DVD player for their airplane ride, Taelyn was surprised with a princess dress from JoAnn's in Union City and shoes designed by Jonathan Kayne of Project Runway fame.

He even made a sketch of Taelyn from a photograph he was provided and included a Mickey ears hat on her head. The Chocolate Bunny in Union City also gave Taelyn a stuffed animal.

The family will be staying at Give Kids the World Village, a 79-acre, nonprofit "storybook" resort in Central Florida. Their agenda not only includes Walt Disney World, they will be able to meet characters from Universal and do activities such as horseback riding.

Make-A-Wish® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human condition with hope, strength and joy. Each year, Make-A-Wish Mid-South fulfills the wishes of more than 240 children across the Mid-South. Founded in 1986, the Mid-South chapter has granted more than 4,800 wishes since inception. With the average cost of a wish being more than $8,000, the organization relies on fundraisers, corporate support and donations from the public to bring hope, strength and joy to families who need it most.

To learn more, visit www.midsouthwish.org.

Associate Editor Donna Ryder can be contacted by email at dryer@ucmessenger.com
WISH GRANTED — Make-A-Wish Foundation representatives (from left) Ashley Burrus and Sarah Beth Summers on Friday surprised 3-year-old Taelyn Wilkins (second from right) of Union City with a granted wish to go to Walt Disney World. Taelyn, who lost a kidney to Wilms' tumor, will get to bring her mother, Marley Wilkins; sisters, 17-month-old Stormie Toombs and 6-year-old Star Lynn Dixon; and her grandmother, Corrine Kennedy (not pictured) of Union City. Make-A-Wish Foundation was assisted with the surprise by members of Chi Omega at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Miss Robison to fight for arthritis patients

Reigning Miss Tennessee Hanna Robison of Springville will be in Washington, D.C., this week to advocate for more than 1.3 million Tennessee residents living with arthritis. Nationally, more than 50 million adults and 300,000 children have arthritis — the leading cause of disability.

Miss Robison competed in the 2015 Miss America pageant and, with five members of her family battling arthritis, made arthritis awareness her platform. As an Arthritis Foundation advocate, she helped recruit Rep. Jim Cooper to the Congressional Arthritis Caucus, and raised more than $28,000 for arthritis programs and research.

Because of her work with the foundation, Miss Robison received the Miss America National Quality of Life Award and today she will receive the Arthritis Foundation’s Emerging Leader in Advocacy Award during a dinner program to be attended by more than 400 foundation constituents and supporters.

While in Washington, D.C., Miss Robison will also participate in the Arthritis Foundation’s Advocacy Summit where she will meet with members of Congress and fight for state and federal legislation that will increase access to treatment and funding for better treatments and a cure.

UT Martin receives two national rankings

The University of Tennessee at Martin has been included in the top 50 schools for high school students seeking college credit and among the top 30 colleges for those with ISTP personality types, as determined by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator.

Collegecounselorservices.com included the university in its online list of “50 great schools where high school students can get college credit,” published in February. The schools listed were awarded points based on accreditation of concurrent enrollment programs, cost per credit hour, number of courses offered, number of high school partners and additional credit-earning options beyond concurrent enrollment.
Martin cleanup going on this week

UT Martin Recycles! and the City of Martin will sponsor a city-wide clean-up initiative coordinated by the Martin Beautiful Committee this week.

There are two ways to participate — you can select your own area to clean, or combine your efforts with a larger group and work on more substantial clean-up projects.

If you would prefer to work on your own, starting Monday you can drop by the UT Martin Recycling Center, located at 108 N. Moody St., to pick up a map of city sites that need attention. Or, if you prefer, you can select any public area for cleaning. Once you have gathered your waste, you should place it curbside where you would normally place brush or other items for trash pick-up. Please place items at the curb early on the day of your regular brush pick up, where Republic Services trucks will then collect it. They will collect brush and tree limbs, furniture, carpet and similar items, but hazardous materials such as oil, paint or chemicals will not be collected.

If you wish to combine your efforts with a larger group of volunteers, you’re welcome to meet on Saturday at the UT Martin Recycling Center, especially between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon. Those volunteers will comb the city of Martin focusing on areas selected by Led Symmes, the Martin Beautiful coordinator for this event, who will have designated specific neighborhood areas for special clean-up attention.

Volunteers may pick up trash bags and gloves all during this week by visiting the UT Martin Recycle Center.

The sponsors endorse recycling when and wherever possible. If you discover recyclable materials during the clean-up, you’re encouraged to take the materials to the UT Martin Recycling Center. The center operates Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 7 a.m.

Hollandsworth joins CareAll staff

CareAll Home Health is proud to introduce Anna Seratt Hollandsworth, RN, BSN as psychiatric nurse. Anna joined the CareAll team in July 2015 as Intake Liaison, but her love for patient care started long before.

She graduated sixth in her class from South Fulton High School in 2009. Anna attended the University of Tennessee at Martin and graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 2013.

Her specific field experience includes direct patient care in Home Health, Behavioral Health, Pediatrics and Medical - Surgical nursing. While attending UTM, Anna served as Student Instructor.

Anna’s spouse, Gaven Hollandsworth, is an educator at Trenton Rosenwald Middle School, teaching sixth grade History and coaching middle school football. The couple are proud parents of an energetic two year old, Ella Claire. Anna and her family reside in Weakley County.

Since 1985, CareAll has been a leader in Home Health Care throughout Tennessee. The goal has remained the same all these years: to offer you the ability to heal in the comfort of your own home. Whether it’s with Home Health or Private Duty services, CareAll specializes in helping you or your loved one manage life safely and maintain the highest quality of life possible. CareAll has expanded their ability to help patients and caregivers coping with Dementia, Alzheimer’s, Schizophrenia, Depression and a variety of psychiatric illnesses by adding Psychiatric nursing to their list of services. For more information on CareAll Home Health or services provided, call 731-587-2996 or visit careallinc.com

ANNA SERATT HOLLANDSWORTH
TBI releases 2015 ‘Crime on Campus’ report

http://www.wbbjtv.com/

March 15, 2016 by Dan Lampanello ([http://www.wbbjtv.com/pbcu/Dan-Lampanello]

JACKSON, Tenn. — New numbers released Tuesday shed new light on violence at colleges and universities across the Volunteer State. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation released its annual ‘Crime on Campus’ report and the statistics might surprise you.

The numbers show, overall, crime is down at colleges and universities, especially at our local schools. But the TBI said sex crimes are on the rise and it’s hoping this report will serve as a tool to change that.

“Our goal is a number of zero when the crime stats come out, we want to be zero,” Jackson State Community College Police Chief Darron Billings said.

Across the state, campus crime went down 7-percent between 2014 and 2015.

“The statistics let us know that we’re heading in the right direction as far as getting everything done,” Chief Billings said.

In Jackson and West Tennessee, our six colleges and universities fared better than average. Lane College saw a significant decrease in crimes like burglaries and assaults while Freed-Hardeman University had a slight increase in thefts. Jackson State Community College and Union University both stayed relatively the same with low numbers across the board.

“I see security making their rounds. They roll down their windows to check on me and wave at me,” Union student Rachael Edgren said. “I’ve never felt in danger on campus.”

The TBI said although overall crime is down forceable sex offenses like rape are up more than 25 percent. West Tennessee only saw one in 2015, that was reported by UT Martin.

Law enforcement attribute that low number, locally, to being proactive on campuses.

“The more that we report and the more that we’re active upon preventing it I think that we can get it back down to where it should be which is zero,” Billings said.

Although crime may never go away fully students said these statistics are the first step in bringing them even lower.

“People need to know what’s going on and people need to know if there’s a problem,” Edgren said. “They need to know where that problem is and then we can address it and figure out what to do about it.”

The University of Memphis-Lambuth Campus was also included in the TBI’s statistics but under the entire University of Memphis system, so we weren’t able to show the exact breakout for this particular campus.

The information used in the TBI’s ‘Crime on Campus’ report is submitted to them by the colleges and universities. You can read the entire report for yourself on the TBI’s website ([http://tn.gov/wbiv/text/Lampanello/attachment/2015_Crime_on_Campus_Final_Secured.pdf](http://tn.gov/wbiv/text/Lampanello/attachment/2015_Crime_on_Campus_Final_Secured.pdf)).

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CONGRATULATIONS - Bank of Milan Chairman Gary Maxwell congratulated Ashley Miller on becoming a member of the Board of Directors. Maxwell made the announcement last Thursday night during the annual shareholders meeting. Ashley is Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for the bank. She joined the bank in October 2006 as a loan assistant and assumed the role of Financial Officer in August 2008.

**Miller named director of The Bank of Milan**

Ashley Miller has been elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for Hometown Bancorp, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary, The Bank of Milan. This announcement was made at the Annual Shareholder’s Meeting on March 10, 2016.

Chairman Gary Maxwell, made the announcement and added that “Ashley has proven her value to our bank and its shareholders and we are proud to add her to our Board of Directors. Her experience as a Banker and her active involvement in the communities that we serve will prove beneficial to all concerned.”

Ashley currently holds the title of Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for The Bank of Milan. She joined the Bank in October 2006 as a loan assistant and assumed the role of Financial Officer in August 2008. Ms. Miller is a 2001 graduate of Gibson County High School and a 2004 graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, majoring in Economics concentrating in Finance. Ms. Miller is 33 years of age and attends Milan First United Methodist Church, where she serves as Co-Chairman of the Finance Committee. She also serves on the Information Technology Committee for The Bank of Milan and is a member of the Board for Milan Christian Learning Center. Ashley resides in Medina with her husband, Brian and their two children, Brady and Harper.
Local singers compete in ‘Death by Voice’ competition

HOW ARIA DOIN'? - Three local high school singers competed in the UT Martin 2nd Annual Death By Voice High School Aria Competition on February 23rd. Maggie Martinez, a junior at South Gibson County High School, Amanda Massengill, a senior at South Gibson County High School and Meleah Gateley a junior at Homelife Academy in Jackson. Meleah Gateley was named the winner of the competition and will be featured on the UT Martin Spring Choral Concert in April. Their voice teacher is Heather Korn of Trenton. Pictured are (from left) Heather Korn, Maggie Martinez, Meleah Gateley and Amanda Massengill.

UTM Jackson center to host act prep

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center is hosting a one-day ACT prep course just in time for the April 9 testing date. The course will be offered from 8 a.m.-noon or 1-5 p.m., March 26, at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

Students will learn to boost their scores and improve test performance by practicing test problems based on question frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test-taking strategies. Alex Beene, college and ACT advisor for Fayette County Schools, will direct the course and offer quick, efficient tips for test-taking.

The registration fee is $30 per person.

The UT Martin Jackson Center is located at 3031 Hwy 45 Bypass in Jackson.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ccos/nondegree.php.
Last Chance To Enroll In Reading Clinic

Students in grades 2-12 have one last chance to receive additional help from the University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center this spring. The Reading Center offers personalized sessions for students who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade-level reading standards.

The final spring session will be held March 24 – April 27. Each session will meet twice per week for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The registration cost is $100 per session (not per meeting), plus $25 for a required workbook.

Students are individually tested to determine specific needs in phonics and reading comprehension before being placed into a course of study designed to fill gaps in their skills and strategies. All lessons are taught by experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center.

Contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 to schedule a testing appointment.

University of Tennessee at Martin

Students Participate In National Model Congress

Six students from the University of Tennessee at Martin participated in the second annual National Model Congress Conference, Feb. 25-27, in Washington, D.C. Pictured during the conference are (l-r) Rikki Erwin, a sophomore from Brighton; Breydon Horton, a freshman from Camden; Justin Morgan, a senior from Cookeville; Dr. Anderson Starling, assistant professor of political science; Drew Cagle, a junior from Dyersburg; Dezie Gude, a junior from Jackson;
UT Martin-Jackson center to host ACT prep for students

The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center is hosting a one-day ACT prep course just in time for the April 9 testing date. The course will be offered from 8 a.m.-noon or 1-5 p.m., March 26, at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

Students will learn to boost their scores and improve test performance by practicing test problems based on question frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test-taking strategies. Alex Beene, college and ACT advisor for Fayette County Schools, will direct the course and offer quick, efficient tips for test-taking.

Beene is an author, journalist and Tennessee educator. He has been named one of the top forty under forty leaders in West Tennessee by the Jackson Sun and his work can be viewed in various publications throughout the Southeastern United States. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Mississippi.

The registration fee is $30 per person.

The UT Martin Jackson Center is located at 3031 Hwy 45 Bypass in Jackson.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.

UT Martin Fine Arts Faculty To Display Talents

Several faculty members from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will display their personal artwork during an exhibition titled “Clue.” The display will be open to the public March 15-27 in the university’s Fine Arts Building Gallery.

Department faculty members Jason Stout, associate professor; Sarah Haug, assistant professor; David McBeth, professor; Grace Eckert, lecturer; Dr. Carol Eckert, professor; and Diane Shaw, professor, will assemble an eclectic assortment of artistic styles, including abstract oil landscapes, three-dimensional work and mixed-media sculpture.

An opening reception will be held from 5-6:30 p.m., March 15, to welcome guests and introduce the artists to the community. Refreshments will be available.

The UT Martin Fine Arts Building Gallery is open 5-7 p.m., Tuesday; 1-7 p.m., Wednesday; 4-8 p.m., Thursday-Saturday; and 1-5 p.m., Sunday. There is no charge for admission.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
Robison attends arthritis event in Washington

Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison of Henry County has been in Washington, D.C., this week to be an advocate for more than 1.3 million Tennessee residents living with arthritis.

Robison has made arthritis awareness her major cause while making appearances as Miss Tennessee and while she was a Miss America contestant last year.

Five of her family members are battling arthritis.

She helped recruit U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper of Tennessee to the Congressional Arthritis Caucus, and raised more than $28,000 for arthritis programs and research.

Because of her work with the Arthritis Foundation, Robison received the Miss America National Quality of Life Award, and Monday night, she received the foundation's Emerging Leader in Advocacy Award during a dinner program attended by more than 400 foundation constituents and supporters.

While in Washington, she was to participate in the foundation's Advocacy Summit, where she was to meet with members of Congress and fight for state and federal legislation that will increase access to treatment and funding for better treatments and a cure.

Nationally, more than 50 million adults and 300,000 children have arthritis, according to the foundation.

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SINGERS COMPETE – Three local high school singers competed in the UT Martin Second Annual Death By Voice High School Aria Competition on February 23. Pictured are (from left) Heather Korn, Maggie Martinez, Meleah Gateley, and Amanda Massengill. Martinez is a junior at South Gibson County High School; Massengill, a is a senior at South Gibson County High School; and Meleah Gateley is a junior at Homelife Academy in Jackson. Gateley was named the winner of the competition and will be featured on the UT Martin Spring Choral Concert in April. Their voice teacher is Heather Korn of Trenton. Photo by Amy Gateley.
Alumni from UT Martin added to Hall of Fame

University of Tennessee at Martin alumni Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin (U.S. Army, retired) and Col. Henry "Hawk" III (U.S. Army, retired) have been nominated to join the U.S. Army Cadet Command Hall of Fame, located at Fort Knox, Ky.

The Hall of Fame is being established in honor of the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Army Cadet Command, which manages Reserve Officer Training Corps programs across the country.

Cavin and Ruth were locally honored for their service to the nation and UT Martin last month during halftime of the UT Martin basketball game against Tennessee State. They will be officially inducted during a national ceremony June 10.

Cavin received a bachelor of science degree in agriculture and a designation as a distinguished military graduate from UT Martin. He later received a master of arts degree in management from Webster University in St. Louis and is also a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Cavin served as an air defense military officer for much of his career. He also served as both deputy commanding general and commanding general for the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery and later as commander of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox.

In his final assignment as commander of the U.S. Army Accessions Command at Fort Monroe, Va., he was responsible for meeting recruiting goals within the Army active and reserve components, managing and conducting recruiting operations and developing policies for initial military training and direct commission and appointments.

Cavin served in Kuwait during Operation Desert Thunder in 1997 and his career awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal and the Legion of Merit. After retirement from the armed forces, Cavin became vice president of international air and missile defense strategic initiatives and vice president of corporate business development for the Army and Air Missile Defense Programs.

He received the University of Tennessee at Martin Outstanding Alumni Award in 1999 and the 2015 Nashville Business Journal Outstanding Veteran Award.

Ruth is a Knoxville native and a member of the UT Martin ROTC Hall of Fame. In addition to his UT Martin degree, he is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and the Joint Forces Staff College. He received a master's degree from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Ruth also served as a mentor to cadets and football team members.

Spring Preview Day set for Saturday

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it's like to be a Skyhawk on Saturday at the University of Tennessee at Martin's first Spring Preview Day of the year.

Attendees will find out about financial aid and scholarships, student organizations and housing options, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study. Families will also be able to speak with current students and tour UT Martin's campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9:30 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9:30, followed by campus tours from 10:30 to noon. The afternoon will be spent visiting academic departments of interest.

A second Spring Preview Day will be held May 14. Visit utm.edu/departments/admissions/preview_day.php to register for either date.

There is no fee to attend.
UT Martin students excel at journalism conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s student-run radio and television stations and campus newspaper excelled at the 2016 Southeast Journalism Conference held recently at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville.

WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” UT Martin’s student-run campus radio station, was named Best College Radio Station in the South for the second consecutive year.

The station has received this honor five times in the past seven years and has ranked in the top three every since 2007. WUTM also received first place in the Best College Audio News (Podcast) category for the first time. The station has ranked in the top three positions in this category since it was created in 2011. UTM TV, the campus television station, received third place in Best College Television Station.

The Pacer, the university’s student newspaper, received ninth place in the Best College Newspaper category.

Students who attend the Southeast Journalism Conference participate in two types of competitions: Best of the South and on-site challenges. In the Best of the South competition, students submit material in a variety of categories prior to the conference for third-party review. A total of 35 schools participated in this portion of the conference.

In on-site competitions, students must complete a variety of hands-on activities in their chosen categories and think on their feet to deliver the best day-of performance.

The individual awards for the Best of the South competitions were:
• Best Radio Hard News Reporter: Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge, first place;
• Best Radio News Feature Reporter: Natalie King, a senior from Wingo, Ky., third place;
• Best Radio Journalist: Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, third place;
• Best News-Editorial Artist/Illustrator: Joey Plunk, a junior from Bells, third place;
• Best Television Hard News Reporter: Ashleigh Burton, a senior from South Fulton, fourth place;
• Best Magazine Page Layout and Design: Jared Peckenpaugh, a senior from Finley, sixth place.

The individual awards for on-site competitions were:
• Radio News Reporting: Ms. Burton, first place;
• Current Events: Chuck Hammer, a senior from Martin, second place;
• Opinion-Editorial Writing: Ashton Priest, a sophomore from Obion, second place;
• Arts and Entertainment Writing: Chance Farmer, a senior from Union City; second place;
• Public Relations Team Competition: Laura Crossett, a junior from Jackson; Lyndsey Hayslett, a senior from Union City; and Barriana Woods, a junior from Memphis, second place;
• Television Anchoring: Tori Seng, third place.

The UT Martin delegation was named the third place on-site championship team overall with six individual awards, its highest finish yet in the contest.

COLLEGE STATION HONORED – WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the student-run campus radio station at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was named the Best College Radio Station in the South at the 2016 Southeast Journalism Conference held last month on the Austin Peay State University campus in Clarksville. The station’s student staff members are (from left, front row) Holly Seng, business and traffic director; Tori Seng, news director; Sydney LaFreniere, support and development director; Julia Ewoldt, administrative assistant; (back row) Kayla Harmon, sports director; Ashleigh Burton, production director; Ashley Shores, digital media director; and Chuck Hammer, program director.
Campus crime focus of annual TBI study; decrease reported

By CHRIS MENEES
Staff Reporter

Campus crime decreased last year at colleges and universities across Tennessee.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation earlier this week released its 2015 Crime on Campus report — an annual study which compiles crime data submitted to the agency by the state’s colleges and universities through the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System.

Among the local institutions included in the report are the University of Tennessee at Martin, Bethel University in McKenzie, Dyersburg State Community College and the Tennessee College of Applied Technology at Newbern.

Across the state, overall campus crime reported by Tennessee colleges and universities decreased by 7 percent from 2014 to 2015. (Continued from Page 1)

weapon law violation; two DUI offenses, one drunkenness offense, 18 liquor law violations and two trespassing offenses reported for 2015, according to the report, which listed total campus population of 7,292 for the 2015 fall term.

Campus population on the report includes both undergraduate and graduate enrollment, as well as staff, faculty and security personnel.

Bethel University had 12 assault offenses, two forcible sex offenses, 13 burglaries, 10 larceny/theft offenses, one fraud offense, two destruction/damage/vandalism offenses, seven drug/narcotic violations, two weapon law violations and 12 liquor law violations last year, when the total campus population was listed as 5,054 for the fall term of 2015.

For last year at Dyersburg State, where the total campus population was 2,800 for the fall term, the report listed one assault offense, three larceny/theft offenses, one fraud offense and one destruction/damage/vandalism.

No offenses of any kind were reported at TCAT-Newbern, which had a total campus population listed at 393 for the 2015 fall term. TBI Director Mark Gwyn said he hopes the 2015 Crime on Campus report will assist law enforcement, institution administrations and government officials in planning their efforts in the fight against crime and “continue to create an awareness that crime exists as a threat in our communities.”

“The threats to society by criminal activity must be addressed by efforts from all law-abiding citizens as well as law enforcement agencies,” he said in releasing the annual report.

Staff Reporter Chris Menees may be contacted by email at cmenees@ucmessenger.com.
Six students from the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) participated in the second annual National Model Congress Conference, Feb. 25-27, in Washington, D.C. The students represented real-world senators and representatives in writing, amending and passing bills through committees and in floor sessions.

The UTM delegation received an Honorable Delegation Award for their performance during the proceedings. Breydon Horton, a freshman from Camden, received a Distinguished Representative Award; Justin Morgan, a senior from Cookeville, received an Honorable Representative Award; and Rikki Erwin, a sophomore from Brighton, received a Distinguished Senator Award.

Jordan Long, a freshman from Martin; Dezie Gude, a junior from Jackson; and Drew Cagle, a junior from Dyersburg, also participated in the conference. The students were mentored by Dr. Anderson Starling, UTM assistant professor of political science.

The conference is open to students from domestic and international institutions. Participants introduced almost 50 bills during the mock Congressional session, but only three ultimately were signed into law by the Model Congress president at the end of the conference. Two of those bills were written and sponsored by the UTM students.

"The experience that is provided by the National Model Congress is second to none," said Long. "Since it is a new program, we will leave a lasting impression on the program forever with our skills and experience."

For more information on the National Model Congress, visit www.nationalmodelcongress.org or contact Dr. Starling at 731-881-7305 or astarlin@utm.edu.
UTM professor to speak on ‘Black Music of Brazil’

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty Women’s Club will host its annual Women’s History Month and scholarship luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. March 29, in room 206 of the Boling University Center. Dr. Julie Hill, professor of music, will serve as the featured speaker.

Hill’s address will discuss “The Black Music of Brazil: Music and Social Transformation.” In addition to her faculty position, Hill is also interim chair of the UT Martin Department of Music and the director of percussion studies. She is a UT Martin graduate and the current president of the national Percussive Arts Society.

Hill also received one of the inaugural University of Tennessee President’s Awards for her work with the Roots of Rhythm program, which teaches regional school children about the history of African culture through the evolution of its music.

Luncheon tickets are available for $13 per person, which includes a deli buffet, and may be purchased through March 22 at the Boling University Center Information Desk or by contacting club members Carla Field at mfield@charter.net or Annie Schommer at aschomme@utm.edu.
UT Martin seeks new chancellor

Chancellor

Continued from Page 1A

In December, UTM received notice from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools that the university would be placed on a 12-month academic probation, effective immediately. Since that time, UTM has hosted multiple workshops for faculty and made sure that the accreditation requirements were clear to all faculty and staff.

Both Smith and DiPietro said they expect the school’s probation to be recalled after they submit their progress report this fall. SACS’ decision on whether to extend UTM’s probation won’t be known until December, but DiPietro said the goal is to make sure the new chancellor will start with a clean slate in January.

DiPietro said the school’s next chancellor will have experience dealing with accreditation.

“I think it is important that [candidates] have some understanding of that,” DiPietro said. “Most people who are going to look at this job will have had some dealing with accreditors.”

Late last year DiPietro requested that Smith, who lived in Franklin prior to coming back to UTM, stay on as the university’s interim chancellor until a successor could be found. DiPietro said having Smith take on the responsibilities has been extremely helpful for the university.

Smith, who previously served as president of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, was selected as UTM interim chancellor in April 2015 following Tom Rakes’ decision to step down and return to teaching. Smith served as dean of UT Martin’s School of Arts and Sciences from 1987 to 1999.

“This institution is in an opportune place because of the interim leadership it has had from the standpoint of dealing with some of the issues it faces,” DiPietro said.

“And while there are always issues coming up around universities with managing, I think Dr. Smith’s leadership will be an advantage in recruiting a really high-caliber group of candidates to say this is an opportunity, it’s a good opportunity,” he said. “It’s not going to be easy, but it’s on the right track.”

The committee put together to help select the next chancellor consists of a wide variety of people including a University of Tennessee board member, two students, faculty and staff members, and an alumnus, among others.

DiPietro said the committee will select three to five finalists who will come to UTM beginning in late August to early September. The finalists’ names will be released, he said.

The UT Martin chancellor serves as a member of the UT System leadership team, reporting directly to the president, and as chief executive officer of the Martin campus, according to a news release. The chancellor is responsible for promoting continued development of UTM’s academic, research and service programs while striving to build a national reputation of excellence. The position is appointed by the president and elected by the UT board of trustees.

More information about the search, including the job description, is available on the search website at http://tennessee.edu/execsearch/utm-chancellor/

Reach Tyler at (731) 425-9629. Follow him on Twitter: @tyler_whetstone
Search under way for next chancellor at UT Martin

KNOXVILLE — Nominations are being sought for the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The UT Martin chancellor serves as a member of the UT System leadership team, reporting directly to the university president, and as chief executive officer of the Martin campus.

The chancellor is responsible for promoting continued development of UT Martin’s academic, research and service programs while striving to build a national reputation of excellence. The position is appointed by the president and elected by the UT Board of Trustees.

“As a university system, we’re on track to meet our most important goals,” UT President Joe DiPietro said.

“And UT Martin plays a very important role in fulfilling our mission to serve the state and people of Tennessee, especially first-generation college students and West Tennessee businesses and communities.

“I’m grateful to Dr. Bob Smith for his outstanding leadership as interim chancellor and devotion to addressing critical issues and strategic priorities. Because of all he’s accomplished in the last nine months, I am confident we are well-positioned for a successful search.”

Smith, who led award-winning innovations in enrollment management, improving retention and graduation rates and strengthening academic quality as president of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, was selected interim chancellor in April 2015 following Tom Rakes’ decision to step down as UT Martin chancellor and return to teaching.

The search committee, chaired by UT Chattanooga Chancellor Steve Angle, met for the first time Friday to discuss the search process, timeline, expectations of qualified candidates and position requirements.

The committee includes members of the UT Board of Trustees and UT Martin faculty, staff, student and community leaders. They are:

- Debi Adcock, administrative specialist, UT Martin
- Ruby Black, professor of nursing, UT Martin
- David Coffey, chair of the Department of History and Philosophy, UT Martin
- Teresa Collard, associate professor of communications, director of the Women’s Center, UT Martin
- Charley Deal, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and annual giving, UT Martin
- Brian Donavant, UT faculty trustee, interim executive director of extended campus and online studies, UT Martin
- Joe Exum, chair of the UT Martin Chancellor’s Round Table, UT President’s Council member
- Crawford Gallimore, UT trustee; chief financial officer, Hamilton-Ryker Company
- Jennifer Greenwood, professor and interim chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, UT Martin
- Bud Grimes, chief communication officer, UT Martin
- Richard Helgeson, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, UT Martin
- Sam Lewallen, president, Simmons Bank
- Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music, Faculty Senate president, UT Martin
- Petra McPhearson, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration, UT Martin
- Miranda Rutan, UT student trustee studying marketing and graphic arts, UT Martin
- Elizabeth Sanders, graduate student in family and consumer sciences, UT Martin
- Vicki Strickland Seng, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, UT Martin
- Candace Tate, alumna, UT Martin
- Margaret Toston, vice
Standing Stone State Park prepares for Spring Nature Rally

Posted Tuesday, March 22, 2016

BY AMY DAVIS

HILHAM — Redbuds are blooming, and critters are scurrying. It is spring, after all — which means it’s time for Standing Stone State Park’s 13th annual Spring Nature Rally.

“The event is highlighted by the setting itself, as mid-April is the peak blooming time for wildflowers at this beautiful park,” park ranger Shawn Hughes, event leader, said.

The two-day event kicks off April 15, featuring live animal shows, guided interpretive hikes, and numerous other presentations, workshops, guest speakers, youth programs and activities that showcase the park’s natural wonders.

“This year’s program schedule includes fun, educational sessions and activities on birds, snakes, bats, turtles, lizards, wild hogs, wildflowers, ginseng, butterflies, mushrooms, nature photography, wilderness survival, canoeing and more,” Hughes said. “Best of all, all programs and sessions are free.”

The park is located at 1674 Standing Stone Highway, Hilham, in Overton County. For more information, call 931-823-6347 or 1-800-713-5157.

The event schedule is as follows:

April 15

• 6 p.m. — “Around the World: Rainforest Life” with Bob Tarter of the Natural History Educational Company of the Midsouth in the park recreational hall. This program features live animal exhibits, including a green iguana, red-tailed boa, yellow-napped green Amazon parrot and white-nosed coatimundi.

• 7 p.m. — “Tennessee’s Birds of Prey” with David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks’ West Tennessee regional interpretive specialist in the rec hall. This live presentation features an American Bald Eagle, red-tailed hawk, barred owl and great horned owl.
• 8 p.m. — “Snakes of Tennessee” with Ray Jordan, retired Tennessee Tech University professor of herpetology in the rec hall. The program offers a first-hand look at some of Tennessee’s most misunderstood creatures. At 9:15 p.m., participants may touch a live snake.

• 9:15 p.m. — “Night Bat Walk” with Bob Tarter. Participants will meet at shelter 1 before a possible carpool. Required registration begins at 5:30 p.m. at the event information booth at the rec hall. Space is limited. The program will feature a straw-colored fruit bat before a walk.

April 16

• 7:30 a.m. — “Early birding” walk with John Froeschauer, Tennessee State Parks’ Middle Tennessee regional interpretive specialist, to look and listen for migrant and resident birds. Meet at shelter 1 for a possible carpool.

• 9 a.m. — “Kids Zone” with Standing Stone State Park ranger Shawn Hughes, who will introduce young participants to the park’s resident corn snake, “Elvis,” in the rec hall.

• 9 a.m. — “Photographing Wildflowers” with George Wallace, author and photographer for “What’s Blooming Now,” and environmental consultant Chris Fleming, who will offer hints on identifying wildflowers and capturing their beauty with photography. Meet at shelter 1 for a carpool.

• 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.— “Canoe Float” with Ranger Sarah Geeslin at the park boat dock for ages 10 and up. Life vest, paddles and canoes will be provided. Registration begins at 7 a.m. at the rec hall.

• 10 a.m. — “Around the World: Desert Life” with Bob Tarter at the rec hall. Live animal exhibits include a Savannah Monitor, Gila Monster, black-headed python, African Sulcata Tortoise and Harris Hawk.

• 10 a.m. — “Wildflower Walk” with Ray Jordan. Meet at shelter 1 and carpool to the Overton Lodge for an easy roadside hike.

• 11 a.m. — Kids Zone: “Calling all Jakes” turkey calling with members of the Overton County National Wild Turkey Federation Long beards at the rec hall.

• Noon — “Ginseng” with Andrea Bishop of the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas at the rec hall.

• Noon — Kids Zone: Nature scavenger hunt with Ranger Shawn Hughes at shelter 1.

• 1 p.m. — “Rainforest Life” encore presentation at the rec hall.

• 1 p.m. — “Rambling for Wildflowers” with environmental consultant Chris Fleming. Meet at shelter 1 for a rugged 1.5 mile hike.
1 p.m. — “Start Mushrooming” with mushroom enthusiast Paul Roe. Meet at shelter 2 to learn how to grow gourmet edible mushrooms.

2 p.m. — “Tennessee’s Birds of Prey” encore presentation at the rec hall.

2 p.m. — “Dazzling Butterfly Hike” with John Froeschauer. Meet at shelter 1 for a walk to learn about the butterflies inhabiting Standing Stone State Park.

3 p.m. — “Wild Feral Hogs” with SSSP park manager Chris Cole at the rec hall. The presentation highlights wild hog ecology and managements, history, biology, values and issues associated with wild hogs.

3 p.m. — Kids Zone: “Kids for Conservation” games and activities with Sarah Geeslin.

4 p.m. — “Desert Life” encore presentation in the rec hall.

4 p.m. — Nature photography workshop with George Wallace. Meet at shelter 2 to carpool.

5 p.m. — “Snakes of Tennessee” encore presentation in the rec hall.

5 p.m. — “How to Survive in the Woods” with Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of park management at the University of Tennessee at Martin, at shelter 1.

6:15 p.m. — “Touch a Snake” with Ray Jordan in the rec hall.

7 p.m. — A dinner provided by the Friends of Standing Stone will be available at the Park Tea Room. Meals are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Options include barbecue pork, hotdogs, veggie burgers and sides of chips, slaw, baked beans, cookies and tea or water. The meal is provided at no charge, but the Friends of Standing Stone will be accepting donations.

8 p.m. — Campfire: Tell stories, eat marshmallows and relax by the fire at the park amphitheater.

Standing Stone State Park and Forest covers nearly 11,000 acres on the Cumberland Plateau and is noted for its scenery, wildflowers, fossils and other natural diversity. It also has recreational opportunities, including fishing, boating, 10 miles of hiking trails, camping and more.
Local Boy Scouts earn chemistry merit badges

The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society hosted a chemistry merit badge clinic for 16 area Boy Scouts on Feb. 6. The clinic included mini-lectures, demonstrations, a chemical magic show and tours of the UT Martin laboratory facilities. Two Scouts from Troop 22 in Paris were among the participants. Pictured (from left) are SMACS members William Kuenzinger and Amber Taylor; Scout Zacharia Olson; SMACS member Jacob Thompson; Scout Preston Pooler; SMACS member Benjamin Ide; and Phillip Davis, professor of chemistry and clinic coordinator.

Local residents attend Martin donor banquet

Hannah Robison (center), a Henry County native who is a University of Tennessee at Martin student and is the current Miss Tennessee, is joined by her parents Rusty and Pam Robison at a donor event in Martin Thursday. Interim Chancellor Bob Smith and his wife, Ramona, hosted a Donor Appreciation Dinner in the university's Russell Duncan Ballroom. UT Martin students, faculty and staff welcomed donors and recognized them for their contributions to the university. Hannah Robison made remarks during the event.
Local students, families affected by Brussels attacks

March 22, 2016 by Dan Lampanello

JACKSON, Tenn. — For some in West Tennessee, Tuesday's terrorist attacks in Belgium have hit too close to home.

From local colleges with students studying abroad in the country to one young man who said his dad narrowly missed being in the Brussels' train station when a bomb went off, the impact of the attacks is far reaching.

"The first thing that went through my mind was 'what do we do? I have no idea what to do,'" Mallory Bowman said. "It was the first time I've ever traveled by myself."

Bowman is a student at Freed-Hardeman University studying in the city of Verviers, which is just outside Brussels. She luckily was in London when the bombings happened.

"We're trying to hold it together," Bowman said. "I was calling my mom and dad at two in the morning and saying 'something's happened, we're trying to figure it out.'"

Bowman is part of a group of 20 students from Freed, 12 of whom are still in Belgium.

"I do worry about them, but as of right now they've said they're in the facility and they're safe and they're not leaving," Bowman said. "So I know they're in a good spot right now."

The entire country is now sealed off as police search for those responsible for the attacks, leaving one West Tennessee father separated from his family after going on a business trip to Paris.

"He can't cross the Belgian borders from France anymore," Michael Player said. "So he's going to have to wait for them to open those back up before he's able to see my mom and two younger siblings who are still in Belgium."

Player, a UT Martin student, said his family is safe, but just two hours before the bombs went off at a Brussels train station, his father traveled down the same tracks.

"He took the train to Paris, and to get to that train he had to go through Maalbeek," Player said. "That's the station that was attacked."

Although the situation has instilled a lot of fear, these students said they are keeping the faith.

"Definitely a lot of fear and a lot of nervous feelings," Bowman said. "We kind of just said 'God's got this,' and we'll get through it all."

The group of students from Freed-Hardeman were not expected to travel back home until early May, but the group may choose to come back sooner once they have reunited.
Search for UTM chancellor continues

Nominations are being sought for the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The UT Martin chancellor serves as a member of the UT System leadership team, reporting directly to the University president, and as chief executive officer of the Martin campus. The chancellor is responsible for promoting continued development of UT Martin's academic, research and service programs while striving to build a national reputation of excellence. The position is appointed by the president and elected by the UT Board of Trustees.

"As a University System, we're on track to meet our most important goals," said UT President Joe DiPietro. "And UT Martin plays a very important role in fulfilling our mission to serve the state and people of Tennessee, especially first-generation college students and West Tennessee businesses and communities. "I'm grateful to Dr. Bob Smith for his outstanding leadership as interim chancellor and devotion to addressing critical issues and strategic priorities," DiPietro said. "Because of all he's accomplished in the last nine months, I am confident we are well-positioned for a successful search."

Smith, who led award-winning innovations in enrollment management, will return to teaching as interim chair of the Department of History and Philosophy. He will be succeeded by Tom Rakes, who has been named interim chancellor.

UTM Dance Ensemble to perform

The University of Tennessee at Martin Dance Ensemble will present its spring showcase titled "We are the Dancers" at 8 p.m., April 1-2, in the Fine Arts Building's Harriet Fulton Theatre.

The recital will showcase the choreography of student ensemble members Erin Windham, a senior from Nolensville; Annike Franz, an exchange student from Germany; Jayla Brown, a junior from Memphis; Christy Locke, a senior from Spring Hill; McKayla Cunningham, a sophomore from Union City; and Ciera Fielding, a senior from Jackson.

The show will also include a guest appearance by Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music. Young dance students from Good's Stepz Dance Studio, taught by Kimberly Schwartz, UT Martin dance education student, will also perform.

For more information, contact Sarah McCormick, associate professor of dance and ensemble director, at smccormick@utm.edu.

See UTM Page 6
Search Begins for Next UT Martin Chancellor

Nominations are being sought for the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The school based out of Martin, Tenn. hosts a satellite campus here in Selmer as well as several satellites at Ripley, Jackson, and Parsons.

The UT Martin chancellor serves as a member of the UT System leadership team, reporting directly to the University president, and as chief executive officer of the Martin campus. The chancellor is responsible for promoting continued development of UT Martin's academic, research and service programs while striving to build a national reputation of excellence. The position is appointed by the president and elected by the UT Board of Trustees.

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"I'm grateful to Dr. Bob Smith for his outstanding leadership as interim chancellor and devotion to addressing critical issues and strategic priorities," DiPietro said. "Because of all he's accomplished in the last nine months, I am confident we are well-positioned for a successful search."

Smith, who led award-winning innovations in enrollment management, improving retention and graduation rates, and strengthening academic quality as president of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, was selected interim chancellor in April 2015 following Toin Rakes' decision to step down as UT Martin chancellor and return to teaching.

The search committee, chaired by UT Chattanooga Chancellor Steve Angle, met for the first time today to discuss the search process, timeline, expectations of qualified candidates and position requirements.

The committee includes members of the UT Board of Trustees and UT Martin faculty, staff and community leaders.

More information about the search, including the job description, is available on the search website. The position is expected to be filled by the end of 2016.

ACT prep courses set April 2

Students hoping to raise their ACT scores in time for the April 9 testing date are invited to register for an ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon or 1-5 p.m., April 2, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center.

Students will learn to boost their scores and improve test performance by practicing test problems based on question frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test-taking strategies. Alex Beene, college and ACT advisor for Fayette County Schools, will direct the course and offer quick, efficient tips for test-taking.

Beene is an author, journalist and Tennessee educator. He has been named one of the top forty under forty leaders in West Tennessee and his work can be viewed in various publications throughout the Southeastern United States. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Mississippi.

There is a registration fee per person.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.
WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the student-run radio station on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin, is once again the Best College Radio Station in the Nation for colleges and universities with under 10,000 student enrollment.

The award was announced during the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Interschool Radio Conference held earlier this month in New York City.

WUTM also received a Platinum Award, the highest peer-reviewed award for overall broadcast excellence for a collegiate radio station, for the sixth consecutive year.

“Anytime you win an award like this you should be proud, but Dr. (Richard) Robinson and the staff of WUTM should be exceptionally proud, considering that this year we received four times the amount of awards entries as last year. The competition keeps getting better, but 90.3 The Hawk still keeps rising to the top,” said Christopher Thomas, president of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

“Besides being a media educator, I have over 25 years as a news director/anchor and programmer in two major broadcast markets, Dallas and Boston. WUTM operates on a level of professionalism that would impress me in any commercial station,” said Len Mailoux, chairman of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System and associate professor of communications at Simmons College in Boston. “I have gotten to know Dr. Robinson and his staff over the last few years and have always been impressed by how well everyone works together and supports each other and their eagerness to find ways of improving the station and its product.”

Student staff members collected four first-place awards and 15 slots as top-five finalists.

Chuck Hammer, a senior from Martin, was named the best program director in the country. Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, was recognized as the best news director in the nation, while Kayla Harmon, a senior from Lewisburg, won the top spot in the category for best sports director.

Ashleigh Burton, a senior from South Fulton, brought home the first-place trophy in the Best Spot News category for a piece produced with Blake Stevens of Brighton, who graduated in 2015.

Hammer was also a top-five finalist in five categories: best newscast, best campus news, best public affairs event/promotion, best sports play-by-play in baseball/softball and best sports play-by-play in the “other” category. Hammer and Jared Peckenpaugh, a senior from Finley, produced a piece on the UT Martin rodeo for the latter competition.

Ms. Burton was a finalist in four categories: best station promotion on SIRI, best celebrity/artist interview, best production director and best public affairs program. In the latter category, she edited and produced a piece called “Danger in the Shadows,” hosted by Ms. Seng, which investigates sexual assault on campus.

Toshy LaFreniere, a 2015 alum from Jonesboro, Ark., was a finalist for best news feature, best station blog and best social director. Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge, was a finalist in the category for best promotions director and Julia Ewoldt, a sophomore from Savannah, was a finalist in the competition for best public service announcement.

Robinson, associate professor and WUTM faculty adviser, was also a finalist for the Best Faculty Adviser award.

“I’m elated that the talented, hard-working student staff of WUTM and their faculty adviser, Dr. Richard Robinson, have yet again achieved national excellence — especially against the stiffest competition in IBS history,” said Dr. Robert Nanney, chair of the Department of Communications. “They make us all proud and underscore the great things that continue to happen in our department at UT Martin.”

According to Mailoux, this was the largest competition pool in the conference’s 76-year history with a 400 percent increase in the number of entries. Industry professionals from across the country judge the entries in each category.

The awards come on the heels of the station’s exemplary performance in February at the Southeast Journalism Conference, where the UT Martin station was named Best College Radio Station in the South.
Radio Recognition — WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the student-run radio station on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin, received two prestigious station awards and four first-place staff member finishes at the 2016 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System International Radio Conference held earlier this month in New York City. Among those honored at the conference were (from left) Tori Seng, a senior from Union City; Chuck Hammer, a senior from Martin; Dr. Richard Robinson, WUTM faculty adviser; Ashleigh Burton, a senior from South Fulton; and Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge.

http://www.wpslocal6.com/

UT Martin AD Freire has accepted position at Pittsburgh

Posted: Mar 23, 2016 1:05 PM CDT
Updated: Mar 23, 2016 1:05 PM CDT
By Jeff Bidwell

MARTIN, Tenn. — Julio Freire, who has served as the director of intercollegiate athletics at the University of Tennessee at Martin since January of 2014, has resigned his post to become the deputy athletics director for external affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. Freire’s resignation as Skyhawk director of athletics will take effect at a later date to be determined.

“It is with mixed emotions that I announce my resignation from UT Martin,” Freire said. “As I prepare for the next chapter in my family’s life and my profession at the University of Pittsburgh, I leave with fond memories of West Tennessee and UT Martin. Above all else, it is the very people that make this a wonderful community and university that I/we will miss the most. For me and my family, it will always be a great day to be a Skyhawk.”

Hired as the 12th athletics director in UT Martin history, Freire brought energy and passion from his first day on the job — stressing the academic, athletic and social

Ballroom dance class scheduled

Community members with basic experience in ballroom dance are invited to participate in a five-week course being offered from 6:30-8:15 p.m. Mondays from April 4-25 on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.

Following the introductory course offered earlier in the year, this class will build on the fundamentals and introduce new dances like the salsa, tango and mambo. Participants need not have completed the initial course but should have basic ballroom dance experience.

Fran Robinson, course instructor, has been dancing since age 5 and has led and taught ballroom dance for 30 years.

The class registration fee is $100 per person and $150 per couple. Singles are welcome to attend, but are not guaranteed a partner.

To register, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082.
Advanced Ballroom Dance Course Now At UT Martin

Community members with basic experience in ballroom dance are invited to participate in a five-week course offered from 6:30-8:15 p.m., Mondays, April 4-25 on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.

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Spring Dance Ensemble Set For April 1-2

The University of Tennessee at Martin Dance Ensemble will present its spring showcase titled “We are the Dancers” at 8 p.m., April 1-2, in the Fine Arts Building’s Harriet Fulton Theatre.

The recital will showcase the choreography of student ensemble members Erin Windham, a senior from Nolensville; Amnike Franz, an exchange student from Germany; Jayla Brown, a junior from Memphis; Christy Locke, a senior from Spring Hill; McKayla Cunningham, a sophomore from Union City; and Ciera Fielding, a senior from Jackson.

The show will also include a special guest appearance by Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, as she performs “The Story of Babar the Elephant” for piano and narration.

Young dance students from Goad’s Stepz Dance Studio, taught by Kimberly Schwartz, UT Martin dance education student, will also perform.

General admission tickets are $15, student tickets are $5 and children 12 years old and under may enter free of charge. Tickets are sold at the box office prior to each performance.

For more information, contact Sarah McCormick, associate professor of dance and ensemble director, at smccormick@utm.edu.

http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/

improvement of Skyhawk athletics. The 49-year-old Freire oversaw 12 athletic programs who exceeded the NCAA grade point average during the 2014-15 academic school year, presided over four Ohio Valley Conference team championships and directed an average of 4,000 hours of community service per year from Skyhawk student-athletes, coaches and staff members.

Freire made six head coaching hires (men’s basketball, baseball, rifle, cross country, volleyball, cheer) and implemented an internal restructure within the athletics department during his tenure at UT Martin. He increased the department’s corporate sponsorships by 200 percent, saw major gifts funding grow by 300 percent and was instrumental in several facility upgrades – including the final phases of the Hardy Graham Stadium renovation project.

Born in Tijuana, Mexico and raised in Tucson, Ariz., Freire was also selected as one of 12 members on the NCAA Women’s Basketball Oversight Committee, beginning that role in April of 2015.

In conjunction with today’s news, UT Martin Interim Chancellor Dr. Robert M. Smith met with the athletics staff to discuss the future of the athletics program. An interim athletics director will be named as soon as possible.

Dr. Smith noted the success of UT Martin student-athletes in competition, in the classroom and outside of athletics, which highlighted Freire’s often-stated focus on excelling academically, athletically and socially.

"Julio’s time at UT Martin has benefited the university greatly," Dr. Smith said. "He worked hard every day to continue moving us to the next level. He created excitement in our fan base and donor base. He will be missed."

Freire was quick to commend the UT Martin administration and athletic department staff for their trust, support, confidence and hard work.

"Thank you to former Chancellor Rakes for taking a chance on the Freire family," Freire said. "An additional thank you goes out to interim Chancellor Smith for allowing us to serve in our capacity for the past 10 months. The athletic department is in great hands with excellent and caring coaches, administrators and staff members. In short, they are providing the best possible student-athlete experience."

From: UTMSports.com
Search Begins For New UTM Chancellor

Nominations are being sought for the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

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"As a University System, we’re on track to meet our most important goals," said UT President Joe DiPietro. "And UT Martin plays a very important role in fulfilling our mission to serve the state and people of Tennessee, especially first-generation college students and West Tennessee businesses and communities.

"I’m grateful to Dr. Bob Smith for his outstanding leadership as interim chancellor and devotion to addressing critical issues and strategic priorities," DiPietro said. "Because of all he’s accomplished in the last nine months, I am confident we are well-positioned for a successful search."

Smith, who led award-winning innovations in enrollment management, improving retention and graduation rates, and strengthening academic quality as president of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, was selected interim chancellor in April 2015 following Tom Rakes’ decision to step down as UT Martin chancellor and return to teaching.

CHANCELLOR
From Page 1

chief financial officer, Hamilton-Ryker Company
Jennifer Greenwood, professor and interim chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, UT Martin
Bud Grimes, chief communication officer, UT Martin
Richard Helgeson, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, UT Martin
Sam Lewallen, president, Simmons Bank
Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music, Faculty Senate president, UT Martin
Petra McPhearson, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration, UT Martin
Miranda Rutan, UT student trustee studying marketing and graphic arts, UT Martin
Elizabeth Sanders, graduate student in family and consumer sciences, UT Martin
Vicki Strickland Seng, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, UT Martin
Candace Tate, alumna, UT Martin
Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs, UT Martin

Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, UT Martin
Linda Hendricks Harig, UT vice president for human resources, is serving as an Adcock, administrative specialist, UT Martin adviser to the committee.

Ashlie Czyz, director of HR programs and executive recruiter, is serving as executive recruiter.

More information about the search, including the job description, is available on the search website. The position is expected to be filled by the end of 2016.
PAL speaks to UTM class

Xavier Lawrence Andrews, left, gave a presentation to the Drugs and Behavior class at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center on March 16. The coalition discussed the growing use of hashish, also known as hash or "grass" among youth. The class was informed that marijuana is the most common and least powerful form of cannabis. It is made from dried plant leaves and flowers. Most of American cannabis is strictly the flower or bud of the plant and does not contain whole plants. The coalition also provided information to the class about the effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Lisa Kent, front row, is the instructor of the Drug And Behavior class at the UTM Ripley Center. The next coalition meeting will be held at the UTM Ripley Center on March 31 at 6 p.m. The anti-drug coalition encourages all concerned citizens to get involved in the fight for children. For more information, contact Andrews, PAL Coordinator, at 612-6337 or email xandrews@utm.edu.
Campus crime decreases; area numbers reported

By CHRIS MENNEES
Special to The Press

Campus crime decreased last year at colleges and universities across Tennessee.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation earlier this week released its 2015 Crime on Campus report — an annual study which compiles crime data submitted to the agency by the state's colleges and universities through the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System.

Among the local institutions included in the report are the University of Tennessee at Martin, Bethel University in McKenzie, Dyersburg State Community College and the Tennessee College of Applied Technology at McKenzie.

Across the state, overall campus crime reported by Tennessee colleges and universities decreased by 7 percent from 2014 to 2015, according to the report.

Assault offenses were up slightly — by 1.4 percent — statewide in 2015.

The overall category of sex offenses-forcible increased by 26.6 percent, which includes an increase in the number of reported rapes from 51 in 2014 to 56 in 2015.

Statewide, 29 percent of all 2015 offenses reported were categorized as larceny/theft. There were sharp decreases in the numbers of larceny/theft, burglary and robbery offenses reported statewide last year.

Locally, at UT Martin, there were 15 assault offenses, one forcible sex offense, five burglaries, 27 larceny/theft offenses, one counterfeiting/forgery, one fraud offense, one stolen property offense, 11 destruction/damage/vandalism offenses, 16 drug/narcotic violations, one weapon law violation, two DUI offenses, one drunkenness offense, 18 liquor law violations and two trespassing offenses reported for 2015, according to the report, which listed total campus population of 7,292 for the 2015 fall term.

Campus population on the report includes both undergraduate and graduate enrollment, as well as staff, faculty and security personnel.

Bethel University had 12 assault offenses, two forcible sex offenses, 13 burglaries, 10 larceny/theft offenses, one fraud offense, two destruction/damage/vandalism offenses, seven drug/narcotic violations, two weapon law violations and 12 liquor law violations.

last year, when the total campus population was listed as 5,054 for the fall term of 2015.

For last year at Dyersburg State, where the total campus population was 2,800 for the fall term, the report listed one assault offense, three larceny/theft offenses, one fraud offense and one destruction/damage/vandalism.

No offenses of any kind were reported at TCAT-McKenzie, which had a total campus population listed at 206 for the 2015 fall term.

TBI Director Mark Gwyn said he hopes the 2015 Crime on Campus report will assist law enforcement, institution administrations and government officials in planning their efforts in the fight against crime and “continue to create an awareness that crime exists as a threat in our communities.”

“The threats to society by criminal activity must be addressed by efforts from all law-abiding citizens as well as law enforcement agencies,” he said in releasing the annual report.

Staff Reporter Chris Mennees may be contacted by email at cmennees@ucmesenger.com.

Dance course offered

Community members with basic experience in ballroom dance are invited to participate in a five-week course offered from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m., on Mondays, April 4-25, on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.

Following the introductory course offered earlier in the year, this class will build on the fundamentals and introduce new dances like the salsa, tango and mambo. Participants need not have completed the initial course, but should have basic ballroom dance experience.

Fran Robinson, course instructor, has been dancing since the age of five and has led and taught ballroom dance for 30 years.

The class registration fee is $100 per person and $150 per couple. Singles are welcome to attend, but are not guaranteed a partner.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
WC juniors attend College Connection 2016 at UTM

Almost 260 juniors from the four Weakley County high schools attended College Connection 2016 on March 18 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Westview High School, Dresden High School, Greenfield High School and Gleason High School were all in attendance for the event.

“The ultimate goal is for (the students) to be exposed to post-secondary education opportunities, and having UTM right here in our backyard, here in Weakley County, is just the perfect place to start,” said Kerri Maddox, Education Edge coordinator, Weakley County School System.

“Not every student is interested in a four-year education, but they might see here today that, ‘Hey, this is a place where I might fit in.’”

Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, welcomed the students to campus and encouraged them to pursue higher education degrees after high school. He emphasized the importance of visiting a campus in person and encouraged the students to sample all the UT Martin campus has to offer.

Students attended group sessions with academic advisers based on the results of individual aptitude tests, ate with current students in the Skyhawk Dining Hall and were able to ask questions about the collegiate experience.

UT Martin will host a Spring Preview Day on May 14 for any interested students and their families. For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/previewday.

ATTEND CONFERENCE — Nearly 260 juniors from the four Weakley County high schools participated in College Connection Day on March 18 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Pictured are (from left) Cassy Gobel, from Dresden High School, and Attasen Washam, Darby Reed and Bethany Belew, all from Gleason High School. UT Martin will host a Spring Preview Day on May 14 for any interested students and their families. For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/previewdays.
STUDENTS PARTICIPATE — Nearly 260 juniors from the four Weakley County high schools participated in College Connection Day on March 18 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students attending were (from left) Mitchell Moore, Riley Holloman and Madison Arnold, all from Gleason High School, and Katie Rea and Makelle Milligan, from Westview High School. UT Martin will host a Spring Preview Day on May 14 for any interested students and their families. For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/previewdays

FIRST PLACE IN NATION — UTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the student-run radio station on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin, received two prestigious station awards and four first-place staff member finishes at the 2016 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System International Radio Conference held March 4-6 in New York City. Student staff members also claimed top-five finalist slots in 15 categories. Pictured at the conference are (from left) Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, “Best News Director”; Chuck Hamner, a senior from Martin, “Best Program Director”; Dr. Richard Robinson, WUTM faculty adviser and finalist for “Best Faculty Adviser”; Ashleigh Burton, a senior from South Fulton, first place in “Best Spot News”; and Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge; finalist for “Best Promotions Director.”
'The Hawk' voted Best College Radio Station in the Nation

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"Anytime you win an award like this you should be proud, but Dr. Robinson and the staff of WUTM should be exceptionally proud considering that this year we received four times the amount of awards entries as last year. The competition keeps getting better, but 90.3 The Hawk still keeps rising to the top," said Christopher Thomas, president of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

"Besides being a media educator, I have over 25 years as a news director/anchor and programmer in two major broadcast markets, Dallas and Boston. WUTM operates on a level of professionalism that would impress me in any commercial station," said Len Mailloux, chairman of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System and associate professor of communications at Simmons College in Boston, Mass.

"I have gotten to know Dr. Robinson and his staff over the last few years and have always been impressed by how well everyone works together and supports each other and their eagerness to find ways of improving the station and its product."

Student staff members collected four first-place awards and 15 slots as top-five finalists.

Chuck Hammer, a senior from Martin, was named the best program director in the country. Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, was recognized as the best news director in the nation and Kayla Harmon, a senior from Lewisburg, won the top spot in the category for best sports director.

Ashleigh Burton, a senior from South Fulton, brought home the first-place trophy in the "Best Spot News" category for a piece produced with Blake Stevens, of Brighton, who graduated in 2015.

Hammer was also a top-five finalist in five categories: best newscast, best campus news, best public affairs event/promotion, best sports play-by-play in baseball/softball and best sports play-by-play in the "other" category. Hammer and Jared Peckenaugh, a senior from Finley, produced a piece on the UT Martin rodeo for the latter competition.

Burton was a finalist in four categories: best station promotion on SIRI, best celebrity/artist interview, best production director and best public affairs program. In the latter category, Burton edited and produced a piece called "Danger in the Shadows," hosted by Seng, which investigates sexual assault on campus.

Toshya Leonard, a 2015 alum from Jonesboro, Arkansas, was a finalist for best news feature, best station blog and best social director. Sydney LaFreniere, a senior from Oak Ridge, was a finalist in the category for best promotions director, and Julia Ewoldt, a sopho-
Spring garden seminar set for next Saturday

Are you seeking ways to attract beneficial wildlife to your region, increase your butterfly population or improve your green thumb abilities with garden vegetables and annual plants? Then you should attend the “Spring Garden Seminar” sponsored by the Martin Beautiful Committee on Saturday, April 2, at UT Martin’s Boling University Center from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. The seminar is free and open to the public.

“I think people in the northwest Tennessee area will find the seminar to be especially informative because it will focus on the local climate, suitable plants for this region and growing patterns,” said Dr. Marvin Downing, history professor emeritus of the University of Tennessee at Martin and chairman of the Martin Beautiful Committee.

“Our guest speakers will have gardening information specifically related to this region that will directly benefit those who attend the seminar.”

The seminar’s guest speakers have expertise in gardening, wildlife management, the use of plants in design, and many other areas of interest to local gardeners.

Jason Reeves is the research horticulturist and the curator of the UT Gardens in Jackson, Tennessee, where he has developed the grounds using an exciting array of herbaceous and woody ornamentals, both for research and to illustrate adaptable plants and their best use in design. He also develops inspired themes for the Center’s annual field day, “Summer Celebration.” Reeves organizes and leads domestic and international garden tours, and, in 2010, became a contributing editor to Fine Gardening magazine.

Eric Pelren is a professor of Wildlife Biology at UT Martin. A native of Middle Tennessee, he moved with his wife, Suzanne, to Martin in 1997 after completing degrees at Berea College in Kentucky, UT Knoxville, and Oregon State University.

When he’s not in the classroom, Pelren enjoys trying to garden with his wife and kids (Laurel, 17, and Joseph, 15) and (somewhat more successfully) to manage his 25-acre property for wildlife.

Mike Biggs started Biggs Greenhouses in Greenfield 36 years ago, which now focuses on vegetable and bedding plants, garden seeds, annuals and perennials.

Biggs grows many “Proven Winners” and welcomes the area’s many Master Gardeners as well as casual gardeners. A native of Martin, Biggs graduated from Martin High and then attended UT Martin, completing both a B.S. in education and an M. Ed. there. He taught in the Greenfield School for 28 years, served as mayor for 12 years, and was named “Weakley Countian of the Year” in 2011 by the Chamber of Commerce. He married his college sweetheart, Nancy, almost 47 years ago. She is also involved in the behind-the-scenes work of the business.

The seminar will also feature vendors from area businesses that will offer plants and planting materials for sale, as well as information that will prove invaluable to local residents. The vendors include:

- Biggs Nursery, Greenfield
- Soleil Garden Center, Union City
- Peach Grove Nursery, Martin
- Greenway Nursery, Milan
- Martin Tree Board, Martin
- Community Gardens, Local Food Guide, Martin
- UT Martin Agronomy Club
- UT Martin Recycles
- UT Martin Growing Gardens

So plan on attending the Martin Beautiful Spring Garden Seminar. Your plants will thank you!
Athletics Director

Posted:

According to announced yesterday Bv
UT Updated: Mor
PADUCAH,Kv increased private donations From basketball "lf you now
Wells Martin
increased corporate sponsorships by 300 percent.

"One of the things Julio has done for us is he has caused us to step up our game," Smith said. "We don't want to lose that foundation."

In Freire's two years, he raised money and spent money in a way the athletic department hasn't done before, something that Smith wants in his next AD.

"I want the person to think innovative ways on how can we increase revenue from sources other than students and institutional funds," said Smith.

Which can be a tough job when you are in a small town like Martin, Tennessee.

"I believe here at Martin, they have to be able to outperform their resources," Freire said. "There is a direct correlation between resources at hand and competitive success."

"When you got 6,000 students instead of 12,000 students your resource difference is obvious," Smith said.

But despite those differences, UT Martin has won and competed for championships.

"We don't have to settle for mediocrity," Freire said. "And we don't have to be complacent."

"We do want to move up," said Smith. "We plan to be a very competitive member of this conference."

Now the job of finding Freire's replacement falls on UT Martin Interim Chancellor Robert Smith.

http://www.wbbjtv.com/
Cody Jarman, a 2015 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been selected for a Fulbright Scholarship Award.

The Fulbright Scholarship Program is named after J. William Fulbright, who spent more than 30 years in the U.S. Congress. Fulbright was dedicated to international affairs and remains the longest-serving chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, even after his death in 1995.

The scholarship program was founded in 1946 with unanimous Senate consent and has since sponsored thousands of students and professionals in all areas of study who wish to learn and work in other countries. Managed by the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the core program offers nearly 500 teaching and research awards in more than 125 countries.

Jarman, who graduated from UT Martin in December, received one of nine awards for students hoping to study in Ireland.

"I applied for this particular award because I felt a closer engagement with Irish culture would allow me to cultivate a more nuanced appreciation of its literature. Cork’s Master of Arts program offers a unique emphasis on contemporary writers and filmmakers, which will greatly widen my exposure to Irish literature and film," said Jarman. "I hope to use my time there to explore the tense relationship between imperialism, oppression and power that inspires many of the formal techniques used in African-American and Irish literature."

The Fulbright application process includes extensive application, essay and interview components. Jarman began the process last summer.

"I was extremely happy to be informed by the Fulbright U.S. Program representatives that Cody Jarman was selected as a finalist. I wasn’t surprised because Cody’s application was extraordinary," said Dr. Lionel Crews, Fulbright program adviser at UT Martin. "I know Cody will represent UT Martin and the United States well as an ‘ambassador’ to Ireland."

Jarman is already arranging to pursue a doctorate in English at the University of Texas at Austin following his year overseas.
The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will meet Thursday through Friday at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The meeting of the full board will begin at 12:30 p.m. Friday in the Boling University Center Ballroom and will be webcast live and archived for later viewing. A link to the webcast will be available at tennessee.edu.

Agenda items include:
- Ratification of revisions to 2015-16 goals under the performance-based variable compensation plan and a methodology for calculating the score
- Four-year comprehensive performance review of UT Institute of Agriculture Chancellor Larry Arrington and related compensation adjustment
- UT Martin undergraduate out-of-state tuition for 2016-17
- Amendment of the rule classifying students in-state or out-of-state
- Campus real estate transactions in Chattanooga, Memphis and Knoxville
- Fiscal year 2016 revised operating budget
- Revised campus master plans for UT Knoxville and the Institute of Agriculture and for UT Martin
- Honorary doctor of science degree, UT Knoxville
- UT Knoxville Vol Vision 2020 Strategic Plan Refresh
- UT Martin Faculty Handbook revisions
- Naming of UT Knoxville facilities

Various board committees will meet both days. All meetings will be held in the Boling University Center Ballroom on this schedule:

**Thursday**
- 1:30 p.m. — Research, Outreach and Economic Development Committee
- 3:15 p.m. — Finance and Administration Committee

**Friday**
- 8 a.m. — Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee
- 10 a.m. — Advancement and Public Affairs Committee
- 12:30 p.m. — Full Board

The meeting’s full agenda and materials will be posted at bot.tennessee.edu.

Prior to the committee meetings on Thursday, the board will have a non-public session with legal counsel to receive information about the pending lawsuit styled Jane Doe, et. al v. The University of Tennessee. No action, or deliberation toward any action, by the board concerning the lawsuit will occur in the non-public session or in the meetings scheduled for Thursday through Friday.

Anyone with a disability who wishes to attend this meeting may contact the individuals listed below to request auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate attendance.

Contact may be made in person, by writing, by email, by telephone or otherwise and should be received no later than 5 p.m. EST, Wednesday.
- Gina Stafford, (865) 974-0741, stafford@tennessee.edu, 823 Andy Holt Tower, 1331 Circle Park, Knoxville, TN 37996
- Jennifer Sicking, 974-5179, jsicking@tennessee.edu, P-265 Andy Holt Tower, 1331 Circle Park, Knoxville, TN 37996.

**UT board to meet**
KNOXVILLE (AP) — The University of Tennessee is looking for the next chancellor of the Martin campus.

Bob Smith has been serving as interim chancellor since last April. He followed Tom Rakes, who decided to step down and return to teaching.

UT said a search committee led by UT Chattanooga Chancellor Steve Angle has begun meeting to discuss the search process, timeline, expectations of candidates and position requirements.

The committee includes members of the UT board of trustees and UT Martin faculty, staff, student and community leaders.

The position is expected to be filled by the end of 2016.
UTM student Jarman awarded Fulbright scholarship

Cody Jarman of Cumberland Furnace has become the first student from the University of Tennessee at Martin to be selected for a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship.

Jarman will use this year-long grant to study Irish writing and film at University College Cork in Cork, Ireland, beginning September 2016.

The Fulbright Scholarship Program is named after J. William Fulbright, who spent more than 30 years in the U.S. Congress. Fulbright was dedicated to international affairs and remains the longest-serving chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, even after his death in 1995.

The scholarship program was founded in 1946 with unanimous Senate consent and has since sponsored thousands of students and professionals in all areas of study who wish to learn and work in other countries.

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“I hope to use my time there to explore the tense relationship between imperialism, oppression and power that inspires many of the formal techniques used in African-American and Irish literature.”

The Fulbright application process includes extensive application, essay and interview components, and Jarman began the process during the summer of 2015.

“I was extremely happy to be informed by the Fulbright U.S. Program representatives that Cody Jarman was selected as a finalist. I wasn’t surprised because Cody’s application was extraordinary,” said Dr. Lionel Crews, Fulbright program adviser at UT Martin. “I know Cody will represent UT Martin and the United States well as an ‘ambassador’ to Ireland.”

Jarman is already arranging to pursue a doctorate in English at the University of Texas at Austin following his year overseas.

Committee begins search for UT Martin chancellor

The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee is looking for the next chancellor of the Martin campus.

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The committee includes members of the UT board of trustees and UT Martin faculty, staff, student and community leaders.

The position is expected to be filled by the end of 2016.
UT Martin sponsors Retirement Planning course in Milan

The University of Tennessee at Martin is sponsoring retirement planning workshops in Milan for individuals and families interested in learning about the elements of estate planning. The course is scheduled for the second week of April.

The in-depth, six-hour courses will be offered in two, three-hour sessions on Tuesday, April 12, and Tuesday, April 19, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Rhino Conference Center, also serving as the headquarters for Rhino Construction, 2050 Rhino Crossing, Milan, TN 38355.

No specific products or investments are discussed in this educational course. Accredited Wealth Management Advisor J. Patrick McDowell, an investment advisor representative with FSC Securities Corp. and an affiliate of Radian Partners, LLC, will serve as the instructor. His full bio can be viewed at www.radianpartners.net.

The workshops are offered through the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. Topics include: creating your retirement; assessing retirement costs; evaluating income sources; investing for the future; protecting your health and wealth; receiving funds from your retirement plans; and managing your estate distribution.

Registration is $59.00 for two persons and covers instructional materials, including a 134-page textbook. Register through UT Martin at 731-881-7082 or online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/general/finance.php. Seating is limited.

SGC junior scouts UTM

GRAVES PARTICIPATES IN JUNIOR/SENIOR DAY AT UT MARTIN - Seth Graves (right), of Medina, attended Junior/Senior Day on Feb. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students interested in attending UT Martin were invited to participate in the full Skyhawk experience, which included campus tours, a women's basketball game, an administrative fair and opportunities to meet with faculty members in their academic areas of interest. Seth is a junior at South Gibson County High School. He is pictured with his mother, Brenda Graves.
Committee begins search for UT Martin chancellor

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee is looking for the next chancellor of the Martin campus. Bob Smith has been serving as interim chancellor since last April. He followed Tom Rakes, who decided to step down and return to teaching.

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The position is expected to be filled by the end of 2016.

Advanced digital photography course offered at UTM Parsons

Community members interested in digital photography are encouraged to register for an advanced course offered 6-9 p.m., Mondays, April 11-May 2, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center.

This course is designed to follow the basic digital photography course but is open to anyone familiar with digital camera operations and basic photography skills. Students will practice and receive feedback for creative imaging techniques in landscape, wildlife, portrait and close-up photography. The course will also include exercises in low-light and night time photography, field experiences and an optional day trip.

Roger Hughes will instruct the course. Hughes is a retired special agent in charge of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and has spent years photographing major crime scenes. He began studying fine art imaging at the University of Tennessee and the Rocky Mountain School of Photography under the mentorship of three acclaimed wildlife and nature photographers. Samples of his work may be viewed at www.nwtpc.org.

The registration fee for this course is $125 per person. In addition, students are required to bring their personal camera, operations manual and tripod. Print and email handouts will be available. Email and class evaluations of student images will also be utilized.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
Samuel Plank (center) receives AgStar graduation plaque from Joe McKinnon, TN Farm Bureau (left) and Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, UT Martin Professor & Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence (right), during recent graduation banquet in Jackson.

**Plank completes AgStar**

Samuel Plank of Bath Springs, was honored March 7 for completing the AgStar program. AgStar is a leadership program designed for current and future agricultural leaders. The program included six sessions in which the participants covered subjects such as lobbying, media communication skills, issues facing agriculture and involvement in local government. One session included a two-day trip to the State Legislature in Nashville.

Mr. Plank received a graduation plaque from Joe McKinnon, TN Farm Bureau, and Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, UT Martin Professor & Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence, and Director of Tennessee Governor’s School for Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Mehlhorn spoke to the graduates about the importance of being involved in their industry and community during the March 7 Graduation Banquet held in Jackson.

The Mission of AgStar is to empower agricultural producers and agri-business people with the leadership, technological, communication and policy skills to advance the agricultural industry and promote the quality of rural life. AgStar is open to anyone interested in the field of agriculture in the West Tennessee area and is sponsored primarily by the West Tennessee Leadership Development Corporation. Other sponsors include Farm Credit Services, The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Tennessee Farm Bureau, Tennessee Farmers Co-op, Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council, USDA Farm Service Agency, and University of Tennessee Extension.
McNairy County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Several McNairy County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year.

- **Ethan Ganus**, son of Dewyatt and Kim Ganus, of Adamsville, will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.
- **Mitchell Howie**, son of Timothy and Susan Howie, of Adamsville, will be a freshman. He received the Deans Scholarship.
- **Erin Johnson**, daughter of Joey and Jena Johnson, of Selmer, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.
- **Brooklyn Lipford**, daughter of Joseph and Melanie Lipford, of Bethel Springs, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.
- **Rylee C. Smith**, of Selmer, daughter of Stacey Smith and Kim Smith, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.
- **Tessa Tucker**, daughter of Amy Tucker, of Guys, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

UT Department of Music 2016 Spring Concert Season Continues

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will continue its spring concert season with performances by Studio D, the tuba/euphonium ensemble and the annual lyric opera during the week of April 3. All performances will take place in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building's Blankenship Recital Hall unless otherwise noted.

Music enthusiasts are encouraged to attend a performance by UT Martin's Studio D, an ensemble featuring saxophone and double-reed instruments such as the oboe and bassoon. The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m., April 3.

Those drawn to brass bands will enjoy the UT Martin Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble's spring recital at 7:30 p.m., April 5. The ensemble will present works by American composers such as John Stevens, Stephen Bulla and Winston Morris.

The group will also perform three classic hymns arranged by Daniel Scott, a local high school student, with the assistance of Dr. Bill Waterman, UT Martin instructor of music. Dr. Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music, will provide vocal accompaniment for this piece.

The spring concert series will continue with a faculty trombone recital at 7:30 p.m., April 7.

The week concludes with the annual Lyric Opera Theatre at 7:30 p.m., April 8-9, in the university's Fulton Theatre. This year's performance, "Once Upon A Fairy Tale," will highlight the stories of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "Little Red Riding Hood."

The opera version of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" was arranged by composer John Davies, who uses music to address childhood concerns and help children develop an interest in opera. This piece addresses the issue of bullying.

"Little Red Riding Hood" presents the classic tale of a little girl and the big bad wolf with a comical twist. These performances are perfect for children and families.

Lyric Opera tickets are $6 for adults. Children and students, with student ID, are admitted free of charge. Tickets can be purchased at the door prior to each performance.

For more information on these and other music events, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
African American Leadership Conference To Be Held April 19

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program will host the 18th annual African American Leadership Conference from 8 a.m.-2:15 p.m., April 19, at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson. This year’s conference theme is “Challenges and Opportunities.”

William Godwin, director of external affairs at One Chance Illinois in Chicago, will be the keynote speaker. Godwin is an attorney, real estate broker, entrepreneur and public speaker, and has served many years in higher education. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University and a law degree from the University of Chicago Law School.

A continental breakfast will be available beginning at 8 a.m., and attendees will be welcomed at 8:30 by Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, and Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. Godwin will present his keynote address at 8:45 followed by Dr. Reginald Williams, principal of the Memphis Academy of Health Sciences, who will address educational issues.

Darron Billings, chief of police at Jackson State Community College, will discuss personal value and Marchell Gardner, long-term care ombudsman for Northwest Tennessee, will present options for caring for aging parents.

After lunch, participants will hear Ed Stanton, U.S. Attorney General, West Tennessee District, speak on the subject of motivational leadership. Sgt. Derick Tisdale, public information officer with the Jackson Police Department, will close the conference with a discussion of how to combat current crime trends. Door prizes will be presented after the final speaker.

The conference cost is $35 per person, which includes breakfast and lunch. Participants must register with the WestStar Leadership Program office by April 13, and seating is limited. Interested parties may send a check to WestStar, UT Martin, 301 Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38237. Please include the name, business, address, phone number and email address of all participants. Registrants may also call 731-881-3298 to pay via credit card.

For information or for registration assistance, call Jordan Jones, WestStar administrative assistant, at 731-881-3298 or email jjone23@utm.edu.

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will meet March 31-April 1, at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The meeting of the full board will begin at 12:30 (CDT) on Friday, April 1, in the Boiling University Center Ballroom and will be webcast live and archived for later viewing. A link to the webcast will be available at tennessee.edu.

Agenda items include:

- Ratification of revisions to 2015-16 goals under the performance-based variable compensation plan and a methodology for calculating the score
- Four-year comprehensive performance review of UT Institute of Agriculture Chancellor Larry Arrington and related compensation adjustment
- UT Martin undergraduate out-of-state tuition for 2016-17
- Amendment of the rule classifying students in-state or out-of-state
- Campus real estate transactions in Chattanooga, Memphis and Knoxville
- Fiscal year 2016 revised operating budget
- Revised campus master plans for UT Knoxville and the Institute of Agriculture and for UT Martin
- Honorary doctor of science degree, UT Knoxville
- UT Knoxville Vol Vision 2020 Strategic Plan Refresh
- UT Martin Faculty Handbook revisions
- Naming of UT Knoxville facilities
- Various board committees will meet both days. All meetings will be held in the Boiling University Center Ballroom.

Here is a schedule of meetings:

**Thursday, March 31**
- 1:30 p.m. - Research, Outreach, and Economic Development Committee
- 3:15 p.m. - Finance and Administration Committee

**Friday, April 1**
- 8 a.m. - Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee
- 10 a.m. - Advancement and Public Affairs Committee
- 12:30 p.m. -Full Board

The meeting’s full agenda and materials will be posted at bot.tennessee.edu.

Prior to the committee meetings on March 31, the Board will have a non-public session with legal counsel to receive information about the pending lawsuit styled Jane Doe v. The University of Tennessee. No action, or deliberation toward any action, by the Board concerning the lawsuit will occur in the non-public session or in the meetings scheduled for March 31-April 1.

Anyone with a disability who wishes to attend this meeting may contact the individuals listed below to request auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate attendance. Contact may be made in person, by writing, by email, by telephone or otherwise and should be received no later than 5 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 30.
Freire leaving UTM to take post at Pitt

Julio Freire, who has served as the director of intercollegiate athletics at the University of Tennessee at Martin since January of 2014, has resigned his post to become the deputy athletics director for external affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

Freire's resignation as Skyhawk director of athletics will take effect at a later date to be determined.

"It is with mixed emotions that I announce my resignation from UT Martin," Freire said. "As I prepare for the next chapter in my family's life and my profession at the University of Pittsburgh, I leave with fond memories of West Tennessee and UT Martin. Above all else, it is the many people that make this a wonderful community and university that I/we will miss the most.

"For me and my family, it will always be a great day to be a Skyhawk."

Hired as the 12th athletics director in UT Martin history, Freire brought energy and passion from his first day on the job – stressing the academic, athletic and social improvement of Skyhawk athletics.

The 49-year-old Freire oversaw 12 athletic programs who exceeded the NCAA grade point average during the 2014-15 academic school year, presided over four Ohio Valley Conference team championships and directed an average of 4,000 hours of community service per year from Skyhawk student-athletes, coaches and staff members.

Freire made six head coaching hires (men's basketball, baseball, rifle, cross country, volleyball, cheer) and implemented an internal restructure within the athletics department during his tenure at UT Martin.

Freire increased the department’s corporate sponsorships by 200 percent, saw major gifts funding grow by 300 percent and was instrumental in several facility upgrades – including the final phases of the Hardy Graham Stadium renovation project.

UT Martin Interim Chancellor Dr. Robert M. Smith met with the athletics staff to discuss the future of the athletics program. An interim athletics director will be named as soon as possible.

"Julio's time at UT Martin has benefitted the university greatly," Dr. Smith said. "He worked hard every day to continue moving us to the next level. He created excitement in our fan base and donor base. He will be missed."

Locals Receive Scholarships

Two Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Logan Priestley, son of Brents and Shalyn Priestly, of McKenzie, will be a freshman. He received the Deans Scholarship.

Alyssa Stegall, daughter of Richard and Kay Stegall, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve 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.
Community courses available at UT Martin during April

The public may choose from a variety of classes offered through the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies during the month of April. Participants may enroll in one or more classes in advanced digital photography, conversational Spanish, French cooking, financial skills and dad-daughters ballroom dance.

Advanced digital photography is designed for those who already have a basic understanding of camera aperture, shutter speed and manual modes. Participants do not need to have taken basic digital photography to use lenses and filters, the in-camera histogram and other techniques. Classes will meet from 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays, April 5-19. The fee is $99 per person.

“Hola! Conversational Spanish” is interactive and will help participants feel more comfortable using basic Spanish phrases. Classes will meet from 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays, April 5-26. The fee is $65 per person or $95 for a couple attending together.

“Smart Money, Smart Kids” is a course designed to help parents teach their children about money management. Each meeting will focus on age-specific explanations and activities to help teach children at various levels. The course is directed by Sherree Sinclair, a certified public accountant with Public Consulting Group. The class will meet from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, April 7-21. The cost is $125 per household, which includes materials.

Dads and daughters ballroom dance is a great activity for fathers and daughters ages 8-12. Classes will be held from 9:30-11 a.m. Saturdays, April 9-30. The fee is $125 per father-daughter pair. Guests will be welcomed during the last class meeting.

A French cooking class will introduce participants to basic cooking skills while preparing a group meal. Students may choose to participate in the cooking or simply observe. Dinner will be from 6-9 p.m. April 12 and will be facilitated by Valerie Hendley, director of the International Language Center. The cost is $25 per person, plus a $10 supply fee payable to the instructor during class.

To register, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082.

African American conference slated for April 19 in Jackson

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program will host the 18th annual African American Leadership Conference on April 19 at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

This year’s conference theme is “Challenges and Opportunities.”

The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

William Godwin, director of external affairs at One Chance Illinois in Chicago, will be the keynote speaker. He is an attorney, real estate broker, entrepreneur and public speaker who has served many years in higher education.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a law degree from the University of Chicago Law School.

A continental breakfast will be available beginning at 8 a.m. and attendees will be welcomed at 8:30 by Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, and Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. Godwin will present his keynote address at 8:45, followed by Dr. Reginald Williams, principal of the Memphis Academy of Health Sciences, who will address educational issues.

Darron Billings, chief of police at Jackson State Community College, will discuss personal value and Marchell Gardner, long-term care ombudsman for northwest Tennessee, will present options for caring for aging parents.

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Door prizes will be presented after the final speaker.

The conference cost is $35 per person, which includes breakfast and lunch. Participants must register with the WestStar Leadership Program office by April 13 and seating is limited.

Anyone who is interested may send a check to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38237. Include the name, business address, phone number and email address of each participant. Registrants may also call (731) 881-3298 to pay by credit card.

For information about the conference or for registration assistance, call Jordan Jones, WestStar administrative assistant, at (731) 881-3298 or email jjone239@utm.edu.
At the college level

Two Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-17 academic year. Emma Bruner, daughter of Keven and Michelle Bruner of Martin, received the Dean's Scholarship. Audrey E. Long, daughter of Shane and Kristy Long of Union City, received the Excellence Scholarship.

UTM education program earns national ranking

The University of Tennessee at Martin offers one of the top 50 online master's programs in education management in the country, according to TopManagementDegrees.com. The university's master of science in education degree, which includes a focus in educational leadership, is the only Tennessee program to be included in this ranking.

For the rankings, TopManagementDegrees.com evaluated national programs that offer training toward educational leadership positions such as principal, vice principal, dean, director, superintendent or school business manager. Each program was evaluated based on reputation, prestige, accreditation, flexibility and estimated cost. Data was gathered from each program's website, as well as from U.S. News & World Report, the Princeton Review and the National Center for Education.

The UT Martin program is independently accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, formerly known as the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. The 33-credit-hour program requires students to have at least three years of teaching experience and includes core coursework, clinical supervision, a professional portfolio and licensure examinations.

For more information, contact the Department of Educational Graduate Programs at (731) 881-7128.
Local receives UT-Martin scholarship

A Benton County student has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Kerri Arnold, daughter of Keith and Karren Arnold of Holladay, will be a freshman at UTM this fall. Kerri received the Excellence Scholarship, which will award her $1000 per year for four years as long as she remains a full time student and maintains a GPA of at least 3.0 each year.

UTM sponsors retirement planning course in Milan

The University of Tennessee at Martin is sponsoring retirement planning workshops in Milan for individuals and families interested in learning about the elements of estate planning. The course is scheduled for the second week of April.

The in-depth, six-hour courses will be offered in two, three-hour sessions on Tuesday, April 12, and Tuesday, April 19, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Rhino Conference Center, also serving as the headquarters for Rhino Construction, 2050 Rhino Crossing in Milan.

No specific products or investments are discussed in this educational course. Accredited Wealth Management AdvisorSM J. Patrick McDowell, an investment advisor representative with FSC Securities Corp. and an affiliate of Radian Partners, LLC, will serve as the instructor. His full bio may be viewed at www.radianpartners.net.
Induction ceremony to be held

The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi will host its annual induction ceremony at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. A banquet will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the university's Duncan Ballroom.

Jennifer Hampton, current president of the UT Martin alumni council and a 2007 Phi Kappa Phi initiate, will serve as the banquet's keynote speaker. Hampton is an award-winning investment adviser and co-owner of Edward Jones Investments in Martin.

Both the induction ceremony and the banquet are open to the public. Tickets are $20 and may be purchased at the UT Martin information desk on the second floor of the Boling University Center.

The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi is America's oldest all-discipline collegiate honor society, and awards its members more than $700,000 annually to finance further academic study.

For more information on the event or about UT Martin's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, contact Dr. Chris Hill, associate professor of English, at (731) 881-7292 or by email at chrish@utm.edu.

Classes offered at UTM

Community members may choose from a variety of classes offered through the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies during the month of April.

Participants may enroll in one or more classes in advanced digital photography, conversational Spanish, French cooking, financial skills, and dads and daughters ballroom dance.

Advanced digital photography is designed for those who already have a basic understanding of camera aperture, shutter speed and manual modes. Participants do not need to have taken basic digital photography through UT Martin to participate, but should be prepared to handle advanced photographic composition and exposure. The class will include the use of lenses and filters, the in-camera histogram and important focusing techniques. Classes will meet from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Tuesdays, April 5-19. The fee is $99 per person.

"Hola! Conversational Spanish" is interactive and will help participants feel more comfortable using basic Spanish phrases.

Classes will meet from 6-8 p.m., Tuesdays, April 5-26. The fee is $63 per person or $95 for a couple attending together.

"Smart Money, Smart Kids" is a course designed to help parents teach their children about money management. Each meeting will focus on age-specific explanations and activities to help teach children at various levels.

The course is directed by Sherree Sinclair, certified public accountant, Public Consulting Group.

The class will meet from 6-8 p.m., Thursdays, April 7-21.

The cost is $125 per household, which includes "Smart Money, Smart Kids" membership materials.

Dads and daughters ballroom dance is a great activity for fathers and daughters from 8-12 years old. Classes will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m., Saturdays, April 9-30. The fee is $125 per father/daughter pair. Guests will be welcomed during the last class meeting.

Valerie's French cooking class will introduce participants to basic French cooking skills while preparing a group meal.

Students may choose to participate in the cooking or simply observe.

Dinner will be from 6 to 9 p.m., April 12, and will be facilitated by Valerie Hendley, director of the International Language Center. The cost is $25 per person plus a $10 supply fee payable to the instructor during class.

For more information on any course or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.

Weakley County students awarded scholarships

Two Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, office of enrollment services and student engagement.

- Logan Priestley, son of Brents and Shalyn Priestley, of McKenzie, will be a freshman. He received the Dean's Scholarship.
- Alyssa Stegall, daughter of Richard and Kay Stegall, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve 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.
Small business bootcamp seminar scheduled for April at UT Martin

Business owners looking for an innovative tool to help focus on the most pressing needs for their businesses are invited to the four-week Small Business Basics Bootcamp seminar series from 6-8 p.m., April 12, 19, 26 and May 10, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center.

The seminar series will focus on using GrowthWheel, a visual tool that provides structure and direction to help business owners set goals and take action.

The first session will introduce participants to GrowthWheel, followed by courses in financial awareness and accountability, advice on legal issues and ideas for small business marketing. This class is designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship. Participants who attend all four sessions will be awarded a graduation certification of completion.

The bootcamp registration fee is $25 per person. All materials are provided. Checks should be made payable to the UT Martin REED Center and mailed to 406 S. Lindell St., Martin, TN, 38237. Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

For more information or to register, contact the REED Center at (731) 587-7333. Online registration is also available at www.tsbdc.org/utm.

Hardin to speak at UTM next Thursday

Jeff Hardin of Savannah will speak at the University of Tennessee at Martin beginning at 7:30 p.m., April 7 in the Paul Meek Library.

Hardin’s presentation, "Imagining the Language, Imagining a Life," is part of both the university’s Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series and the Academic Speaker Series.

Hardin is the author of two chapbooks, "Deep in the Shallows" and "The Slow Hill Out," published in 2002 and 2003, respectively. He has also written four collections of poetry, "Fall Sanctuary," which received the Nicholas Roerich Prize from Story Line Press; "Notes for a Praise Book: "Restoring the Narrative," which received the 2015 Donald Justice Poetry Prize; and "Small Revolution," which is forthcoming in 2016.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Austin Peay State University and a master of fine arts degree in poetry from the University of Alabama. Hardin is currently a professor of English at Columbia State Community College.

Hardin will also facilitate a poetry workshop at 1 p.m., April 7, in room 308 of the UT Martin Andy Holt Humanities Building. The workshop, titled "Apostrophe/address poems: Who is this ‘you’ to whom we are speaking?" is free and open to the public. Hardin will also meet with several university classes and with students from Martin Middle School throughout the day.

The event is co-sponsored by Dr. Anne Meek, UT Martin Honors Programs and the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

Meek is the daughter of the late Paul Meek, who led the Martin campus from 1934-67.

Samples of Hardin’s poetry can be found at jeffhardin.weebly.com.

For more information on the Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series, contact Sam Richardson, Paul Meek Library interim director, at (731) 881-7065.
ROOTS OF RHYTHM — Jacob Har- 
grove, a freshman from Bartlett, is shown 
participating in the studio's Roots of 
Rhythm performance tour. The percussion 
studio presents this program to schoolchil-
dren across West Tennessee each year to 
teach them about African-American music 
and its influence on other genres.

UTM Percussion hosts World Bizarre

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Percussion 
Studio will host a World Bizarre fundraising event 
Friday. The event will be 
held at 7 p.m. at the Soleil 
Garden City, 2317 Nailling 
Drive, in Union City. 
A $10 ticket includes live 
music, food and drinks 
throughout the night. UT 
Martin music students and 
faculty members will per-
form a variety of music 
from around the world. 
International students cur-
rently attending UT Martin 
will also appear to perform 
their native musical works 
alongside the ensemble. 
The event will also in-
clude a silent auction fea-
turing gift certificates, 
artwork, instruments and 
other items. Local artist 
Les MacDiarmid will be 
on-site painting an image 
of John Lennon in his Ser-
geant Pepper outfit as part 
of the auction. This finish-
ing oil pastel painting will 
be available at the end of 
the night to the highest 
bidder.

Door prizes will also be 
available throughout the 
night. Door prize entry 
tickets are $1 each. Pro-
ceeds from this event sup-
port student study-abroad opportunities, community 
outreach projects, guest 
educators and the purchase 
and repair of percussion 
instruments and sheet mu-
sic.

For more information, con-
tact Dr. Julie Hill, Direc-
tor of Percussion Studies, 
at (731) 881-7418 or by 
email at jhill@utm.edu.
By KEVIN WEAKS
Messenger Sports

The UT Martin athletic department is currently in limbo. It could be in transition for a long time.

Replacing athletic director Julio Freire won’t be done in a matter of days, weeks or even months. It might not even be done once.

“At this stage of the game, I have not entirely finalized how we’re going to proceed,” said Dr. Robert Smith, UTM’s interim chancellor, in a telephone interview with The Messenger on Wednesday.

“We'll appoint an interim, and that will buy us time to gather our thoughts to see how we’re going to move toward naming a permanent appointment.

“What complicates that is that I know that I’m of a limited duration, and anyone who applies for the position would know that, too. It’s hard to go through a search and hire somebody, and then maybe even before they get here, have a new chancellor to report to. I think that will adversely affect the quality of the pool, but that’s why we’re buying this time with a first interim. What we might wind up doing is having a second interim that serves a period of time until the new chancellor is in, and then allow that person to hire someone she or he is most comfortable with.”

Smith was only expected to stay on the job until the summer, but he now will remain until Jan. 1.

The chancellor has been contacting coaches and other members of the athletic department for their input on the process.

“The idea is to appoint someone to handle the day-to-day things for the immediate future and then for us to sit down and go over the options,” Smith said. “I’m committed to doing his as a collaborative experience. At the end of the day, our coaches and staff need to own this process. This is going to be their supervisor. There are a variety of options, so I need to make this initial appointment so that then we can thoughtfully consider the options we’re going to go through.”

While coming up with an overall hiring process has been hampered by Smith’s status as an outgoing administrator, simply finding someone to take the position on an interim basis has been slowed by timing.

Freire announced on Thursday that he was leaving UTM after just over two years to take a position in the University of Pittsburgh athletic department. The following day was, of course, Good Friday, and Smith chose not to contact people about the position over the Easter weekend.

In addition, the full UT Board of Trustees will be conducting two days of meetings on the UTM campus beginning today. Smith began making contact with athletic department staff on Monday, but even that has been difficult as some coaches are out on the recruiting trail.

Smith pointed out that the AD position requires a special skill set that includes in-depth knowledge in compliance and legal issues. He said he doesn’t rule out coaches or people who have a successful athletic background, but noted that “I want to make sure when we pick someone, we’re picking someone who has the skill sets to be the AD.”

He indicated that something else has to be taken into consideration throughout the search process as well.

“Julio did a great job for us,” Smith said. “He was out there and visible. He’s a tough act to follow in many regards, so many people in the community, people on campus
and clearly the folks in the athletic department want this to be a serious consideration. And, they don't want a caretaker. They don't want to lose the momentum that we have going, so that's why this two-step to three-step was actually advised to me — get someone immediately, get everyone around and go through a process to go with second interim so that person flow into the next chancellor, and have the chancellor conduct a search."

Someone who can run the office on a day-to-day basis is the immediate need, and Smith said finding that person becomes his top priority as soon as the gavel comes down on the trustee meetings.

Among the ideas Smith is considering is one that seems, to use a cliché, outside-the-box in some ways but one that has been implemented at other schools. "There are people out there whose profession is serving as interim athletic directors," he said. "They move from institution to institution dealing with these situations. I knew that was true for presidents and chancellors because I know a lot of those people and you could argue that I am one of them. But, I'm only one because my heart is in this institution. So, in a sense, that is a possibility because one of the points that is important to me is a recognition that this is a job with professional responsibilities."

Smith indicated that he has been given the names of nearly a dozen people who have "great contacts and respect within the community" and has also received many inquiries from people in other states — names he's never heard of — pursuing the job. Those prospective applicants make Smith leery, however, because "I want people running to a job, not running from one."

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**McNairy County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin**

Several McNairy County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Ethan Ganus, son of Dewyatt and Kim Ganus, of Adamsville, will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.
- Mitchell Howie, son of Timothy and Susan Howie, of Adamsville, will be a freshman. He received the Deans Scholarship.
- Erin Johnson, daughter of Joey and Jena Johnson, of Selmer, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.
- Brooklyn Lipford, daughter of Joseph and Melanie Lipford, of Bethel Springs, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.
- Rylee C. Smith, of Selmer, daughter of Stacey Smith and Kim Smith, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.
- Tessa Tucker, daughter of Amy Tucker, of Guys, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve 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.