Training course available

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a 90-hour phlebotomy technician training course from 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from Sept. 12 through Dec. 14 on the main campus.

Student tuition for this course is $1,799, which includes textbooks and supplies.

This program prepares students to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Students will also develop comprehensive skills to perform venipunctures completely and safely.

Classroom and lab work includes terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, specimen hands-on practice and training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods.

The National Healthcare Association certification exam is given at the end of the course and costs an additional $105. The instructor will arrange for registration and payment prior to the exam. There is no outside externship rotation included with this program.

Class will not meet Nov. 23. This same course will also be available at the UT Martin Jackson Center from 5:15-8:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from Sept. 12 through Dec. 19.

If anyone interested has worked on a farm of any kind in the past two years, he or she may qualify for financial assistance through the Tennessee Opportunity Programs. For additional information, contact Sherry Fowler, career manager with Tennessee Opportunity Programs, at (731) 696-4860.

For more course information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7104 or visit utm.edu/departments/non-degree/martin.

At the college level

The Educational & Memorial Foundation of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA) recently awarded scholarships to two West Tennessee area residents for the 2017-18 academic year.

The recipients are University of Tennessee Martin student Samantha Morgan and University of Tennessee at Chattanooga student Kelli Clause.

Ms. Morgan also received special acknowledgement, as determined by the TSCPA Scholarship Awards Committee. She received the TSCPA West Tennessee Scholarship Award, given to a student attending a West Tennessee Chapter area university or college.

TSCPA awarded a total of $250,000 in scholarships to over 100 students attending 17 colleges and universities throughout Tennessee this year.

UT Martin schedules medical assistant class

Anyone wishing to prepare for a career in healthcare is invited to register for the clinical medical assistant program to be held on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

The course will be offered from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays from Sept. 9 through Feb. 17, 2018.

Student tuition for the program is $2,599, which includes all supplies and textbooks.

This program will train students to assist physicians by performing functions related to the clinical responsibilities of a medical office. Instruction includes preparing patients for examination and treatment, routine laboratory procedures, diagnostic testing, the cardiac lifestyle and technical aspects of phlebotomy.

Students will also review important topics including phlebotomy, pharmacology, the proper use and administration of medications, taking and documenting vital signs, professional workplace behavior, ethics and the legal aspects of healthcare.

This program includes 140 hours of classroom lecture, hands-on labs and a clinical externship opportunity at a local healthcare provider. To be eligible for the clinical rotation, students must successfully complete the program and submit to a thorough background check and drug screening, among other requirements.

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be eligible to sit for the National Healthcare Association Certified Medical Assistant national examination.

Classes will not meet Nov. 25, Dec. 23, Dec. 30 or Jan. 13, 2018.

If an interested party has worked on a farm of any kind in the past two years, he or she may qualify for financial assistance through the Tennessee Opportunity Programs. For additional information, contact Sherry Fowler, career manager with Tennessee Opportunity Programs, at (731) 696-4860.

For more information about the UT Martin course or to register, contact the Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7104 or visit utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs, general classes and the Martin campus.
Annual dinner, auction set at Dyersburg State

Dyersburg State Community College will host its annual alumni dinner meeting and silent auction Sept. 19 at 6 p.m.

DSCC alumni and their guests are invited to enjoy a catered dinner at the Student Center Terrace on the Dyersburg campus, with special entertainment and a silent auction to benefit the DSCC Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

The cost to attend is $20 per person.

Guests must RSVP by Sept. 15 by calling (731) 286-3349 or by emailing clay@dssc.edu.

LOCAL LEGACY — Elizabeth Breeden (left) of Union City is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. She is a “legacy” — the child or grandchild of a UT Martin alum — and was among those who attended the annual Legacy Luncheon hosted by the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations recently. She was joined by her mother, Teresa Breeden, a 1994 graduate of UT Martin. Miss Breeden is a graduate of Obion County Central High School and plans to study secondary mathematics education.
THEIR LEGACY—Abby Bruff (center) of Union City, a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall, is a "legacy"—the child or grandchild of a UT Martin alum. She attended the annual Legacy Luncheon recently hosted by the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations and was joined by her parents, Gordon Bruff, a 1992 UT Martin graduate, and Amanda Bruff, who graduated from the university in 1991. Miss Bruff is a graduate of Union City High School and plans to study health and human performance.

BECOMES LEGACY—Emily Searcy (right) of Union City is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. She is a "legacy"—the child or grandchild of a UT Martin alum—and attended the annual Legacy Luncheon hosted recently by the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations. She was joined by her father, Brian Searcy, a 2000 graduate of UT Martin. Miss Searcy is a graduate of Union City High School and plans to study political science.
UTM Leadership program accepting applications

Posted on September 1, 2017 by Truly Martin in Local News

Fall 2017 applications are now available for the UTM's WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2018. The program, is a regional leadership development program.

The program is eight seminar programs addressing important issues to West Tennessee's development. The seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program is to begins Dec. 12 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2018, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The application deadline is Oct. 13. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.

For more information, visit the UTM website.

Soybean Festival kickoff

September 2, 2017 by Josh Robinson

MARTIN, Tenn. — If you had gone to the Martin farmers market Saturday
morning you might have thought you were at an international festival, but it was actually the kick off for the Soybean Festival.

"We're checking out the farmer's market this morning," Tod Winters, a Martin resident, said. "It's kind of a special event today, as you can see, we have some music by Jamaican Me Happy. And we have some extra special vendors today,"

Those special vendors included those with fresh fruits and vegetables, jams and even fresh sea food. Others were excited for the more traditional fair experience.

"My little boy definitely loves all the rides and the food that they have downtown, and his school takes a field trip to the soybean festival so he's looking forward to that," Leigh Lester, a long time Weakley County resident, said.

Just down the road at UT Martin, there was a different kind of festival experience going on.

"It's a Minecraft competition," Grayson Gilliam, a participant in the competition, said. "It's about agriculture and making decisions about your life, like how to make money, should you go to college or should you start farming and then go to college so you'll have a profit already."

That's right... a video game competition. Organizers realized that the outdoors isn't for everyone, so they had this part of the fair for those who like the indoors a little more. And the kids are learning as they play too!

"The quiz you had to do for the final exam, I learned that like most of the pork that comes to america is only 10% of the pork in the world. And the discipline in agriculture and biology," Gilliam said.

But there was one thing that several people agreed on as their favorite part of the festival.
"And the people that they get here for the concerts, I mean, they’re popular people, so it’s exciting to have them. I live right down the road so I can walk here to the concert. It’s really nice," Lester said.

"The Soybean Festival is chock full of activities for kids and family members and farmers and artisans," Samantha Goyret, the Food Network Coordinator, said. "There’s a makers fair and there’s really fun activities for everybody. And the music especially."

"Probably the music they get. It’s incredible how they can get some big bands into it," Gilliam said.

And throughout the week, there will be several live performances with the last night wrapping up with Lynrd Skynyrd.
MARTIN, Tenn. — The Tennessee Soybean Festival has kicked off in Martin with events all week long.

An event on Sunday afternoon was hosted by the UT-Martin Art department.

Thirty guitars were on display, designed by community, alumni and student artist.

A number of artist and community members came out to view the unique exhibit.

"Every year we try to get a little bit larger and a little bit better," UTM Associate Professor of Art Jason Stout said. "Future additions to the event, hopefully at some point we're going to add a kids addition with ukuleles. Right now we're are kind of gathering interest."

The winners were announced at the event. Top prize for best in show was $500.
The University of Tennessee at Martin is restarting its search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Dr. Richard Helgeson was selected earlier this year to fill the position for a one-year interim term after the original search ended without a candidate being hired.

The previous provost, Dr. Jerald Ogg, returned to a faculty position with the university’s Department of Communications over the summer after holding the dual position since 2011.

The search committee includes UT Martin faculty, staff and student representation and is chaired by Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of park management in the UTM Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources.

Finalists are anticipated to begin on-campus interviews in the early spring, and the selected candidate will fill the position beginning in the 2018-19 academic year.
Martin, Tenn. -- The University of Tennessee at Martin is restarting a national search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Dr. Jerald Ogg, who held the dual position since 2011, returned to the faculty in the UT Martin Department of Communications earlier this summer. Dr. Richard Helgeson, formerly dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, was selected to fill the position for a one-year interim term when the original search ended without a candidate being hired.

The vice chancellor for academic affairs is UT Martin’s chief academic officer. This position articulates a vision for academic affairs, provides leadership for the academic planning process and is responsible for the university’s core academic mission. The university provost directs the institution in the chancellor's absence.

The search committee, chaired by Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of park management in the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, includes UT Martin faculty, staff and student representation.

Serving on the search committee with Smartt are Dr. Christopher Brown, professor of philosophy; Heidi Busch, assistant professor, Paul Meek Library; Dr. Chris Caldwell, faculty senate president; Dr. Nell Gulleit, professor of finance; Dr. Louis Kolitsch, professor of mathematics; John Hayes, student government associate representative; Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement; Petra McPhearson, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; Dr. Michelle Merwin, professor of psychology; and Dr. Victoria Seng, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies.

Finalists are anticipated to begin on-campus interviews in the early spring, and the selected candidate will fill the position beginning with the 2018-19 academic year. For more information or to nominate a candidate or express interest, contact Czyz at aczyz@tennessee.edu.
Jackson students become legacies of UT Martin

SPECIAL FOR THE SUN

MARTIN - Students at UT Martin who are from Jackson were recognized for being UTM legacies this week.

Madison King, of Jackson, is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. King is a "legacy" — the child or grandchild of a UT Martin alum — and attended the annual Legacy Luncheon hosted Aug. 25 by the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations. She is a graduate of Jackson Christian High School and plans to study psychology.

Abby Holladay and John Michael Holladay, both of Jackson, are freshmen at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. Abby is a graduate of Camden Central High School and plans to study health and human performance. John Michael is a graduate of Trinity Christian Academy and plans to study business management.

Hunter Williams, of Jackson, is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. He is a graduate of the University School of Jackson and plans to study business management.

Abby and John Michael Holladay with their family at UTM last week.

Madison King with her family at UTM this week.
Hunter Williams and his parents at UTM’s legacy luncheon last week at UTM.

UTM opens new campus in Somerville

A ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 24 officially opened the new UT Martin Somerville Center in Fayette County. Celebrating the ribbon cutting and opening were (l to r) Bob Turner, administrator for the town of Somerville; Ellen Wadley, architect, Fleming Architects; Skip Taylor, Fayette County mayor; Ronnie Neill, Somerville mayor; State Rep. Ron Gant (R-District 94); State Sen. Delores Gresham (R-District 26); Kara Tapp, UT Martin Somerville Center director; Tennessee Lt. Gov. Randy McNally (R-District 5); UT President Joe DiPietro; UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver; UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Bob Smith; and Dr. Brian Donavant, interim executive director; UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach.
MARTIN - Years of planning and persistence paid dividends Aug. 24 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that officially opened the new University of Tennessee at Martin Somerville Center in Fayette County. Elected and university officials and guests gathered at the center's sun-drenched front entrance to open the facility that will welcome students for fall classes that start Aug. 28.

The former Methodist Fayette Hospital has been transformed into a state-of-the-art higher education facility that features science and computer laboratory space, classrooms, conference rooms and offices. The center offers select degree programs and courses and will also concentrate on job-skill training and meeting the immediate needs of existing and prospective regional employers.

"This today is what happens when a great city, and a great county, and a great state, and great people pair together with a great university and create opportunities like Somerville," said Dr. Keith Carver. He added that part of UT Martin's mission is to provide access and "that students in this region can have access and can dream, and we can equip them to pursue their dreams."

Other program speakers included Kara Tapp, Somerville Center director; Somerville Mayor Ronnie Neil; Fayette County Mayor Rhea “Skip” Taylor; State Rep. Ron Gant (R-District 94); State Sen. Delores Gresham (R-District 26); and Tennessee Lt. Gov. Randy McNally (R-District 5).

Discussions about a possible Fayette County higher education center began in 2004. The University of Tennessee and UT Martin became involved in 2012, a new building for the center was originally proposed, but the project was cost-prohibitive. Methodist Fayette Hospital then closed in March 2015, and Fayette County officials approached Methodist Healthcare about giving the facility to the town.

The facility was transferred to the town in July 2015, and Methodist Healthcare also gave the city $250,000 to assist with the facility’s renovation. The State Building Commission approved a lease on July 25, 2016, between the University of Tennessee and the city of Somerville to house the UT Martin Somerville Center in the former hospital building.

Earlier in 2016, the Tennessee General Assembly approved $250,000 in recurring funding for the center in the state’s 2016-17 budget. Also approved was $875,000 in one-time funding to support the facility’s renovation. Gov. Bill Haslam visited Somerville on July 26, 2016, to formally present UT Martin with the total $1.125 million in funding from the state to establish the new center. A ground-breaking event was held Dec. 7 to officially begin the renovation project that was completed in time for the 2017 fall semester.

"Not everybody has a chance to go take four years off their life and move and be a resident on campus somewhere," said Gov. Bill Haslam when he visited Somerville in July 2016 to announce the funding to establish the center. "Higher education looks different to everybody now. One of the keys is to make certain that it’s convenient for people who have other things going on in their lives. This campus is a real effort to do that."

More information about the center is available online at utm.edu, by contacting Kara Tapp at ktapp1@utm.edu or by calling the center at 901-465-7313.
WestStar leadership program accepting class applications

MARTIN — Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 798 graduates in its 28-year history. The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee’s development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 12 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2018, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved and help West Tennessee become a better place, and are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles. Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape West Tennessee’s future.

WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and community and public service endeavors. For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/departments/weststar. The application deadline is Oct. 13. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.

Making college affordable in Tennessee


As the cost of college continues to increase, all of us in higher education have an obligation to work toward making it more affordable.

Fortunately, in recent years, higher education leaders in Tennessee have been at the forefront of policy and innovation designed to make college more accessible and affordable.

Nevertheless, student debt continues to spiral out of control. The New York Federal Reserve reports that student loan debt now surpasses $1.4 trillion. While student loan numbers are shockingly high, the first step to slowing their growth — or even reducing them — is to address the cost of college.

It’s undeniable that college is becoming less affordable every year. Tuition increases have outpaced inflation since 1970, and for public institutions, there is more competition for state funding every year.

Working together to raise awareness

At a time when the nation needs more college graduates, many current and prospective students are starting to question whether getting a degree will be worth the time, money, and for so many, the debt.
That's why we — a vice president of financial aid for a nonprofit university, a chancellor of a Tennessee university, and an executive chancellor of policy and strategy for the Tennessee Board of Regents — are working together to raise awareness around the initiatives our organizations are doing to collectively expand access to higher education, improve college affordability, and create responsible borrowers.

Gov. Haslam and the Tennessee General Assembly had the foresight in 2013 to launch the Drive to 55 — an initiative that seeks to equip 55 percent of Tennesseans with a post-secondary degree by 2025. The initiative was largely propelled by tuition-free community college for all high school graduates in Tennessee, but was recently expanded to extend the same offer to all adults in Tennessee without post-secondary degrees.

Although these new programs are showing early signs of success, and have become models for innovation in higher education used by others, Tennessee still has a long way to go to make the Drive to 55 a success. At this point, it's incumbent on Tennesseans to take advantage of these scholarships.

Naturally, for adults returning to school and first-generation college students — two critical segments for the success of the Drive to 55 — the process of applying for college can be daunting. Taking out loans for tuition, room and board, books, and other fees, is a big commitment that requires a high level of confidence in a return on investment.

With more than 75 combined years in higher education, we want to help Tennesseans who are considering enrolling in college by sharing our insights and answering questions at "Working Together to Make College Affordable in Tennessee," a panel event on Sept. 12, at 6 p.m.

- Bob Collins will discuss what Western Governors University (WGU) is doing to encourage responsible borrowing. WGU Tennessee, is an online, nonprofit university launched by Gov. Haslam as part of the Drive to 55. Collins is the university's VP of Financial Aid and oversees its Responsible Borrowing Initiative — a program that has reduced student borrowing by 41 percent in only four years.
- Dr. Russ Deaton will address issues around Tennessee's policy innovations designed to create a better-educated workforce, such as the Tennessee Promise and TN Reconnect scholarships. Deaton is executive chancellor of policy and strategy for the Tennessee Board of Regents, and previously served as director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.
- Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of UT Martin and former executive assistant to UT President Joe DiPietro, will share information about what the university and the UT system are doing to increase access to higher education while keeping tuition increases at historic lows.

Gov. Haslam, with support from the legislature, has given us a path for higher education success. Now it's up to all of us — higher education professionals and students in Tennessee — to work together to achieve our goals. We hope you join us in person or via the live video stream on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Bob Collins, Dr. Russ Deaton and Dr. Keith Carver are the featured speakers at "Working Together to Make College Affordable in Tennessee." The panel discussion is co-hosted by WGU Tennessee, UT Martin and the Tennessee Board of Regents, and in partnership with The Tennessean. The event is being held at the First Amendment Center in Nashville, and will stream live on The Tennessean's website on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 6 p.m.
Freshmen get first tour of ag campus

By RACHEL FULCHER
Special to the Press

With school back in session there are over 1,000 new students on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Over 30 percent of these new students are in the college of agriculture and applied sciences. This is an astounding number, and shows just how well this department has done at recruiting individuals for the future agriculture industry.

The weekend of Aug. 25-28 was “Welcome Weekend” for new students at UTM. For most students, this weekend was jam-packed full of information about UTM, getting to know their peers, and overall becoming more acquainted with campus. However, for a few first-year students they got to experience a little bit more of the campus that pertains specifically to them. The UTM Farm Teaching Farm Complex allowed two of the General Studies Peer Enabling Program Groups to come visit for the farm and firsthand experience of the agriculture side of UTM.

PEP General Studies Groups 4 and 10 got a chance to experience a little bit of the agriculture that our university offers.

PEP Group 4, the veterinary health and technology students, was led by Racheal Friedrich and Emma Bub.

PEP Group 37, the pre-vet students, was led by Timothy Stalans, Katelynn Hacker, and Samantha Drury, while PEP Group 6 was led by Hudson McCallister and Kristen Che noweth.

The tour of the farm that these groups went on consisted of a visit to the Smith Livestock Center, the West Tennessee Diagnostic Lab, the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion and the Veterinary Health Technology Lab. I got a chance to talk with one of the PEP Leaders, Emma Bub, about what this tour brought to the students whom attended this tour.

“I feel that this tour gave students a better understanding of what they will be doing when they are in these classes,” Bub said. “It gave these students a chance to see exactly what the farm consists of, where many students may never get that chance until they are in these classes. This tour helped to give them a leg up, and put them a step ahead of everyone else, and it was only their first day of college.”
Though the rain was heavy and the wind strong, nothing stopped the Skyhawk Marching Band from joining the Henry County Marching Patriots on Wednesday for a day of music.

The 123-member band from Paris, accompanied by seven middle-schoolers from the area, braved the inclement weather and made the hour-long journey to The University of Tennessee at Martin Wednesday morning. Dr. Bill Waterman, director of athletic bands at UTM and Kyle Graves, director of bands at Henry County High School, joined forces over the past several months to consider scheduling a collaborative rehearsal for the two bands. As plans fell into place, the two directors decided to invite the Marching Patriots to join the Skyhawk Marching Band in the stands at UTM's first home football game.

"We've never done anything like this before," said Dr. Waterman. "We've traveled to high school football games but we've never had a whole school here. But it was definitely a valuable experience."

When the Marching Patriots arrived on campus, they had a chance to explore UTM's Fine Arts building and interact with a few members of the school's faculty. After a few minutes of relaxation, they got back to work and headed to the Skyhawk's practice field to rehearse their show under the direction of Dr. Waterman and Dr. John Oelrich, director of bands at UTM.

"Having different directors on the field gives the band a new set of eyes to work with," said Dr. Waterman. "They can get new ideas and see things they never saw before."

The Marching Patriot's show, "Nonconformity," praises the value of the individual and encourages students to not be afraid to stand out from the crowd. The show features many recognizable songs such as Mozart's "Lacrimosa," Gustav Holst's "Fantasia" and Pixies' "Where Is My Mind."

Once the Marching Patriots were returned and rested from their rehearsal, the Skyhawks returned from class to assist the high schoolers in their next practice. The two bands merged into one ensemble and spent an hour practicing stand tunes for the upcoming football games. Though the younger students were timid at first, they quickly found their place singing and cheering as part of the Skyhawk Family.

"When I first mentioned the idea, the kids weren't totally on board with the thought of spending the day with a bunch of college students," Graves said. "But when the day came they were really excited. And they definitely had a good time."

"It was really cool," said Shelby Cave, a freshman at Henry County. "It made me more comfortable about being in a college atmosphere."

The high-schoolers weren't the only ones brimming with excitement from the event, though. The Skyhawk Marching Band is teeming with music majors and other majors alike, all who were eager to introduce the kids to their coveted band. Student leaders passed around information cards to prospective students to keep in contact with them and possibly recruit them to Martin.

"I'm glad they got to see what college band is like," said UTM sophomore Jacob Luker. "It's a whole different story. High school band is really strict but college band is super relaxed and fun."

Unfortunately for the bands, the day ended on a rather damp note. Because of the threatening rain, the directors made the decision to keep the band indoors for the safety of the students and instruments alike. The mood was hardly tainted, though. The groups of students continued to mingle, eat pizza and play games until the Henry County buses arrived for the high-schoolers.

Although the day was cut short, the directors were confident that the message they were trying to convey was received.

"We wanted to show them why they should continue in music," Graves said. "You don't have to be a music major to be involved in college. Music makes better people; it helps us process our emotions better and react to them in a safe manner. And I think my students are really pumped up now."

Though Dr. Waterman plans to host more high schools on campus in the following years, any high-schooler is welcome to join the Skyhawk Marching Band at any football game to play in the stands. Students will be admitted into the game for free and will receive music to play alongside the band. Even if a students are not planning to major in music, they are still encouraged to participate in any of the numerous ensembles UTM has to offer.

"We want to welcome as many people to our fellowship as possible," said Dr. Waterman. "Everyone should get a chance to be a part of the Skyhawk family."

If you are a student or band director interested in playing alongside the Skyhawk Marching Band, contact Dr. Bill Waterman at watwaterma@utm.edu. More information on UTM's ensembles can be found at www.utm.edu/departments/music.
ORANGE AND BLUE — Abigail Littrell leads the Skyhawk Marching Band and the Henry County Marching Patriots in Henry County High School's fight song.

DREAMWORK — Jeremy Carter (left) and Jeremy Jackson play together during “Land of a Thousand Dances.” At certain points in the song, Jackson will hold out his cymbals for Carter to hit with his drumsticks, creating a new sound.
SMOOTH MOVES — UTM students teach the Henry County students the dance moves incorporated into their stand tunes, one of the band's favorite activities during football games.

KEEP IT HIP — Seth Bucy (left), a Henry County junior, receives a fist bump from Dr. John Oelrich during the Marching Patriot's outdoor rehearsal.

HIGH NOTES — Caitlin Jones, a freshman music education major at UTM, plays the piccolo during the bands' combined rehearsal.
BE MY GIRL — Matthew Wilson (center) enthusiastically sings along to the band's rendition of "Hey Baby." Henry County students Cindy Gross (left) and Alexis Nikki were quick to join in.

SOYBEAN FESTIVAL BEGINS — David Belote, executive chairperson of the Tennessee Soybean Festival, shared excitement about the upcoming festival when he spoke on Aug. 30 to the Kiwanis Club of Martin. He highlighted several new events added this year and said that festival-goers will have 130 different opportunities to engage in some kind of activity. "This is a great, award-winning festival," he said. Belote also thanked Kiwanis members for their continued involvement in the Talent Show (Sept. 4) and the 5K Race and 1K Fun Run (Sept. 9). Belote is pictured here with Danelle Fabianich, Kiwanis program chair for August, as they proudly display one of the 2017 Tennessee Soybean Festival T-shirts.
Weststar Leadership Program Taking Applications

MARTIN — Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 798 graduates in its 28-year history.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee’s development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 12 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2018, with an evening graduation ceremony. The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved and help West Tennessee become a better place, and are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles.

Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape West Tennessee’s future.

WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and community and public service endeavors.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/departments/weststar/. The application deadline is Oct. 13. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.

The News Leader, September 6, 2017

WestStar Leadership accepting applications for 2018

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 798 graduates in its 28-year history. The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee’s development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 12 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2018, with an evening graduation ceremony. The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved and help West Tennessee become a better place, and are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles. Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape West Tennessee’s future. WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and community and public service endeavors.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/departments/weststar/. The application deadline is Oct. 13. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.
WestStar Leadership Program Accepting Applications For Prospective 2018 Class

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 798 graduates in its 28-year history.

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For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/departments/weststar/. The application deadline is Oct. 13. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.

Weakley County Students Receive Scholarships

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

Shannon M. Merrell, of Palmersville, will be a sophomore. She received the David Cooper Memorial Scholarship.

Olivia D. Reagan, daughter of Joey and Karen Reagan, of Dresden, will be a freshman. She received the Health and Human Performance Scholarship.

Carli Ann Stricklin, daughter of Jeff and Elsie Stricklin, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Martin Rotary/James Corbitt Scholarship and the Williams-Morgan Scholarship.

UTM recognized as an affordable school

UTM was recognized by a national publication for being among the "best bang for the buck" schools in the southern United States. In Washington Monthly’s 2017 college guide and rankings publication, UT-Martin comes in at number eight on the list. Last year, the school was ranked 17th in the annual September magazine. Tennessee Wesleyan College as the only other in-state school to break the top 20.
Room named in Smith’s honor

Dr. Bob Smith, chancellor emeritus of the University of Tennessee at Martin, was honored recently with the dedication of the Robert M. Smith Legislative Chamber in the university’s Boling University Center.

Smith was officially named UT Martin’s 10th chancellor and given the emeritus title during a UT Board of Trustees meeting earlier this year after serving 19 months as interim chancellor beginning in June 2015.

During that time, Smith guided the university through a variety of challenges, including issues with university accreditation and the funding of a new engineering and science building on the main campus.

Members of the 2016 UT Martin Student Government Association recommended the renaming of the legislative chamber, where both student government and faculty senate meet, in honor of Smith. He is the first individual to be recognized in this way by the student body.

The dedication event, filled to standing-room-only capacity, featured remarks from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, current SGA president Jordan Long, faculty senate president Chris Caldwell and Smith himself.

Provost, vice chancellor search continues at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin is restarting a national search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Dr. Jerald Ogg, who held the dual position since 2011, returned to the faculty in the UT Martin Department of Communications earlier this summer. Dr. Richard Helgeson, formerly dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, was selected to fill the position for a one-year interim term when the original search ended without a candidate being hired.

The vice chancellor for academic affairs is UT Martin’s chief academic officer. This position articulates a vision for academic affairs, provides leadership for the academic planning process and is responsible for the university’s core academic mission. The university provost directs the institution in the chancellor’s absence.

The search committee, chaired by Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of park management in the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, includes UT Martin faculty, staff and student representation.

Serving on the search committee with Smartt are Dr. Christopher Brown, professor of philosophy; Heidi Busch, assistant professor, Paul Meek Library; Dr. Chris Caldwell, faculty senate president; Dr. Nell Gullett, professor of finance; Dr. Louis Kolitsch, professor of mathematics; John Hayes, student government associate representative; Dr. Jamie Mantoosh, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement; Petra McPhearson, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; Dr. Michelle Merwin, professor of psychology; and Dr. Victoria Seng, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies.

Finalists are anticipated to begin on-campus interviews in the early spring and the selected candidate will fill the position beginning with the 2018-19 academic year.

Ashlie Czyz, director of human resources programs and executive recruiter for the University of Tennessee System, continues to serve as executive recruiter for this position.

For more information or to nominate a candidate or express interest, contact Czyz at aczyz@tennessee.edu.
Fayette Schools: UT Martin Dual Enrollment Brings College Feel to Students

With the school year getting underway, students are excited with all the possibilities they are being offered. At the high school level, many Fayette-Ware juniors and seniors are taking advantage of the dual enrollment classes being offered through UT Martin at their new campus site. Approximately 90 juniors and seniors have enrolled for dual enrollment English and/or math classes, which will allow them to gain both high school and college credits for these courses.

Having taken over and redesigned the preexisting Methodist Hospital, the UT Martin site has ample space to provide students what they need to be successful. With eleven classrooms, all furnished with technology, this allows ample space for learning. A state-of-the-art biology lab provides space for exploration, while a 24-station computer lab and online library supports student research. Students were excited to tour the new site and visit the classrooms. Stated Jordan Blizzard, "Being onsite will get us accustomed to the college life. The campus site is beautiful. They were able to take a relatively old building and turn it into something modern."

Dual enrollment in itself is not new but what makes this experience unique is the opportunity to attend on site and for students to learn from a university professor face to face. While many other systems may provide dual enrollment classes through their own teachers or online, Fayette County Public Schools is providing transportation for students to attend on site at UT Martin. English Composition will be taught by Michael Adams and Judy Babb while Susan Hamilton and Eddie Keel will teach College Algebra.

FCPS has also purchased the needed books for students taking the classes, lessening the burden on parents. States Fayette-Ware senior Emily Butler, "This gives students a better opportunity to experience college level courses in an actual college environment." Not only will students be able to access these top of the line facilities, they will be considered UT Martin students and can utilize the main campus and get in free to events.

"I am blessed with the opportunity to excel my education on the UTM campus," said Darius Hines, a senior at Fayette-Ware. "It is truly amazing to experience the diversity of ages, cultures, and educators from two different campuses. I am eager to meet new people and see what college life is all about."
INDEPENDENT APPEAL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

WestStar program accepting applications until October 13

For the Independent Appeal

MARTIN — Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2018. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 798 graduates in its 28-year history.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee's development.

Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 12 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2018, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved and help West Tennessee become a better place, and are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles.

Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape West Tennessee's future.

WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and community and public service endeavors.

(For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/departments/weststar. The application deadline is Oct. 13. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.)

UT Martin names local student to Summer Semester Chancellor's Honor Roll

For the Independent Appeal

MARTIN, Tenn. — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2017 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Selmer — Rachel D. Smith, Honors.

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

McNairy County student receives scholarships to attend UT Martin

For the Independent Appeal

MARTIN — A McNairy County student has been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2017-2018 academic year, according to Dr. James Man-tooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Hannah Jester Robinson, of Selmer, will be a senior. She received the Lyn E. Scott Scholarship and the Elam Transfer Advance 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.
A Benton County student has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2017-2018 academic year, according to the UTM Office of Enrollment Services.

Matthew J. Melton received the Alex Haley Scholarship for first generation students. The son of Misty Melton, of Camden, Melton is a 2016 graduate of Camden Central High School and will begin UTM this fall as a freshman.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UTM Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at (731) 881-7040.
Meet Mrs. Bryanna Huggins
Mrs. Huggins is currently teaching 6-8 Science at RES. She attended UT Martin. Huggins enjoys being able to focus her beginning career on the middle grades. Her favorite part of teaching is being able to open their eyes to something new in science. Her favorite teacher was a professor she had in college. He was very enthusiastic about the geology classes he taught and made learning memorable.

Meet Cortney Treece
Mrs. Treece is currently teaching Special Education K-5 at Ramer School. She attended the University of Tennessee at Martin. What she loves most about teaching is that it keeps her learning new things everyday. Her favorite teacher was her sixth grade teacher, Robin Perry. Perry ignited Cortney's passion for classic literature.

Tennessee Soybean Festival
Mayor's Luncheon

Over 300 people attended the Mayor's Luncheon on Tuesday at the University Ballroom.
Photos by Nathan Morgan and Linda Thurston
Marvin Downing (center) of Martin Beautiful announced beautification winners (from left) Ricky Edwards and David Mitchell, single residence; First Baptist Church (Ronnie Wade) for church; Elaine Harris, Adopt-A-Site; and Alpha Gamma Rho (Jerri Conley) for multiple residence. Not pictured: La Cabana, business winner.

Mayor Randy Brundige and service award winner Alicia Pinto
Mayor Randy Brundige, service award winner Camille Noe and Festival Director David Belote.
Big Bean winner Trevor Bonstetter for WK&T and Mayor Randy Brundige

Mayor Randy Brundige, Hall of Fame inductee Paul Tinkle and Festival Director David Belote.

Soybean royalty for 2017 are Queen Bean Tara Rhodes of Styles on Broadway and King Bean David Murphy of Murphy Funeral Home. The king and queen are elected in a contest sponsored by the Pilot Club of Martin.
Soybean Festival now in full swing

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

Marching bands and trotting horses; fairy-tale characters and farm equipment; bikes and tractors and toy train rides; fireworks and pageants and musical tributes to vintage artists – the Tennessee Soybean Festival is in full swing.

This week’s events included the Minecraft farming challenge, the Be Our Guest brunch and children’s show, the truck and tractor pull, the bike rodeo, a Sunday Sundown concert and fireworks show, Magical Martin Day, the community band concert, the festival talent contest, the festival parade followed by the opening of the midway and a tribute concert to Paul McCartney.

The annual mayor’s luncheon on Tuesday honored parade grand marshal Chancellor Keith Carver and his family, along with the entire faculty and student body of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Also recognized were Camille Noe and Alicia Pinto, who won the Soybean Service Awards; winners of the Martin Beautiful Awards; the Big Bean Award sponsor WK&T; King Bean David Murphy and Queen Bean Tara Rhodes; and Paul Tinkle, who was inducted into the Soybean Hall of Fame.

Thursday’s main events include the festival golf tournament, the BMX stunt show, the cancer crash car bash and the Clint Black concert in festival park.

As the midway, the history of farming exhibit and the downtown sidewalk sale continue, Friday’s main events will be the barbecue cookoff, the children’s street fair, the bacon-eating contest, the Westview High School football game and the Air Supply concert.

Saturday concludes the festival with a full day of activities, starting with the pancake breakfast by the American Legion Ladies’ Auxiliary. A 5K road race and 1-mile fun walk will be followed by disc golf and a softball showcase.

The Break for Bach music feature will provide a quiet moment and the MTD car and bike show will draw automotive enthusiasts.

The West Tennessee Dairy Show takes place at the UTM pavilion and a pet show will be sponsored by Weakley County Animal Clinic. The festival climax will be the Lynyrd Skynyrd concert in Festival park.

For more information on the festival, go to tnsoybeanfestival.org.

See Page 2, Page 15 for more photos.
First Anna Kate scholarships awarded

The illness and passing of two-year-old Anna Kate Wenz made an impact on the Weakley County community in 2015-16. Now, her family and the Anna Kate Wenz FIGHT Foundation are giving back to the community that supported them through such a difficult time.

“We started the foundation about three months after she [Anna Kate] passed away. A gentleman here – his daughter actually played UTM volleyball – he latched onto us and helped us get off the ground. We had three goals that we gave him: we wanted to do a scholarship, we wanted to give some type of family assistance, and we wanted to give back to the Target House Project, which is where they housed us at St. Jude,” said Jennifer Wenz, Anna Kate’s mother.

The Wenz family awarded the foundation’s first scholarships this year: one to Gabby Nutting, a high school student from Martin, and the other to Victoria Lansdale, a University of Tennessee at Martin senior from Jackson.

The high school scholarship is aimed toward students who have overcome a personal challenge, but the college scholarship is intended for those who have chosen career paths dealing with children – whether that be through health care, education or a related field. Lansdale has applied to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center’s College of Dentistry in Memphis and intends to pursue that career field after completing her bachelor’s degree from UT Martin in the spring.

“All those people [at St. Jude] touched us. They were aunts and uncles and grandparents for those kids. It wasn’t the money that brought them there. It was the atmosphere and the task at hand. They wanted to make sure to make the children’s lives better,” said Wenz. “UT Martin is part of our community, part of what kept us on our feet. UT Martin and the UT System in general provided a lot of health care for Anna Kate, and we wanted to give back what was given to us. We wanted some-

SEE SCHOLARSHIP, PAGE 2

SCHOLARSHIP, FROM PAGE 1

body who was in college who had already decided on a career path – whether health care or education – something dealing with pediatric kids, because those are the people that impact them along the way.”

The Wenz family hopes to eventually fund a university endowment, which will keep the scholarship going into perpetuity. For more information on the Anna Kate FIGHT Foundation Scholarship at UT Martin, including application criteria, contact Mary Baker in the UT Martin Office of University Development at 731-881-7623.

ANNA KATE WENZ
FIRST SCHOLARSHIP — (From left) Mike, Brayden and Jennifer Wenz are pictured with UT Martin scholarship recipient Victoria Lansdale and university chancellor Dr. Keith Carver.

HOPPER BECOMES UT MARTIN LEGACY — Tyler Hopper (center), of Martin, is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. Hopper is a “legacy” — the child or grandchild of a UT Martin alum — and attended the annual Legacy Luncheon hosted Aug. 25 by the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations. He is a graduate of Westview High School and plans to study agricultural engineering. Hopper is pictured with his parents, Jill (’97) and Michael Hopper.
AWARD WINNER — Woodmen of the World representative Wendell Verdell recently presented Gleason School student Jamison Lifsey with the eighth-grade Woodmen of the World American History Award.

LEE BECOMES UT MARTIN LEGACY — Casey Lee (right), of Martin, is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. Lee is a “legacy” — the child or grandchild of a UT Martin alum — and attended the annual Legacy Luncheon hosted Aug. 25 by the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations. He is a graduate of Westview High School and plans to study electrical engineering. Lee is pictured with his mother, Lana Lee.

BEVERLY BECOMES UT MARTIN LEGACY — Ali Beverly (left), of Martin, is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. Beverly is a “legacy” — the child or grandchild of a UT Martin alum — and attended the annual Legacy Luncheon hosted Aug. 25 by the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations. She is a graduate of Westview High School and plans to study education. Beverly is pictured with her mother, Lisa Beverly.

REA BECOMES UT MARTIN LEGACY — Katie Rea (left), of Martin, is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. Rea is a “legacy” — the child or grandchild of a UT Martin alum — and attended the annual Legacy Luncheon hosted Aug. 25 by the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations. She is a graduate of Westview High School and plans to study agricultural business. Rea is pictured with her mother, Amy Rea.
**UT Martin’s Dental Assistant Program**

Community members interested in becoming dental assistants are encouraged to register for a course offered from 6 p.m. through 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 19th through November 16th, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center.

This course will prepare students for entry-level positions in dental assisting. The purpose of this program is to familiarize students with all areas of administrative and clinical dental assisting, focusing on the responsibilities required to function as an assistant in a dental practice. Participants will learn about the history of dentistry and dental assisting; legal aspects of dentistry, including policies and guidelines; introductory oral anatomy; dental operatory and equipment; and proper sterilization techniques.

The class will not meet October 17th.

Participants who have done farm work in the past two years may qualify for financial assistance through Tennessee Opportunity Programs. For additional information and to find out if you qualify, contact Sherry Fowler, career manager for Tennessee Opportunity Programs, at 731-696-4860.

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

**UT SCHOLAR**

Chelsea Hill, daughter of Tony and Wanda Hill, of Ripley, has been awarded the Marvin Windows and Doors scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2017-2018 academic year. She will be a junior.
Skyhawks face fears and a tough opponent

September 7, 2017 by Blake Stevens

MARTIN, TN – While Hurricane Irma is hours away from hitting the coast, the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawks are two days away from playing Ole Miss. More than 10 Skyhawk players are from Miami, which is expected to be pummeled by Irma.

We spoke to the team's starting quarterback, Troy Cook, and their long snapper, Jose Carballo. They're both from Miami.

Cook will be responsible for laying out plays, taking snaps, and throwing the ball Saturday. He'll also have his parents on his mind on the field.

They're with family further inland, he said. Cook said his mother recently set his mind at ease, telling him, "We'll be fine. We've been through hurricanes. You just worry about Ole Miss, and just go play football."

He doesn't know what to expect on his next trip home. "As a child, the biggest I ever went through was a Category 3, Category 4, and you'd see big trees uprooted and just lying on the road and houses with their roofs torn off. I can't even imagine what a Category 5 would be like," he added.

Carballo has family in Miami and Cuba. He's tried to get his mother further inland, but says she's still there. "I begged her. I was like 'Come up here. You can come to the game. I'll get you a hotel,' all that," he said. "But, it wasn't in her hands in the moment because of the fact that there's no gas. There's no place to rent a car."

He, too, will have a battle on the field and a battlefield of the mind come Saturday. "Football is the way out for me. Yes, I'll be thinking about them, but come Saturday I'm going to be thinking about my job and what I have to do to make this team better and for us to get a W."

If you have family in the path of Irma who may not have a way out, share this number with them for the Florida Emergency Hotline: 1-800-345-3557
Emotional Trial in Case of Slain Tennessee Woman to Begin

By ADRIAN SAINZ, Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — No one in the pastoral Tennessee town of Parsons will forget April 13, 2011.

That was the day Clint Bobo told law enforcement he saw a man dressed in hunting camouflage lead his 20-year-old sister, Holly, into the woods that loomed beside their house.

The disappearance of Bobo, a talented, church-going nursing student everyone seemed to like, transformed the peaceful Decatur County town of about 2,400 people into a panicked whirlwind. Despite an intense search, it was three years before the hunt ended in tragedy when her remains were found in woods near her home. Hope among Parsons' residents turned into pain.

Then they began to seek justice.

On Monday, the long nightmare takes one more step toward resolution. Opening statements are scheduled in the trial of Zachary Adams, one of three men charged with Bobo's kidnapping, rape and murder. The trial is expected to reveal new information about Bobo's disappearance and death. Details of what prosecutors think happened have not emerged, and Adams' attorney has provided few details on what defense might be offered.

Adams, who lives in Decatur County, has pleaded not guilty, as have the other two men — Jason Autry and Adams' brother, John Dylan Adams — who also face kidnapping, rape and murder charges. Their trials have not yet been scheduled.

Adams, who served six months in jail for shooting his mother in the knee in 2004 with a handgun, faces the death penalty if convicted at a trial that caps an investigation Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Director Mark Gwyn has called the most exhaustive and expensive his agency ever conducted.

Yet, it was two men looking for ginseng who found Bobo's remains, not the TBI.
Friction between investigators and prosecutors has surfaced periodically. In December 2014 — after Bobo’s remains had been found — the TBI said it was suspending investigations in the judicial district where the case was being handled amid dispute with District Attorney Matt Stowe. At the time, Gwyn said Stowe attacked the TBI’s work and that Stowe alleged misconduct by the agency. Stowe, an elected official, denied he asked the TBI to suspend investigations in the district. A day later, the TBI resumed its work there.

Stowe stepped aside for a special prosecutor, Jennifer Nichols of the Shelby County district attorney’s office in Memphis, 200 miles from where the trial is being held. Seeking an unbiased jury, Judge C. Creed McGinley has moved the trial from the county seat of Decaturville to Savannah, in neighboring Hardin County.

Lawyers’ travel costs, plus the years of effort by the TBI, have likely raised the cost for taxpayers. Intense national interest has put added pressure on the state, said Patrick Baker, a law professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“If the defendants are not convicted and they’re found not guilty, there’s always going to be a shadow looming over this,” Baker said.

Key evidence could come from a voice from the dead.

Shayne Austin, a friend of Adams’ who was interviewed by investigators and was once considered an important witness in Bobo’s killing, committed suicide in Florida (/news/best-states/florida) in February 2015. Statements he made have been presented in a pre-trial hearing.

In building their complex case, prosecutors will refer to the day Bobo disappeared. Authorities said they found blood outside of her house, though it has not been revealed whether it was hers. Lawyers have said about 190,000 documents and 4.5 terabytes of information have been assembled as possible evidence.

After Bobo’s disappearance, investigators and volunteers scoured the town and the surrounding pastures, barns, flowery fields and dusty back roads. Residents adorned mailboxes, lamp posts and store fronts with pink bows, a symbol of hope and solidarity with the family. Pink became the color associated with Bobo because she was wearing a pink shirt when she disappeared.

Posters with Bobo’s smiling face appeared throughout the South. Truckers even placed them on the back of their rigs.

Almost from the moment of Bobo’s disappearance, the case became a cable television sensation. Elizabeth Smart, the Utah (/news/best-states/utah) woman kidnapped and held captive for nine months when she was 14, visited Bobo’s high school in 2012 to tell townspeople to keep faith that Bobo was alive.

As the mystery grew, the town changed. Community members worried that Bobo’s kidnapper lived in the area and rubbed elbows with residents at gas stations and grocery stores. Parents feared leaving their teenage children unsupervised. Parsons residents locked their doors for the first time in years.

Some gave up hope of finding her alive. Her family members didn’t. They held vigils and sent balloons skyward on the anniversary of her death. Her parents and brother prayed with neighbors and attended every pre-trial hearing.

Steve Farese, a lawyer for the family not involved in the legal proceedings, said attorneys on both sides could be apprehensive after all of the buildup.

"High-profile cases are more efficient because everyone is on their tiptoes," Farese said. "They want to make sure they do everything right and they are on their best behavior."

Family friend Kelly Allen, owner of Parsons Florist, made the pink bows honoring Bobo. She says it was "very crushing" to hear she was dead.

Now she just wants peace.

"The whole town is just ready for this to be over with, to be put to rest," Allen said.
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To now just wants peace.
SEEN AT THE 'BEAN

Photos by Sabrina Bates, Jenson Greenburg, Christel Laney, Linda Thurston and Lynette Calhoun Wagster
UTM to host Family Weekend September 23

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Family Weekend activities September 23-24.

Parents and family members of both new freshmen and upperclassmen are encouraged to return to campus.

Special activities include the Bow Tie 5K Run/1 Mile Walk event, a tailgate party before the football game against TSU, and Sunday brunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall.

The Family Weekend Package is $25 per person and includes one meal ticket for the tailgate party, held from noon-3 p.m. prior to the football game; one general admission football ticket for the game beginning at 4 p.m.; a UT Martin T-shirt; a $2 coffee voucher to the Martin Coffee House; and a special discount package good at various local establishments.

Families are welcome to attend any or all events listed without purchasing a Family Weekend Package, however, individual event prices will apply.

Family Weekend Packages should be reserved in advance at utm.edu/familyweekend, and cash or check payments will be accepted upon pick-up.

UTM nursing class achieves 100%

One hundred percent of nursing graduates from the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2017 class who took their National Council Licensing Examinations this year passed as first-time test-takers. The NCLEX is a mandatory examination to receive licensure as a registered nurse.

"I am extremely proud of all our graduates, and this year's graduates are no exception," said Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor of nursing and department chair. "In addition to completing our rigorous curriculum, which provides an exceptional foundation, they worked diligently to prepare for the exam up until their test dates. On behalf of all the nursing faculty, we want to extend our congratulations and we can't wait to see what great things they do in the profession of nursing."

UT Martin has educated nurses for more than 40 years, and nursing graduates go on to hold leadership positions in the health-care field and make a difference in the lives of their patients.

Students who leave UT Martin with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree complete more than 900 clinical hours in hospitals and health-care facilities across the state and gain experience in surgical, intensive care, maternal, pediatric, geriatric, mental health and emergency units, among others. Classes are also provided on topics such as leadership skills and community-based nursing in addition to clinical learning opportunities.

"Our nursing program being three years definitely was a benefit in order to be able to experience more clinical hours," said Courtney McCaleb, a member of the 2017 class. "Nursing school has been one of the hardest things I've done in life, but one of the most rewarding as well."

McCaleb, a Memphis native, is working in pediatric oncology as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at St. Jude Hospital in Memphis.

Colton Gramse, of Adamsville, earned his nursing degree through the UT Martin Parsons Center and currently works as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson.

"I sincerely loved my time in the program," he said. "My instructors sincerely cared about my desire to become a nurse and gave me every opportunity to succeed. I know that every part of the program completely prepared me for my field of work."

Students can earn a UT Martin nursing degree on the main campus in Martin and at the UT Martin Parsons Center. The RN-BSN bridge program for currently licensed nurses is also available online.

For more information on the UT Martin Department of Nursing, contact the department directly at 731-881-7131 or email Radford at marye@utm.edu.
Local gets UTM scholarship
A Lauderdale County student has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2017-2018 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.
Chelsea Hill, daughter of Tony and Wanda Hill of Ripley, will be a junior. She received the Marvin Windows and Doors 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.

Tennessee at Martin legacy
Selmer's McKenzie Mathenia (center) is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. Mathenia is a "legacy" — the child or grandchild of a UT Martin alum — and attended the annual Legacy Luncheon hosted Aug. 25 by the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations. She is a graduate of McNairy Central High School and plans to study food and nutrition. Mathenia is pictured with her parents, Ricky (1985) and Vonda Mathenia.
UT Martin earns recognition

Washington Monthly's 2017 college guide and rankings publication lists the University of Tennessee at Martin among the “best bang for the buck” schools in the southern United States.

UT Martin comes in at No. 8 on this annual list, up significantly from 17th in 2016. It is the top-ranked Tennessee school in this category, with Tennessee Wesleyan College being the only other in-state school to break the top 20.

Washington Monthly bases its “best bang for the buck” rankings on a series of criteria designed to help students of all income brackets obtain a marketable degree for a reasonable price.

Evaluation categories include such items as student loan repayment rates, estimated post-graduation earning potential and percentage of first-generation college students selected for admission.

Washington Monthly rankings are released each September and focus on data gathered in the previous 12-month period.

Family Weekend planned

Family Weekend activities are set for Sept. 23-24 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Parents and family members of both new freshmen and upperclassmen students are encouraged to return to campus and spend additional time with their students.

Special activities include the Bow Tie 5K Run/1 Mile Walk event, hosted by Chancellor Keith Carver; a tailgate party before the football game against Tennessee State University; and Sunday brunch in Skyhawk Dining Hall.

Registration for the Bow Tie 5K will begin at 8 a.m. on the lawn in front of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, with the race itself beginning at 9. Race participation is $15 per person, which includes a Bow Tie 5K T-shirt.

Waiver forms for the race can be found at utm.edu/familyweekend and should be completed and brought to registration.

Those who elect not to participate in the 5K can have donuts and coffee with the UT Martin college deans and Martin Mayor Randy Brundige beginning at 10 a.m. at the Martin Coffee House on Lindell Street. This is also where attendees can pick up their Family Weekend Packages if not participating in the race.

The Family Weekend Package is $25 per person and includes one meal ticket for the tailgate party, held from noon-3 p.m. prior to the football game; one general admission football ticket for the game beginning at 4 p.m.; a UT Martin T-shirt; a $2 coffee voucher to the Martin Coffee House; and a special discount package good at various local establishments.

A special Sunday brunch will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sept. 24, in Skyhawk Dining Hall. Brunch is not included in the Family Weekend Package and an individual charge will apply. Students are able to use their campus meal plans to attend this event.

Families are welcome to attend any or all events listed without purchasing a Family Weekend Package, however individual event prices will apply.

Family Weekend Packages should be reserved in advance at utm.edu/familyweekend, and cash or check payments will be accepted upon pick-up.

For more information, contact Lora McDonald at (731) 881-3630.
The University of Tennessee at Martin recently received results from phase two of a study of the perceptions and experiences of UT Martin alumni and current students conducted by Gallup Inc.

UT Martin partnered with Gallup Inc. in 2016 to begin the project.

Phase one dealt with the quantitative results of 2,623 alumni surveys completed from August to September of that year. That study showed UT Martin alumni to have an attachment to their alma mater surpassing the national average in many categories, including faculty support and academic rigor.

Phase two, conducted in May and June 2017, focused on qualitative answers from 20 phone interviews with alumni who graduated between 2011 and 2016, including both traditional and non-traditional students.

This phase focused on five research areas: academic rigor, student-faculty relationships, undergraduate internship and research opportunities, preparedness for post-graduation life and considerations for making post-graduation decisions.

The majority of alumni interviewed described their UT Martin professors as caring and willing to work with students. They discussed the small-town feel of the school and local area and said this atmosphere helped foster strong relationships with faculty mentors who showed interest in both their academic and personal success.

These interviews also revealed opportunities to further enrich UT Martin’s academic programs. Areas of discussion will include career support services, access to career-relevant internship opportunities and the relevance of core academic classes to graduate school and career options.

UT Martin has already addressed some of these issues with the creation of the Office of Career Planning and Development, now almost a year old. This office is funded through the Soar in Four program, which encourages students to graduate in four years, and is designed to help students make educated career decisions, gain relevant work experience before graduation and learn valuable skills such as interview tactics, salary negotiation and job-search strategies.

Phase three of this project will turn the focus toward the perceptions and experiences of current students, and a survey will be released later in the year to gather this data.

For more information on this survey or to see full demographic information for the response pools from phase one or two, contact Charley Deal, associate vice chancellor of alumni relations, at (731) 881-7610.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Family Weekend activities Sept. 23-24.

Parents and family members of both new freshmen and upperclassmen students are encouraged to return to campus and spend additional time with their students.

Special activities include the Bow Tie 5K Run/1 Mile Walk event, hosted by Chancellor Keith Carver, a tailgate party before the football game against Tennessee State University and Sunday brunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall.

Registration for the Bow Tie 5K will begin at 8 a.m. on the lawn in front of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center with the race itself beginning at 9 a.m. Race participation is $15 per person, which includes a Bow Tie 5K T-shirt. Waiver forms for the race can be found at utm.edu/familyweekend and should be completed and brought to registration.

Those who elect not to participate in the 5K can have donuts and coffee with the UT Martin college deans and city of Martin mayor Randy Brundige beginning at 10 a.m. at the Martin Coffee House on Lindell Street. This is also where attendees can pick up their Family Weekend Packages if not participating in the race.

The Family Weekend Package is $25 per person and includes one meal ticket for the tailgate party held from noon-3 p.m. prior to the football game; one general admission football ticket for the game beginning at 4 p.m.; a UT Martin T-shirt; a $2 coffee voucher to the Martin Coffee House; and a special discount package good at various local establishments.

A special Sunday brunch will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sept. 24, in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Brunch is not included in the Family Weekend Package, and an individual charge will apply. Students are able to use their campus meal plans to attend this event.

Families are welcome to attend any or all events listed without purchasing a Family Weekend Package; however, individual event prices will apply.

Family Weekend Packages should be reserved in advance at utm.edu/familyweekend, and cash or check payments will be accepted upon pick-up.

For more information, contact Lora McDonald at 881-3630.
UTM hosts Family Weekend

UTM will host Family Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23-24. Parents and family are encouraged to visit the Martin campus and spend time with their kids. Several special activities have been planned for Family Weekend.

The Family Weekend Package is $25 per person and includes one ticket for the tailgate party, held from noon-3 p.m. prior to the game on Saturday; one general admission ticket for the football game beginning at 4 p.m.; a UTM T-shirt; a $2 coffee voucher to the Martin Coffee House on Lindell Street; and special discounts for various local establishments. Families are welcome to attend any or all events listed without purchasing the package, however individual event prices will apply.

Registration for the Bow Tie 5K will begin at 8 a.m. on the lawn in front of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, with the race itself beginning at 9. Waiver forms for the race can be found at utm.edu/familyweekend and should be completed and brought to registration.

Those who elect not to participate in the 5K can have donuts and coffee with the UTM Martin college deans and city of Martin mayor Randy Brundige beginning at 10 a.m. at the Martin Coffee House on Lindell Street. This is also where attendees can pick up their Family Weekend Packages if not participating in the race.

The Family Weekend Package includes one meal ticket for the tailgate party, held from noon until 3 p.m. prior to the football game; one general admission football ticket for the game beginning at 4 p.m.; a UTM T-shirt; a coffee voucher to the Martin Coffee House; and a special discount package good at various local establishments.

A special Sunday brunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. through 1:30 p.m., September 24th, in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Brunch is not included in the Family Weekend Package. Students are able to use their campus meal plans to attend this event.

Families are welcome to attend any or all events listed without purchasing a Family Weekend Package, however individual event prices will apply.

For more information, contact Lora McDonald at 731-881-3630.
ERIN CHESNUT  
UT MARTIN

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin has recorded its first fall enrollment increase since 2010 by reaching 6,800 students for the 2017 fall semester. The total includes 1,048 freshmen, the largest freshman class since fall 2014. Final numbers include students enrolled at the main campus, online students and students attending the university’s five centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Total enrollment is up 1.4 percent — or 95 students — compared to the 2016 fall enrollment of 6,705 students. First-time freshmen increased 10.8 percent — or 102 students — compared to 946 first-time freshmen enrolled the previous fall. For the second consecutive year, the average ACT composite score for incoming freshmen remains at 23, and the high school grade point average of 3.54 is up from 3.53 for last year’s entering class. Freshman-to-sophomore retention increased for the fourth consecutive year by reaching a university record 76.1 percent. Other increases include transfers (+66), dual enrollment (+71) and graduate students (+16).

“I’m very pleased with the total enrollment, which includes increases in first-time freshmen and transfers,” said Dr. Keith Carver, who is in his first fall as UT Martin chancellor. “But I’m equally pleased with the record freshman-to-sophomore retention rate and the great preparation of incoming students reflected in the average ACT score. Our recruiting efforts are bringing in qualified students, and our faculty and staff are creating a nurturing environment that is helping our students succeed.”

The university’s full-time equivalency also increased 1 percent — or 54 students — which is the total number of student credit hours divided by 15 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students. The FTE is the number used by the state to determine funding for public higher education institutions.

“The Tennessee Promise is also starting to bring more students to UT Martin,” Carver added. “We expect this trend to continue as we see more students enter the university who have taken advantage of the program.” The Tennessee Promise began in the 2015-16 academic year and is both a scholarship and a mentoring program focused on increasing the number of students who attend college in Tennessee. UT Martin announced a partnership with Aug. 23 at Jackson State Community College that will benefit Tennessee Promise students who pursue a four-year degree at UT Martin through the university’s Elam Transfer Promise scholarships.

The university also increased access to its programs and services when the new UT Martin Somerville Center opened in August for fall semester classes.

“I’m very pleased with the total enrollment, which includes increases in first-time freshmen and transfers.”

DR. KEITH CARVER, UT MARTIN CHANCELLOR

UTM reading clinic

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center is now accepting applications for its second session, held Oct. 2-Nov. 7. Students in grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade-level reading standards can enroll to receive personalized assistance from experienced reading assistants.

Depending on personal needs, students can meet with a reading assistant either twice per week for $100 or four times per week for $200. Each meeting lasts one hour. Twice-weekly meetings will be held on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Each student must also purchase a $25 workbook for use during meetings.

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.

A third fall session will be held from Nov. 8-Dec. 7. Contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 to schedule a testing appointment.
**ACT prep at UTM**

MARTIN – High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for an ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Sept. 30-Oct. 7, on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science. The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, “The Official ACT Prep Guide 2018 edition,” which can be purchased on Amazon.com. Students should bring the textbook to the first class meeting.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php.

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**Enrollment up at UT Martin**

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin has recorded its first fall enrollment increase since 2010 by reaching 6,800 students for the 2017 fall semester. The total includes 1,048 freshmen, the largest freshman class since fall 2014. Final numbers include students enrolled at the main campus, online students and students attending the university’s five centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Total enrollment is up 1.4 percent – or 93 students – compared to the 2016 fall enrollment of 6,707 students. First-time freshmen increased 10.8 percent – or 102 students – compared to 946 first-time freshmen enrolled the previous fall. For the second consecutive year, the average ACT composite score for incoming freshmen remains at 23, and the high school grade point average of 3.54 is up from 3.53 for last year’s entering class.

Freshman-to-sophomore retention increased for the fourth consecutive year by reaching a university record 76.1 percent. Other increases include transfers (+66), dual enrollment (+71) and graduate students (+16).

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**UTM-Jackson offering robotics class**

Students with an interest in robotics and programming can enroll in a LEGO Robotics course to be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 30 and Oct. 7 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center.

This course is designed for students ages 8-14 and will challenge even those who have participated in a LEGO Robotics camp in the past.

Participants will be challenged to construct a Mars Rover from the remains of their crashed spacecraft and use it to take team members to safety before an incoming meteor storm arrives. Students will focus on using the scientific method to build, program and refine a LEGO robot to overcome challenges and complete specified tasks along the way.

The course meets on both dates, and the registration fee is $145 per student. All students should bring their own lunches. Due to the cost of the kits, students will not be able to keep them after the course. However, information on kits and parts can be obtained through the center if families are interested in purchasing their own equipment for personal use.

James Swanger, instructor of several previous robotics camps, will lead this course.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/jackson.php.
UT Martin offers horsemanship course

Community members interested in private riding instruction are encouraged to schedule lessons with UT Martin equestrian coaches Meghan Cunningham Corvin and Kim Leiter.

Individual lessons will cover the fundamentals of horse safety and horsemanship including handling, grooming, equipment, riding Western or English style, and the relationship of riding to physical and mental well-being.

The registration fee is $40 per one-hour lesson, which includes at least 30 minutes of riding time with care and saddling instruction before and after.

Riders must be at least seven years of age, and no prior riding experience is necessary. Participants must wear long pants and boots with a heel. Required riding helmets will be provided.

To schedule a lesson, contact Corvin for English riding lessons at 731-881-7273 or Leiter for Western riding lessons at 731-881-7261. Payment will be taken at 731-881-7082 after lessons are scheduled.

GREENWAY EXTENSION TO BEGIN — The Brian Brown Memorial Greenway, which begins at Skyhawk Parkway on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin, will soon extend all the way to downtown Martin. This last stage of development will expand the existing greenway to Lindell Street from the intersection of Highway 431 and Skyhawk Parkway, “giving our citizens an option to walk or cycle rather than use their vehicles when going from one destination of town to another,” Mayor Randy Brundige said. The project is due to be completed in November, at which time a ribbon cutting will take place.

Photo by Linda Thurston
HELPING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN — Bett Jewell, director of the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse in Weakley and Obion County, was the speaker for the Sept. 13 meeting of Kiwanis. A graduate of UT Martin and a person passionate about her work to help keep each child safe, Jewel shared the mission of the center: "Our mission is to provide support to families in preventing and dealing with child abuse in West Tennessee, and help both parents and children meet the practical needs of preserving and improving the quality of family life." The Carl Perkins Center, which now has a presence in every county in West Tennessee, is located in Martin at 111 Oxford Street. The telephone number is 731-587-0768 and the email for the center is weakley@carperkinscenter.org. The hot line is 1-800-273-4747. Jewel is pictured with local Kiwanis president Jim Clark (left) and Kiwanis District La-Miss-Tenn Governor Designate Otha Britton. She is holding a certificate that represents a donation made in her honor to the International Kiwanis Eliminate Project where Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, a deadly disease that steals the lives of 34,000 babies and a significant number of women each year. At each meeting of Kiwanis, members learn more about the services in the community and the people who make a positive difference in the lives of others.
The University of Tennessee at Martin has recorded its first fall enrollment increase since 2010 by reaching 6,800 students for the 2017 fall semester. The final enrollment total includes 1,048 freshmen, the largest freshman class since fall 2014. Current UT Martin students (from left) Boone Brown and Amanda Lund, both of Martin, and Aja Brown of Memphis are pictured at the main campus.

**UTM Fall Enrollment Increases**

The University of Tennessee at Martin has recorded its first fall enrollment increase since 2010 by reaching 6,800 students for the 2017 fall semester. The final enrollment total includes 1,048 freshmen, the largest freshman class since fall 2014. Current UT Martin students (from left) Boone Brown and Amanda Lund, both of Martin, and Aja Brown of Memphis are pictured at the main campus.

The university’s full-time equivalency also increased 1 percent – or 54 students – which is the total number of student credit hours divided by 15 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students. The FTE is the number used by the state to determine funding for public higher education institutions.

“The Tennessee Promise is also starting to bring more students to UT Martin,” Carver added. “We expect this trend to continue as we see more students enter the university who have taken advantage of the program.”

The Tennessee Promise began in the 2015-16 academic year and is both a scholarship and a mentoring program focused on increasing the number of students who attend college in Tennessee. UT Martin announced a partnership Aug. 23 at Jackson State Community College that will benefit Tennessee Promise students who pursue a four-year degree at UT Martin through the university’s Elam Transfer Promise scholarships.

The University also increased access to its programs and services when the new UT Martin Somerville Center opened in August for fall semester classes.
UTM WestStar participants sought now

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 798 graduates in its 28-year history.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee’s development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 12 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2018.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/departments/weststar. The application deadline is Oct. 13. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.

UTM ups enrollment

The University of Tennessee at Martin has recorded its first fall enrollment increase since 2010 by reaching 6,800 students for the 2017 fall semester. The total includes 1,048 freshmen, the largest freshman class since fall 2014. Final numbers include students enrolled at the main campus, online students and students attending the university’s five centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Total enrollment is up 1.4 percent, or 95 students, compared to the 2016 fall enrollment of 6,705 students.

First-time freshmen increased 10.8 percent, or 102 students, compared to 946 first-time freshmen enrolled the previous fall. For the second consecutive year, the average ACT composite score for incoming freshmen remains at 23, and the high school grade point average of 3.54 is up from 3.53 for last year’s entering class. Freshman-to-sophomore retention increased for the fourth consecutive year by reaching a university record 76.1 percent.
Weather always clear for UT-Martin senior

By Steve Beavers
Assistant Editor

Forecasting weather is sunshine on a rainy day for Jennifer Naillon.
The University of Tennessee at Martin senior loves it so much that she has started a weather forecast blog for McNairy County.

"It is very important to know what the weather is going to do," said Naillon, a 2014 McNairy Central High School graduate. "I have always had the urge to start a forecast blog of my own because I believe it's a way to give back to the community."

Naillon has been drawn to the weather field since an early age. "My interest in weather has been one of the constants in my life," she said. "Every time I have considered a different career field, it has always come back to weather."

Hurricane Isabel's trek through North Carolina and Virginia stirred a weather interest for Naillon as she sat through the storm in Virginia. "It made me want to do more research," said Naillon.

Naillon – a member of the American Meteorological Society Student Chapter at U.T.-Martin – plans to obtain a Master's degree in Atmospheric Science with a concentration in either Air Quality/Atmospheric Chemistry or Urban Weather.

"Ultimately, I want to be a research scientist at NASA Goddard," she said.

The McNairy Countian is using her blog to practice her forecasting and communication skills. "It also helps the residents of McNairy County plan their day," she aid. "It is always good to check the weather before making any plans."
UT Martin hosts family weekend Sept. 23

By Erin Chesnut
University of Tennessee Martin

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Family Weekend activities Sept. 23-24. Parents and family members of both new freshmen and upperclassmen students are encouraged to return to campus and spend additional time with their students.

Special activities include the Bow Tie 5K Run/1 Mile Walk event, hosted by Chancellor Keith Carver, a tailgate party before the football game against Tennessee State University and Sunday brunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall.

Registration for the Bow Tie 5K will begin at 8 a.m. on the lawn in front of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, with the race itself beginning at 9. Race participation is $15 per person, which includes a Bow Tie 5K T-shirt. Race waiver forms are available at utm.edu and should be completed and brought to registration.

The Family Weekend Package is $25 per person and includes one meal ticket for the tailgate party, held from noon-3 p.m. prior to the football game; one general admission football ticket for the game beginning at 4 p.m. and much more.

A special Sunday brunch will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sept. 24, in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Brunch is not included in the Family Weekend Package, and an individual charge will apply.

Families are welcome to attend any or all events listed without purchasing a Family Weekend Package, however individual event prices will apply.

Family Weekend Packages should be reserved in advance at utm.edu/familyweekend, and cash or check payments will be accepted upon pick-up.

For more information, contact Lora McDonald at 731-881-3630.

University listed in top 50 of best regionals in South

U.S. News & World Report released its 2018 college rankings recently and the University of Tennessee at Martin appears on several lists.

UT Martin is tied for 46th place among the best regional universities in the South, moving up from 47 in the 2017 listing.

This is the second consecutive year where UT Martin appears as the top-ranked public institution from Tennessee and the university is ranked 17th among public regional universities across the South.

UT Martin is also ranked 27th in the "best college for veterans" category among southern institutions.

Universities considered for this ranking not only participate in federal initiatives to help veterans and service members pay for college degrees, they also make an effort to provide support for student-veterans as they transition into college life.

U.S. News & World Report rankings are based on a variety of both quantitative and qualitative factors, including graduation and retention rates, undergraduate academic reputation, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate performance and alumni giving.

Data for the 2018 rankings was collected during the first half of 2017 from a variety of sources, including self-reported data from the institution and statistical data from the Council for Aid to Education and the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.
UT Martin fall enrollment shows 1.4 percent increase

The University of Tennessee at Martin has recorded its first fall enrollment increase since 2010 by reaching 6,800 students for the 2017 fall semester.

The total includes 1,048 freshmen, the largest freshman class since fall 2014.

Final numbers include students enrolled at the main campus, online students and students attending the university's centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Total enrollment is up 1.4 percent—or 95 students—compared to the 2016 fall enrollment of 6,705 students. First-time freshmen increased 10.8 percent—or 102 students—compared to 946 first-time freshmen enrolled the previous fall.

For the second consecutive year, the average ACT composite score for incoming freshmen remains at 23, and the high school grade point average of 3.54 is up from 3.53 for last year's entering class. Freshman-to-sophomore retention increased for the fourth consecutive year by reaching a university record 76.1 percent. Other increases include transfers (up 66), dual enrollment (up 71) and graduate students (up 16).

“I'm very pleased with the total enrollment, which includes increases in first-time freshmen and transfers,” said Dr. Keith Carver, who is in his first fall as UT Martin chancellor. “But I'm equally pleased with the record freshman-to-sophomore retention rate and the great preparation of incoming students reflected in the average ACT score. Our recruiting efforts are bringing in qualified students, and our faculty and staff are creating a nurturing environment that is helping our students succeed.”

The university's full-time equivalency also increased 1 percent—or 54 students—which is the total number of student credit hours divided by 15 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students. The FTE is the number used by the state to determine funding for public higher education institutions.

"The Tennessee Promise is also starting to bring more students to UT Martin," Carver added. “We expect this trend to continue as we see more students enter the university who have taken advantage of the program.”

Tennessee Promise began in the 2015-16 academic year and is both a scholarship and a mentoring program focused on increasing the number of students who attend college in Tennessee. UT Martin announced a partnership Aug. 23 at Jackson State Community College that will benefit Tennessee Promise students who pursue a four-year degree at UT Martin through the university's Elam Transfer Promise scholarships.

The university also increased access to its programs and services when the new UT Martin Somerville Center opened in August for fall semester classes.
Pharmacy technician class begins Sept. 25 at UTM

Community members interested in becoming pharmacy technicians are encouraged to register for a comprehensive 50-hour course offered Mondays and Wednesdays from Sept. 25 to Nov. 13 on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The class will run 6-9:30 p.m.

This course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board’s licensure exam. Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs both by generic and brand names.

Participants will learn about dosage calculations, IV flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, billing and reimbursement.

The registration fee for this course is $1,199 per person, which includes textbooks and supplies.

Participants who have done farm work in the past two years may qualify for financial assistance through Tennessee Opportunity Programs. For more information, contact Sherry Fowler, career manager for Tennessee Opportunity Programs, at (731) 696-4860.

To register, contact the Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/degree/martin.php.

October’s UT Martin Relay for Life event to have Halloween theme

The Relay for Life Weakley West Event will be held at UT Martin from 5-11 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, in the parking lot of Hardy Graham Stadium. The theme this year is the Monster Mash. There will be food, entertainment, fun, games and activities and hay rides for the kids. It is going to be a family event following the idea that it is Friday the 13th and close to Halloween. The festivities will begin with the survivor reception at 5 p.m. followed by the opening ceremonies and the survivor and caretaker walk.
SPREADING AWARENESS - The Weakley County Prevention Coalition (WCPC) partnered with UT Martin Housing to help share awareness about the social hosting law with UT Martin students this fall. WCPC’s intern, Toya White, led this initiative by working with UT Martin Housing Director Ryan Martin and supplying over 700 red solo cups magnets to Housing with the message: “Those who host, lose the most. Don’t be a party to underage drinking. It’s against the law and can cost you up to $1,000.” These magnets were placed on every refrigerator in UTM’s campus apartments and dorms. “It’s important that we educate the college community about the consequences of supplying alcohol to underage students,” said WCPC Director Suzanne Harper. “Social hosting comes with a hefty fine and consequences that could hinder the success of a college student. Our aim is not to get people in trouble, but to educate students on what is against the law to prevent it from happening.”

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the UTM WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 798 graduates in its 28-year history.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage, and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved and help West Tennessee become a better place, and are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles. WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and community and public service endeavors.

Participants will learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape West Tennessee’s future.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee’s development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 12 with an opening one-day retreat, and ends June 21, 2018, with an evening graduation ceremony.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/departments/weststar. The application deadline is Oct. 13. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.

WestStar Leadership Program accepting applications for 2018
UTM honored for degree quality, student opportunities

The University of Tennessee at Martin has received two new rankings in recent months, one for the online master's program in education and another for opportunities provided for students in the Federal Work-Study Program. TeacherCertification-Degrees.com ranks UT Martin 10th on its national list of the top schools offering online Master of Education degrees. UT Martin is the top-ranked Tennessee institution on this list, which places emphasis on tuition cost per credit hour, the number of graduate students enrolled in distance-learning courses and program accreditation.

UT Martin's Master of Education degree program is independently accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

The Student Loan Report recently ranked more than 400 public institutions participating in the Federal Work-Study Program, which offers work opportunities for students who otherwise may not be able to afford the cost of higher education. UT Martin is ranked 45th among public schools with 324 work-study positions available and an average of $2,566 paid per worker during the 2015-16 academic year.

UT Martin is the top-ranked Tennessee institution on this list, with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, following at number 50. UT Martin students seeking to find work through the Federal Work-Study Program must indicate this desire on their FAFSA each year and then apply and interview for positions in departments and offices across campus.

UTM alum named UT Network Volunteer of the Year

The University of Tennessee Alumni Association’s Board of Governors Engagement Committee selected David Bryan, formerly of Manchester, as the 2016 Network Volunteer of the Year.

Bryan is a 1980 UT Martin graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. He currently works as a financial adviser with Summit Brokerage Services Inc. in Chattanooga.

Aside from his work on the Chattanooga Network board, Bryan has been a member of the UT Martin Alumni Council (1992), UT Martin Development Council (2000-03), UT Alumni Association Board of Governors (2009-2014-17) and UT Martin Skyhawk Club Board of Directors (2013).

UT Martin to host Italian speaker Luca Bonomi

Published: Friday, September 22nd 2017, 2:07 pm CDT
Updated: Friday, September 22nd 2017, 3:17 pm CDT

Written by Jessica Eftink, Content Specialist

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Luca Bonomi, president of the Societa Dante Alighieri in Siena, Italy on October 2-5.

The Societa Dante Alighieri or the Dante Alighieri Society is a society that promotes Italian culture and language around the world. Today this society is present in more than 60 countries.

Bonomi became associated with UT Martin after an interdisciplinary class of students traveled to Italy last spring to study the country's culture, language, food and literature.

During Bonomi's week-long stay, he will present two public presentations and take part in the UT Martin Academic Speaker series at 6 p.m. on October 3, in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. His topic will be "Music and Songs: A New Idea of Soundtracks in Italian Cinema, 1950s-60s".

On October 2 at 7:30 p.m., Bonomi will give a presentation in the Fine Arts Building's Blankenship Recital Hall, where he will address "Love, Sacrifice, and Redemption in 'La Traviata'" an opera by Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi.

During this campus visit, Bonomi is scheduled to present guest lectures for the departments of behavioral sciences and music and the College of Business and Global Affairs, spend time with students from the UT Martin Honors Programs, and meet with faculty and administrators from seven academic departments.

For more information on Bonomi's visit or travel opportunities to the Societa Dante Alighieri, contact Dr. Joseph Ostenson at 731-881-7542 or email josteno@utm.edu.

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UTM’s Reed Center to host free speaker series Oct. 3-Nov. 14

MARTIN – The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host a free seminar series called “Small Business Basics – Ask the Expert” for local business owners from 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 3-Nov. 14. Seminar costs are covered by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center.

Beau Pemberton, an attorney with Bradberry and Pemberton, will begin the series with a session titled “Your Attorney Knows Best” on Oct. 3. Pemberton is a 2005 graduate of UT Martin and a 2008 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Law. He began his private practice shortly after finishing law school and focuses on estate planning and probate, elder law, criminal defense, domestic relations, real estate, and business and municipal law.

Landy Fuqua, director of the REED Center, will host the Oct. 10 session titled “What is a business plan?” She assists small and prospective business owners by providing a comprehensive source for solutions to create, manage, expand and sustain local businesses. Fuqua is a certified small business counselor and a UT Martin alumna, as well as a graduate of both the WestStar and Weakley County leadership programs.

Elizabeth Pritchett, director of sales and marketing at Center Point Business Solutions in Union City, will focus on “Money-Making Marketing Strategies” during the Oct. 17 session. Pritchett has 18 years of experience working with various types of businesses, from publicly held corporations to small business partnerships. She is a UT Martin alumna, a member of the Martin Business Association, and a graduate of both the WestStar and Weakley County leadership programs.

Darlene Adkins, lecturer of accounting at UT Martin, will facilitate the Oct. 24 seminar on “Your CPA – A Key to a Better Return.” Adkins has more than 20 years of experience in various accounting and auditing positions and has served as senior auditor for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. She joined the UT Martin faculty in 2011 after spending two years accounting at the first all-women’s college in Kuwait. She has also worked in the health-care, non-profit and retail industries.

Dr. Sean Walker will host a session Nov. 7 on “Ending the Cold War in your Workplace: Practical Tips for Resolving Conflict.” Walker is an associate professor in the UT Martin Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems and focuses primarily on the impact of psychological phenomena on human resources and organizational behavior. He is also both a licensed minister and mediator and has extensive experience helping parties reach mutually acceptable agreements when faced with conflict.

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence at UT Martin, will discuss “Finding and Profiling Customers” on Nov. 14. This session will focus on using traditional sales calls, client referrals and product pitches to attract new customers and close a deal.

Mehlhorn joined the UT Martin faculty in 2002 and teaches a variety of subjects, including strategic and risk management for the graduate program in agriculture and natural resources.

All sessions will be at the REED Center at 406 S. Lindell St. in Martin. There will be no seminar Oct. 31. Visit tsbdc.org/UTM to register for any session. For more information, contact the center at 731-587-7333.

Inaugural UTM golf tournament scheduled on Oct. 5

The UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development invites all local golfers to participate in the inaugural Career Classic Golf Tournament, Oct. 5, at the Persimmon Hills Golf Course in Sharon. Event proceeds will be used to better serve UT Martin students seeking internships and job placement through the office.

Tournament check-in will begin at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10. Lunch will be provided to participants at noon along with prizes for the first, second and third-place teams. Door prizes will also be available at the end of the event.

The registration fee is $75 for an individual and $300 for a four-person team. Individual prizes will be assigned to a team by the tournament director. The fee includes green fees, car rental, range balls and lunch.

Pre-payment for participants and sponsors is due by Oct. 2 and should be made payable to UT Martin Career Planning and Development. Participants can register online at utm.edu/cp/ugolf or by contacting Mark McCloud, office director, at 731-881-7712 or mmcloud@utm.edu.

The Persimmon Hills Golf Course is located at 1696 Rock Hill Road in Sharon.

UTM planning to host Italian speaker Oct. 2-5

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Luca Bonomi, president of the Societá Dante Alighieri in Siena, Italy, on Oct. 2-5. Bonomi will not only appear as part of the UT Martin Academic Speaker Series on Oct. 3, but will also host several special presentations during his stay.

The Societá Dante Alighieri is a language school, and Bonomi has traveled abroad promoting the school and its programs since 1999. He teaches courses in Italian language, culture, opera and the history of Italian cinema and hosts conferences on these subjects around the world.

Bonomi became associated with UT Martin when an interdisciplinary class of students traveled to Italy last spring to study the country's culture, language, food and literature.

Bonomi will present two public presentations during his week-long campus visit. He will appear as part of the UT Martin Academic Speaker Series at 6 p.m., Oct. 3, in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium, where he will discuss "Music and Songs: A New Idea of Soundtracks in Italian Cinema, 1950s-60s."

He will also give a presentation sponsored by the UT Martin Department of Music at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 2, in the Fine Arts Building's Blankenship Recital Hall, where he will address "Love, Sacrifice and Redemption in 'La Traviata,'" an opera by Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi.
UTM to host conference for math teachers statewide

ERIN CHESNUT
SPECIAL FOR THE SUN

MARTIN - The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association annual conference on Sept. 29-30. More than 200 mathematics teachers, supervisors and other mathematics educators from kindergarten through college are expected to attend.

"TMTA provides a two-day professional development opportunity for mathematics educators," said Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, UT Martin professor of mathematics and TMTA treasurer. "This year we have over 70 presentations covering grade levels PreK-12 and college available."

Three additional faculty members from the UT Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics also hold positions within TMTA and the regional chapter - the Mathematics Teachers of Tennessee Northwest. Dr. Desiree McCullough, professor and director of institutional research, is the contest awards chair and past president; David Ray, lecturer, is the organization's examination director; and Dr. Brian Wagner, associate professor, is regional contest chair for West Tennessee.

Friday's events will conclude with a banquet to honor the statewide top-10 winners of the TMTA high school math contests held in April. Student winners, their teachers and their families have all been invited to join association members for the evening. Trent Okerson, meteorologist for WSPD-TV Local 6 in Paducah, Kentucky, will serve as the banquet's keynote speaker.

UT Martin has hosted this statewide conference three times, most recently in 2010.

For more information, contact the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at 731-881-7360.

UT Martin releases schedule of homecoming 2017 activities

Published: Monday, September 25th 2017, 12:14 pm CDT
Updated: Monday, September 25th 2017, 12:14 pm CDT
Written by Robbyn DeSpain, Asst. News Director

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - Homecoming 2017 will take on a pirate theme at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Oct. 2-7, as the Skyhawks prepare to face Murray State beginning at 2 p.m., Oct. 7, in Hard Y. Graham Stadium.

This year's festivities will include the traditional rope pull, lip sync, pyramid and step show events hosted by the UT Martin offices of alumni relations and student life, the Undergraduate Alumni Council, and various campus organizations. A complete schedule of these events is available at utmforever.com.

Quad City will officially open at 10:30 a.m. and remain open until the football game at 2 p.m.

Other scheduled events are listed below:
- Oct. 5 - Public Relations Student Society of America hosts the "Womanless Beauty Revue"; Watkins Auditorium; 7 p.m.; admission
- Oct. 6 - Black Alumni Council reception; Dunagan Alumni Center; 6 p.m.
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- Oct. 6 - UT Martin soccer vs. Belmont; soccer complex; 7 p.m.
- Oct. 7 - Letterwinners' Breakfast and Hall of Fame Inductions; Student Life Center; 7:30 a.m.; by invitation
- Oct. 7 - Chancellor's Brunch and Alumni Awards Program; Paul Meek Library; 10 a.m.; by invitation
- Oct. 7 - 1967 football championship team reunion; Graham Stadium; 10 a.m.; by invitation
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Events are open to the public and free to attend unless otherwise noted. UT Martin students can use their meal plans or Captain's Cash credits to attend the homecoming brunch.
UTM alum is UT Network Volunteer of the Year.

The University of Tennessee Alumni Association’s Board of Governors Engagement Committee selected their 2016 Network Volunteer of the Year.

David Bryan, who was selected last week, is a 1980 UT Martin graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and he currently works as a financial advisor with Summit Brokerage Services in Chattanooga.

Bryan has been a member of the UTM Alumni Council since 1992 and has served a member of the UTM Development Council, Association Board of Governors and UT Martin Skyhawks Club Board of Directors.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Monday, September 25, 2017

REED Center to host free speaker series

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host a free seminar series called “Small Business Basics — Ask the Expert” for local business owners from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesdays from Oct. 3-Nov. 14.

Seminar costs are covered by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center.

Beau Pemberton, an attorney with Bradberry and Pemberton, will begin the series with a session titled “Your Attorney Knows Best” on Oct. 3. He is a 2005 graduate of UT Martin and a 2008 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Law. He began his private practice shortly after finishing law school and focuses on estate planning and probate, elder law, criminal defense, domestic relations, real estate, and business and municipal law.

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Darlene Adkins, lecturer of accounting at UT Martin, will facilitate the Oct. 24 seminar on “Your CPA — A Key to a Better Return.” She has more than 20 years of experience in various accounting and auditing positions and has served as senior auditor for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General.

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He joined the UT Martin faculty in 2003 and teaches a variety of subjects, including strategic and risk management for the graduate program in agriculture and natural resources.

All sessions will be held at the REED Center at 406 South Lindell St. in Martin. There will be no seminar Oct. 31.

Visit tsbdc.org/UTM to register for any session. For more information, contact the center at 731-587-7333.
WESTSTAR ALUMNI – UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program alumni from Obion County were among the guests of Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and the city of Martin for the 12th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival WestStar Barbecue Luncheon held at Simmons Bank in Martin. WestStar alumni enjoyed lunch, learned about the festival and received the latest information about the leadership program. A WestStar Alumni Council meeting was held at the university’s Dunagan Alumni Center before the event. WestStar is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program and has 798 graduates in its 28-year history. Attending the event were (from left) Charlene Burpo, Twin Oaks Technology; Phyllis Rauchle, Leadership Obion County; Lindsay Frilling, Obion County Joint Economic Development Corporation; Brad Thompson, city of Martin; Nicole Kincade, Twin Oaks Technology; Joe Ward, First Citizens National Bank; Mike Daniel, Reelfoot Bank; and Art Sparks, Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs.

Entreprenurial Vision Workshops resume Oct. 5

The Skyhawk Entrepreneurial Vision Workshops will resume on Oct. 5. The series of workshops is designed to assist emerging and experienced business owners in turning a business idea into companies. The workshops will begin on Thursday, Oct. 5, meeting every Thursday for seven weeks at the University of Tennessee Martin College of Business & Global Affairs Building, Room 33.

The sponsors for the workshops are the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center (NTEC), the Northwest Tennessee Angel Fund, LLC and the University of Tennessee Martin (UTM).

Participants will learn from successful entrepreneurs the power of having a strategy, strategic planning, preparing for tough questions, smart social media marketing, having a business plan that gets results, and perfecting their pitch. Please note the Oct. 5 session will begin at 4 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. All other sessions will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m.

“We have added something new for this year, the Skyhawk New Venture Business Plan contest,” said Carol Reed, executive director of NTEC. “The spirit of the Skyhawk New Venture Business Plan Pitch contest is to give the workshop participants feedback concerning their business idea while in the early stages of business model development. The contestants will have expert feedback and the opportunity to fine-tune their ideas, ultimately leading to the successful creation of a new business. There will be $600 in prize money for first place, second place and third place winners. The contest will be held on Nov. 16.”

The first workshop took place in the fall of 2016, with more than 80 different entrepreneurs participating in one or more sessions. Workshop materials and a light meal will be included each night free of charge with an RSVP.

Register online at nteconnect.com or contact Reed at Carol.Reed@nwtd.org or 731-587-4213 ext.275.

This project is funded in part by Launch Tennessee.
Homecoming 2017 will take on a pirate theme at the University of Tennessee at Martin Oct. 2-7, as the Skyhawks prepare to face Murray State beginning at 2 p.m., Oct. 7, in Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

This year's festivities will include the traditional rope pull, lip sync, pyramid and step show events hosted by the UT Martin offices of alumni relations and student life, the Undergraduate Alumni Council and various campus organizations. A complete schedule of these events is available at utmforever.com.

Quad City will officially open at 10:30 a.m. and remain open until the football game at 2 p.m. Other scheduled events are listed below:

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- Oct. 8 – Homecoming Brunch; Skyhawk Dining Hall; 10:30 a.m.; individual charge

Events are open to the public and free to attend unless otherwise noted. UT Martin students can use their meal plans or Captain's Cash credits to attend the homecoming brunch.

A complete list of the week's activities is available at utmforever.com.
UT Martin nursing class marks 100 percent pass rate

One hundred percent of nursing graduates from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2017 class who took their National Council Licensure Examinations this year passed as first-time test-takers.
The NCLEX is a mandatory examination to receive licensure as a registered nurse.
“T am extremely proud of all our graduates and this year’s graduates are no exception,” said Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor of nursing and department chair.
“In addition to completing our rigorous curriculum, which provides an exceptionnal foundation, they worked diligently to prepare for the exam up until their test dates. On behalf of all the nursing faculty, we want to extend our congratulations and we can’t wait to see what great things they do in the profession of nursing.”

UT Martin has educated nurses for more than 40 years, and nursing graduates go on to hold leadership positions in the health-care field and make a difference in the lives of their patients.

Students who leave UT Martin with a bachelor of science in nursing degree complete more than 900 clinical hours in hospitals and health-care facilities across the state and gain experience in surgical, intensive care, maternity, pediatric, geriatric, mental health and emergency units, among others. Classes are also provided on topics such as leadership skills and community-based nursing in addition to clinical learning opportunities.

“Our nursing program being three years definitively was a benefit in order to be able to experience more clinical hours,” said Courtney McCaleb, a member of the 2017 class. “Nursing school has been one of the hardest things I’ve done in life, but one of the most rewarding as well.” Ms. McCaleb, a Memphis native, is working in pediatric oncology as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis.

Colton Granser of Adamsville earned his nursing degree through the UT Martin Parsons Center and currently works as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson.

“I sincerely loved my time in the program,” he said. “My instructors sincerely cared about my desire to become a nurse and gave me every opportunity to succeed. I know that every part of the program completely prepared me for my field of work.”

Students can earn a UT Martin nursing degree on the main campus in Martin and at the UT Martin Parsons Center. The RN-BSN bridge program for currently licensed nurses is also available online.

For more information on the UT Martin Department of Nursing, contact the department directly at (731) 881-7131 or email Ms. Radford at marye@utm.edu.

Second free speaker event at UTM Oct. 10

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host its second seminar in the “Small Business Basics – Ask the Expert” series for local business owners from 6-8 p.m., Oct. 10. Seminar costs are covered by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center.
Landy Fuqua will give a presentation titled “What is in a business plan?” and provide a new approach to business planning and online collaboration with experts. Participants will receive step-by-step instructions during their business planning process. Prompts, definitions, videos, examples and text tutorials are built into the program.

Fuqua, a certified small business counselor and UT Martin alumna, is the director of the UT Martin REED Center and the TSBD Center. She assists small business owners and prospective business owners by providing a single, comprehensive source for solutions to assist in the creation, management, expansion and sustainability of their businesses. She is also a graduate of both the WestStar and Weakley County leadership programs.

There will be four more sessions held at the REED Center at 406 S. Lindell St. in Martin. There will be no seminar Oct. 31.
UTM homecoming schedule

Homecoming 2017 will take on a pirate theme at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Oct. 2-7, as the Skyhawks prepare to face Murray State beginning at 2 p.m., Oct. 7, in Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

This year’s festivities will include the traditional rope pull, lip sync, pyramid and step show events hosted by the UT Martin offices of alumni relations and student life, the Undergraduate Alumni Council and various campus organizations. A complete schedule of these events is available at utmforever.com.

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Family Legacy Fund at UT-Martin

A Family Legacy Fund has been established at UT-Martin in honor of some former Obion County residents.

Martha Coleman Edinger, the daughter of longtime Obion County residents Kenneth and Carolyn Coleman, established the Lexie and Verna B. Coleman Legacy Fund in memory of her grandparents.

The fund will now be used to support international travel for UT-Martin history majors.

The first trip is planned for May 20th thru June 1st with stops in London and Paris, and is designed to commemorate the centennial of the Great War.

Martha Coleman Edinger (center) is pictured with Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls (left), Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History, and Dr. David Coffey, chair of the UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy.

Ms. Edinger said the travel study will enhance the students learning experience beyond the classroom, while also allowing the opportunity to experience different cultures.

The Coleman family has lived in Northwest Tennessee for almost 200 years.
UT Homecoming Schedule Of Events

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A complete list of the week’s activities is available at umforever.com.

WestStar is accepting applications

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 798 graduates in its 28-year history.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee’s development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins December 12 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2018, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved and help West Tennessee become a better place, and are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/departments/weststar/. The application deadline is October 13.
UTM faculty wins chemistry awards

The American Chemical Society

Kentucky Lake Local Section recently received three Chem Luminary awards during the 254th American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition held in Washington, D.C. These awards recognize successful events and programs hosted by the society’s 185 local sections.

Drs. Robbie Montgomery, Abigail Shelton, Phillip Shelton and Genessa Smith, faculty members in the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Chemistry and Physics, serve as councilor, past chair, chair and chair-elect of the section, respectively.

The Kentucky Lake Local Section was named a finalist in four Chem Luminary divisions and earned awards in the “Outstanding Public Outreach Event Organized by a Student Group” and “Best National Chemistry Week Event Organized by a Student Group” categories. The section also earned “Outstanding Performance by Local Section (Medium Small Size),” beating 46 other sections in this size division.

The section won the outstanding public outreach category for hosting a meeting where the UT Martin chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society organized a water symposium last March, which featured three outside speakers and a panel discussion detailing the chemistry of the Flint, Michigan, water crisis. Dr. S. K. Airee, professor of chemistry, served as SMACS adviser and assisted with the symposium.

UTM Phi Kappa Phi recognition ceremony scheduled

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Phi Kappa Phi Fall Recognition Ceremony will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 10, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. Freshman and sophomores who excel academically will be honored for their accomplishments.

Dr. Robbie Montgomery, associate professor of chemistry, will present a lecture titled “A Focus on Focusing Proteins.”

Montgomery received her Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where she studied new and innovative methods to separate proteins. She currently teaches a variety of courses, including general chemistry, quantitative analysis, instrumental analysis and forensics, for the UT Martin Department of Chemistry and Physics.

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

This event is free and open to the public.

Math educators to gather in area

The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers’ Association annual conference Friday and Saturday.

More than 200 mathematics teachers, supervisors and other mathematics educators from kindergarten through college are expected to attend.

“TMTA provides a two-day professional development opportunity for mathematics educators,” said Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, UT Martin professor of mathematics and TMTA treasurer. “This year we have over 70 presentations covering grade levels PreK-12 and college available.”

Three additional faculty members from the UT Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics also hold positions within TMTA and the regional chapter, the Mathematics Teachers of Tennessee Northwest. Dr. Desiree McCullough, professor and director of institutional research, is the contest awards chair and past president; David Ray, lecturer, is the organization’s examination director; and Dr. Brian Wagner, associate professor, is regional contest chair for West Tennessee.

Friday’s events will conclude with a banquet to honor the statewide Top 10 winners of the TMTA high school math contests held in April. Student winners, their teachers and their families have all been invited to join association members for the evening.

Trent Okerson, meteorologist for WSPD-TV Local 6 in Paducah, Ky., will serve as the banquet’s keynote speaker.

UT Martin has hosted this statewide conference three times, most recently in 2010.

For more information, contact the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at (731) 881-7360.
UT Martin nursing class marks 100 percent pass rate

One hundred percent of nursing graduates from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2017 class who took their National Council Licensing Examinations this year passed as first-time test-takers.

The NCLEX is a mandatory examination to receive licensure as a registered nurse.

“I am extremely proud of all our graduates and this year’s graduates are no exception,” said Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor of nursing and department chair.

“In addition to completing our rigorous curriculum, which provides an exceptional foundation, they worked diligently to prepare for the exam up until their test dates. On behalf of all the nursing faculty, we want to extend our congratulations and we can’t wait to see what great things they do in the profession of nursing.”

UT Martin has educated nurses for more than 40 years, and nursing graduates go on to hold leadership positions in the health-care field and make a difference in the lives of their patients.

Students who leave UT Martin with a bachelor of science in nursing degree complete more than 900 clinical hours in hospitals and health-care facilities across the state and gain experience in surgical, intensive care, maternity, pediatric, geriatric, mental health and emergency units, among others. Classes are also provided on topics such as leadership skills and community-based nursing in addition to clinical learning opportunities.

“Our nursing program being three years definitely was a benefit in order to be able to experience more clinical hours,” said Courtney McCaleb, a member of the 2017 class. “Nursing school has been one of the hardest things I’ve done in life, but one of the most rewarding as well.”

Ms. McCaleb, a Memphis native, is working in pediatric oncology as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis.

Colton Gramse of Adamsville earned his nursing degree through the UT Martin Parsons Center and currently works as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson.

“I sincerely loved my time in the program,” he said. “My instructors sincerely cared about my desire to become a nurse and gave me every opportunity to succeed. I know that every part of the program completely prepared me for my field of work.”

Students can earn a UT Martin nursing degree on the main campus in Martin and at the UT Martin Parsons Center. The RN-BSN bridge program for currently licensed nurses is also available online.

For more information on the UT Martin Department of Nursing, contact the department directly at (731) 881-7131 or email Ms. Radford at marye@utm.edu.

University nationally ranked for quality and opportunities

The University of Tennessee at Martin has received two new rankings in recent months, one for the online master’s program in education and another for opportunities provided for students in the Federal Work-Study Program.

TeacherCertificationDegrees.com ranks UT Martin 10th on its national list of the top schools offering online master of education degrees.

UT Martin is the top-ranked Tennessee institution on this list, with the University of Tennessee at Knoxville following at number 50.

UT Martin students seeking to find work through the Federal Work-Study Program must indicate this desire on their FAFSA each year and then apply and interview for positions in departments and offices.
Martin, Tenn. – Joe Exum, formerly of Leland Powell Fasteners in Martin, and Mike Moss, of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, will receive alumni awards during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s homecoming festivities Oct. 7. The homecoming football game against Murray State University will begin at 2 p.m. in Hardy M. Graham Stadium, and the award-winners will also be recognized during halftime.

Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, will present the awards during the Chancellor’s Brunch and Awards Program in the Paul Meek Library, scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m., Oct. 7.

Exum will receive the Chancellor’s Award for University Service, which recognizes exemplary service to the university. He graduated from UT Martin in 1969 with a bachelor’s degree in general business management and was a distinguished graduate from the university’s Army ROTC program. He later served as executive officer of an advanced individual training company at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, and as a tank platoon leader and acting company commander in Vietnam.

After his military career, Exum earned a graduate degree in marketing from the University of Alabama in 1972, and his subsequent career included positions with First Federal Savings and Loan Association in West Point, Georgia; Pepsi Cola in Marion, Illinois; and Reelfoot Bank in Union City. He also spent 23 years as chairman of the board of Leland Powell Fasteners in Martin.

Exum has served his alma mater in many capacities, including filling positions as chairman of the UT Martin Development Committee, Chancellor’s Roundtable and College of Business Advisory Board; president of the Weakley County alumni chapter and the UT Martin Skyhawk Club; and as a member of the University of Tennessee’s Development Council.
Mike Moss will be honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award, which recognizes an alum for outstanding achievement in his or her chosen profession. Moss received a Bachelor of Science degree from UT Martin in 1963 and has since spent 40 years in public education – teaching in classrooms with both Memphis and Shelby County Schools, serving as an admissions officer with the University of Memphis and acting as coordinator of admissions for the University of Tennessee College of Medicine.

For more information about the alumni awards or UT Martin homecoming, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 731-881-7610, email alumni@utm.edu or visit utmforever.com.

**Big Cypress Tree State Park to hold Fall Festival**

It’s fall, so it must be time for the Big Cypress Tree Fall Festival at the local state park located on Hwy. 445 northwest of Greenfield. This year’s festival features some great educational programs everyone can enjoy. Best of all, there is no charge again this year thanks to the festival’s sponsors: Big Cypress Tree State Park and the Friends of Big Cypress Tree. So everyone is encouraged to stop by and check out this year’s event on Oct. 7. Festival hours are 9 to 3.

Starting off the morning will be UTM’s Dr. Tom Blanchard at 9:15 with his cheerful and informative program about Tennessee snakes.

You might get an opportunity to hold a live snake so be sure to bring your camera and/or your picture-taking cell phone to record the memorable occasion. The mayor of Greenfield, Cindy McAdams, had her picture in the paper last year holding a friendly snake.

A new program called the Frontiersman will be presented at 10 a.m. by UTM student Colton Garner, who dresses like Davy Crockett and has a long rifle.

Next is a reptile program presented by Shawna Adams of the Natural History Educational Company of the Mid-South. You will get to see up close a sulcata tortoise, a blue tongue skink, a green iguana, a gila monster, a savannah monitor, and a Burmese python.

UTM’s Dr. Dawn Wilkins will be presenting an informative program about birds at 11:15. She knows their calls, habits, nests, and anything else you might want to know about our pretty feathered friends and she welcomes any questions you might have.

Next is the musical entertainment – FLASHBACK which plays the oldies but goodies type of music. Visitors can sit on a park bench with a Pope’s Concessions burger and enjoying the oldies music. They will play from 11:50 to about 1:40.

That’s right, Pope’s Concessions is back this year, which is great news for those who appreciate great food. Pope’s was recently featured on the Food Channel, what a great honor for them.

At approximately 1:40, Shawna Adams will be back with a program called Kool Critters of the World. The animals of this program are indeed special. Featured up close for our visitors’ enjoyment are a mix of desert and tropical rainforest animals. The cool critters you will see are hissing cockroaches, a desert hairy scorpion, a rose hairy tarantula, black tailed prairie dogs, a coati mundi, and a red kangaroo. Also, a yellow naped green Amazon parrot who loves to talk may make an appearance. He is a very charismatic critter that is a big crowd pleaser.

Then, at approximately 2:30, Reelfoot Lake will present its fabulous Birds of Prey program. The majestic bald eagle is the star of the show, which is a crowd favorite. Other birds you may see include a barred owl, a screech owl, and a red-tailed hawk.

Again, remember to bring your camera because these programs on Oct. 7 at Big Cypress Tree State Park are some great opportunities to take some beautiful photos. In addition to the excellent food, the Air-Evac helicopter will make an appearance.

The UTM Ecology Club will have an exhibit of animal skins and birds. Arts and crafts vendors will be set up. And don’t forget to take a walk on the park’s boardwalk and see the bottomland.

If there are any arts and crafts vendors who want to come and set up at this event, they can, and it’s free. They should call Carey Sanders at 731-235-9216 and leave a message with contact information.

For more information, please email any questions to: Bill.McCall@tn.gov or text the Park Manager at 731-332-2446.
Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2017 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

William T. Thomas, of Adams, has earned High Honors on the Chancellor's Honor Roll for the summer semester.

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

Hope Jarrett (center), of Goodlettsville, is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. Jarrett is a "legacy" - the child or grandchild of a UT Martin alum - and attended the annual Legacy Luncheon hosted Aug. 25 by the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations. She is a graduate of Greenbrier High School and plans to study business and marketing. Jarrett is pictured with her parents, Marjorie ('93) and Mark ('91) Jarrett. SUBMITTED