UT Martin indefinitely suspends international travel

The continued spread of COVID-19 has prompted UT Martin officials to indefinitely suspend international travel for employees and cancel Maymester international travel courses. Maymester courses that include a domestic travel component and domestic travel for employees are not currently affected. Maymester runs May 11-29.

“While this news will be disappointing for many, and particularly for our students enrolled in Maymester travel courses, these changes are in the best interest of our university community at this moment,” said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver in an email to university faculty and staff.

COVID-19 is caused by a member of the coronavirus family that is closely related to the SARS and MERS viruses that have caused past outbreaks.

UT Martin has no reported cases of COVID-19. For more updates concerning COVID-19, visit utm.edu/alerts/corona.

Aviators Marching Band to reveal new uniforms

The UT Martin Department of Music will reveal the new Aviators Marching Band uniform to students and the public at 5 p.m., March 10, in the Band Room, room 136, of the Fine Arts Building.

The Department of Music has spent six months designing the new light-weight uniforms, which are better suited for Martin’s climate, after using the previous uniforms since 2006.

“There has been much anticipation about the new ‘look’ of the band, as none of (the) students have seen it yet,” Steve Barnett, director of athletic bands, said. The uniform will be modeled by one of the current band members during the event. A representative from DeMoulin Band Uniform Company will be measuring members of the fall 2020 Aviators Band from 3:30-6 p.m., March 10, including current UT Martin students and high school seniors who have committed to be a part of the Aviators Band next fall.

For more information about the reveal, contact Barnett at sbarne28@utm.edu or 881-1852.

WESTTEACH EDUCATION SUMMIT- The WestTeach Class of 2019 hosted the West Tennessee Education Summit Feb. 28, at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital to discuss the state of Tennessee educational programs and initiatives being implemented to improve current programs. The summit included a panel discussion led by superintendents, teachers and school board members of West Tennessee, such as Steve Vantrease, pictured above, and state legislators. WestTeach is a five-day development program, sponsored by WestStar, for teachers in West Tennessee to connect with the region’s communities and industries in order to facilitate change and enhance workforce development and opportunities. For more information about WestTeach, visit utm.edu/weststar or contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, at 881-7298.
YoUTMs

The University Trio is presenting a program of music by women composers March 17 at 7:30 p.m., in Blankenship Recital Hall. Members of the trio are pianist Dr. Elaine Harris, UT Martin professor of music, flutist Dr. Elizabeth Darling, freelance musician, and clarinetist Dr. Christa Frey, adjunct professor of music at Bethel University. The program is in observance of the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage. The leading work on the program is “Equality Now” by Gwyneth Walker for trio and narrator. Henrietta Giles, lecturer in the Department of Communications, will be the primary narrator, assisted by Dr. Vicki Seng, associate provost, and Dr. Renée LaFleur, director of the Women’s Center and professor of history. The work is a celebration of the first Women’s Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, in 1848. There is no admission fee.

Welcome New Employees

• Marcus VanCleave is the veterans benefit specialist located at the UT Martin Ripley Center.
• Carol Williams is the director of budget and management reporting in the Division of Finance and Administration.
• Chuck Oliver is the principal auditor in the UT System Office of Audit and Compliance housed at UT Martin.
• Alisha Melton is a grant specialist in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

This section is used to welcome new faculty and staff members as the information becomes available from the Office of Human Resources.

TREE GIVING PROGRAM- Ashley Kite-Rowland, president of the Martin Tree Board, and her husband, Dr. Aaron Rowland, associate professor of sociology at UT Martin, donated the first tree in the new campus tree honorariums and memorials program, sponsored by the Center for Sustainability, in honor of the original Martin Tree Board founded in 1994. The Tulip Poplar tree was planted March 4 between Brehm Hall and the Hall-Moody Administration Building. UT Martin is designated as a Level 1 Arboretum by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council for having at least 30 trees planted and identified on campus. For more information on how to donate a memorial tree, visit utm.edu/sustainability or contact Dr. Eric Pelren, coordinator of the Center for Sustainability, at sustain@utm.edu. Pictured with the tree are (l-r) Chris Virgin, James Wick, Earl Wright, Guy Robbins, Dr. Aaron Rowland, Ashley Kite-Rowland, Ryan Morris, Dr. Eric Pelren and Dr. Greg Moore.

INAUGURAL AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE- Daniel Whitley (left), associate administrator for the Foreign Agriculture Service, and Dr. Charlie Hatcher, Tennessee agriculture commissioner, were among the speakers who participated in the inaugural Mid-South Agriculture Trade Conference March 5 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The speakers identified upcoming international trading trends Tennessee farmers and agribusinesses can expect to see and how to best utilize international trade in a local production market.
The UT Martin women’s basketball team will advance to the Women’s National Invitation Tournament after falling short in the Ohio Valley Conference Basketball Championships March 7. The Skyhawks lost to Southeast Missouri 67-47. The team’s first opponent in the WNIT will be announced March 16 with game play beginning March 18. For more information, visit utmsports.com.

Joe Exum, of Martin, was selected by the UT Martin Student-Athlete Advisory Committee to represent UTM and the community during this year’s OVC Basketball Championships in Evansville, Indiana. The “Hoops for Heroes” program is in its 10th year as the Ohio Valley Conference honors military men and women in OVC communities. The UT Martin graduate received the Chancellor’s Award for University Service during Homecoming 2017. He's a distinguished graduate of the university’s ROTC program and is a Vietnam War veteran. Exum served 23 years as board chairman of Leland Powell Fasteners in Martin. He has served as chair of the UT Martin Development Committee and as a member of the Chancellor’s Roundtable and College of Business and Global Affairs Advisory Board. He’s also been active with the Skyhawk Club and served as a member of the UT Development Council.

PRESIDENT’S TOWN HALL TOUR

RANDY BOYD
University of Tennessee Interim President

“IGNITING UT’S GREATEST DECADE”

March 10 | 3-4:30 p.m.
Watkins Auditorium
Upcoming Events

• March 9 – Amicita Duo, guest clarinet duo recital; Blankenship Recital Hall; 7:30 p.m.
• March 10 – President’s Town Hall Tour; Watkins Auditorium; 3-4:30 p.m.
• March 13-14 – Vanguard Theatre presents “God of Carnage”; Vanguard Little Theatre; 8 p.m. nightly; admission
• March 13 – Tennis vs. Southeast Missouri; Skyhawk Tennis Complex; 2 p.m.
• March 13-15 – Softball hosts the Hampton Inn Classic; see utmsports.com for details
• March 14 – Roots of Rhythm at Discovery Park of America; 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
• March 15 – Vanguard Theatre presents “God of Carnage”; Vanguard Little Theatre; 3 p.m.; admission
• March 15 – Brian Utley, guest saxophone recital; Blankenship Recital Hall; 3 p.m.
• March 16 – Tom Curry, guest tuba masterclass and recital; Blankenship Recital Hall; 7:30 p.m.
• March 17 – University Trio presentation of “Equality Now” women’s rights celebration; Blankenship Recital Hall; 7:30 p.m.
• March 19-21 – Vanguard Theatre presents “God of Carnage”; Vanguard Little Theatre; 8 p.m. nightly; admission
• March 22 – Beach volleyball vs. Ottawa University; 9:45 a.m.
• March 22 – Baseball vs. Eastern Kentucky; 1 p.m.
• March 23-27 – Early class registration begins
• March 25-27 – Experiential Learning Leadership Institute, co-sponsored by West Texas A&M University; Discovery Park of America, Union City
• March 25 – Women and Gender Studies Symposium; Boling University Center, room 206; 1-4 p.m.
• March 27 – World Bizarre; Discovery Park of America; 6:30-9:30 p.m.
• March 26-27 – Spring dance ensemble; Harriet Fulton Theatre; 8 p.m. nightly; admission
• March 29 – Beach volleyball vs. Morehead State; 9:45 a.m.
• April 4 – Spring Preview Day
• April 4 – The NorWest Filmfest; The Little Theatre
• April 6 – Criminal Justice Day; Duncan Ballroom; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
• April 8 – Captain’s Challenge

You Tell Me

• Question – What are the orange flags on the wooden stakes across the road from the Hall-Moody Administration Building? They switch to the median west of the building.

• Answer – The stakes along University Street are for the new light pole project. Work will begin in May after the semester ends, and most work is scheduled to be completed during the summer. More will be known about installation of the new light poles and removal of the old ones after the contractor provides a schedule.

Submit your questions anonymously to the Suggestion Box link at www.utm.edu/suggestionbox.